

establishment of this organization. Further, Canada became heavily involved in the maintenance and reform of this institution.<sup>22</sup> Canada's contribution to this organization over the years include: developing the functionalist principle which allows middle powers to play a significant role in the UN security system; inventing the notion of peacekeeping in 1956 for which Lester B. Pearson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; contributing more military personnel and resources to UN peace operations than any other country to date; being a leader in the conceptualization and development of UN arms control verification and other forms of verification techniques used by the organization; contributions to humanitarian assistance, refugee protection, electoral supervision, and state rebuilding efforts; the development of a proposal for creating a rapid reaction capability for the UN; and, the assistance in constructing the groundwork for the establishment of a permanent international criminal court.

This multilateral activity is based on the outstanding adherence to the notion that the promotion and protection of Canadian interests and values can be advanced by having the UN take steps to ensure the speedy resolution of conflicts around the world, by having the UN act to prevent potential conflicts from brewing, and by supporting the UN's efforts to implement peace with justice in post conflict situations. However, one has to question the extent to which Canada's multilateral security commitments can be sustained in light of recent and planned cuts to the Canadian armed forces. Will Canada be in a position in the future to make the same kind and level of contribution to UN peacekeeping, for instance, as it had done in the past?

**The Post-Internationalist "Turbulence" Paradigm and the Critical Reflectivist Turn**  
 Traditional multilateralists were more concerned with stability than change. Canadian foreign and defence policy makers had embraced the traditional multilateral position during the Cold War period and this made it difficult for them to adapt initially to the changes that accompanied the thawing of the Cold War.

By 1989, most observers of international affairs began to notice shifts in political, economic and social conditions globally which caused them to consider the possibility that across the globe discontinuities were as much in evidence as continuities. The fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, which happened to coincide with this period of disjuncture, was heralded with great fanfare and celebrated by more than 140 heads of State and other leaders in New York on 24 October 1995. This major milestone provided the opportunity for state leaders, practitioners and academics to reflect, specifically, on the organization's past half century and on the evolution of multilateralism more generally. It also provided a forum for re-defining the challenges facing humanity and for speculating about what changes would be necessary for the UN system to become a relevant, efficient and effective instrument of global governance in the coming millennium.

What became clear in the early part of the 1990s was that multilateralism as exhibited through the UN system and other established bodies was in deep trouble. Some scholars predicted that the UN might just go the way of the League of Nations unless major adjustments were made to its normative base and institutional statutes, its organizational structures and decision-making processes, and to the instruments and mechanisms that have been developed within the world body for the purpose of facilitating cooperation and managing common global problems. In other words, the future of this multilateral organization may very well depend on its