

believed to be Canada's own best interest. And if that self-interest has consistently been best served by reinforcing the rule of international law, it is Canadians at large who have insisted that their values be projected externally. They must be credited for the respected stature that Canada enjoys in the world community and our success in making our foreign policy a source of shared national pride.

Just as we have diverged from friends when our values and interests so suggested, so too have we converged with them in pursuit of shared goals and common objectives when our values and interests have suggested common responses. From a collective effort in the Gulf War to shared efforts to fight tyranny and terrorism, our foreign policy has been no less "independent" when we have stood side-by-side with friends and allies. It would have been rather strange had our interests never coincided with those whose values and traditions we share.

But the world is moving too quickly to dwell at length on the past, even though it is a proud past. We must turn our minds instead to the future, to find the right mix of policies to ensure stability and prosperity at home and, over time, to help to create a more predictable, safer world.

Major Trends

The topography of the post-Cold-War world is far from fully formed. Nonetheless, some important contours are emerging. Global political and economic power is shifting rapidly and becoming more diffuse. Traditional alignments between states are giving way to new alignments. Basic principles of democracy and respect for human rights are ascendant in most of the world.

Yet, as we all know too well, these values are not fully entrenched. Old hatreds are still alive and are being rekindled. And events in Yugoslavia, Ethiopia, Armenia, Haiti and Indonesia have reminded us all what tragedy can occur when basic democratic principles and respect for human rights are flouted or when the basic needs of ordinary people are ignored.

As ever, politics and economics are intensely intertwined. Global competition is developing side by side with a renewed emphasis upon regional trading arrangements. This new global economy is paralleled by similar developments in the worldwide diffusion of information and culture. Borders are no longer barriers to knowledge and understanding.

National borders are becoming increasingly porous, as the list of issues that transcend the nation-state grows. There is little question that global environmental threats, population and migratory pressures, and the proliferation of weaponry can be addressed only on a multilateral basis.

In such a rapidly changing world, what are the best policy directions for Canada in the years ahead? Let me highlight the