

Before the Second World War, Canada's international role was modest. Its significant war effort, and the fact that it came out of the war with a strengthened economy, unlike most other industrialized countries, gave Canada both the opportunity and the responsibility to play a more important part in world affairs after 1945. Since that time, Canada has been increasingly active, both bilaterally and multilaterally. Over the past 30 years, Canada has signed some 1,500 international agreements and treaties, joined some 200 international organizations and set up about 100 missions in 75 countries.

#### BILATERAL RELATIONS

##### **United States**

Canada has naturally forged its most important links with its close neighbour, the United States. No other sovereign and independent countries have such highly-developed mutual relations; a vast number of agreements and arrangements link their destinies in matters of defence, environment, fisheries and energy.

