

In the current climate of constitutional crisis, it will be a politically nettlesome challenge to reallocate the taxing and spending powers of federal and provincial levels of government to enhance accountability and responsibility. While current trends to globalization may have the impact of further diminishing the manufacturing sector in Canada, a continued incapacity to pursue concerted national strategies in education, training, research and development would be likely to lead to steady decline in the country's economic weight internationally, as well as the welfare of its citizens.

There are also very serious questions, for the current constitutional agenda, as to how the international bargaining power and adjustment potential of Canada's regional and provincial economies would be affected by the different options which now appear possible: a new commitment to a federal model with strong coordinative capabilities; much more decentralized political, social, monetary and fiscal arrangements; or an outright rupture of Canada as it has been known. If the new constitutional arrangements which will now come in Canada were to produce much more decentralized control over economic and foreign policy, the overall strength and efficacy of Canadians' international action would unquestionably be diminished. An Ottawa that was being drained of its powers to "deliver" internationally could bring little of use to discussions of economic policy coordination among the major market economies.

Moreover, should efforts to overcome the current very serious constitutional crisis fail, and the country rupture, no provincial government, even those of Ontario or Quebec, could conceivably claim the international strength and influence to justify the kind of representation which Canada now merits in international councils of all kinds. Even a re-configured Canada, without Quebec, would be vastly diminished in economic, political/military, and moral terms. A separate Quebec, of course, would count for much less again on all these international scales. The Canadian foreign policy whole is, and will be, manifestly greater than the sum of its parts.

In his 1990 analysis of the international position and prospects of the United States, *Bound to Lead*, Joseph Nye paid tribute to the Canadian government's effectiveness in the free trade negotiations, whereas some Canadians argue that even the concerted bargaining position of the Canadian government and/or its subsequent policies have not been strong enough to protect the interests of Canadians.¹⁴ Both judgements should lead Canadians to think seriously about what it would be like to deal with the United States or any other powerful and well-organized country or group-