

In various parts of Africa, meanwhile, wars and the legacies of wars continue to afflict huge numbers of people, and too often go unnoticed or unremarked because the agony has endured so long as almost to become expected.

More broadly, the mood of the Third World remains angry at the relative neglect of most of its problems after the crisis in Kuwait had passed; cynical about some of the high ideals and objectives proclaimed by the West at the time; anxious about the loss of the perceived Soviet foil to American power; concerned about the potential for intervention, over-riding state sovereignty, in the name of what are often seen as "Western" values and interests.

A New Canada in a New World Order?

Canadians must factor the international stakes into their constitutional calculations. Will conditions change so fundamentally, either globally or in Canada's own constitutional arrangements, that the common foreign policy that is not now broken will have to be fixed?

If the state is dead, what is that very large and bumptious object that keeps on erupting just across from Windsor? What are these new things being born every day with flags in their hands, and what is the prevailing form of political organization throughout the Third World?

Can anyone seriously contemplate a "new world order" consisting of three closed blocs of the rich quarter of humanity, at economic daggers drawn, serenely preaching democracy, market economics and disarmament to an increasingly desperate majority? All this in a world of overloaded natural systems, of explosively divergent value systems, of potential mass migrations unseen in history, and of weapons and techniques of mass destruction proliferated to every corner of the globe?

No country can match Canada's established niche, its extraordinary connections (in North America, the G7, NATO and CSCE, Asia-Pacific, Commonwealth, Francophonie, and OAS), or its capacity for diplomatic leadership. All available testimony from foreigners corroborates the view that the traditional Canadian role in the world — together with its model of pluralism and tolerance at home — remains as constructive and important as ever.