

government showed that it had accepted the threat perception held by Western Europe and the US, i.e. that the main threat in fact emanated from the Soviet Union and the USSR's dependent allies in Eastern Europe.

At the domestic level in Canada, there was little questioning of this country's relationship to NATO or of the wisdom of maintaining the alliances' view of the threat. As Paul Buteux points out, even today, "despite a growing consciousness of Canada as a hemispheric and Pacific power, Canadian have never defined for themselves security interests in the Pacific or in Latin America comparable to those that determined Canadian policy towards NATO for forty years."¹⁸ Even as the Cold War has drawn to an end, Canada continues to maintain support for a redefined NATO and sustains its ties with Europe through membership in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and in the Conference on Security and Cooperation (CSCE). Thus, continued membership in NATO and these other European fora signals that Canadian foreign and defence policy continues to take into consideration a range of strategic European security issues that may or may not have much to do with Canada's own security interests. Indeed, in light of the changing nature of security one ought to question the rationality of Canada's position on this issue.

Canadian Security Policy within the US Bilateral Relationship

The Cold War can again be held responsible for Canada's strong bilateral relationship with the US. It must be remembered that the US was initially a threat to Canadian sovereignty and territory. However, as stated earlier, by the 1920s that threat had diminished significantly. By the end of World War II, Canada had hitched its security wagon on the US rather than on Great Britain.

While less important than the Canada/Western European relationship, Canada's commitment to "North American defence has always been a significant item on the Canadian foreign and defence policy agenda..."¹⁹ This stemmed from the fact that Canada found itself physically sandwiched between the world's two nuclear-armed superpowers, and that the US made it clear that it considered Canadian territory to be a strategic foreground for the protection of American territory, industry and resources. President Roosevelt, immediately after World War II, had promised to protect Canadian territory from any possible attack coming from the Soviet Union. Prime Minister King, for his part, promised the American President that Canada would cooperate with the US to ensure that enemy force would not attack the US via Canadian territory. What form did this bilateral cooperation take?

From the outset, it was clear that Canada would not be in a position to develop a large enough military establishment to protect itself from a communist threat to its territory, population and sovereignty. Thus for very pragmatic and practical reasons, Canada worked with the US to establish in 1940, through a simple exchange of notes at Ogdensburg (New York), a Permanent Joint Board on Defence (PJBD) designed to protect the North American continent during the war. In 1941, the Hyde Park declaration was signed by the two countries with the intent of meshing together the Canadian and US war economies. It was around this time that the US replaced Great Britain as Canada's main ally. This wartime collaboration was continued after the war with the formation of a Military Cooperation Committee (MCC) in 1946 which provided the mechanism for exchange of military information between the two countries on issues dealing with North American defence. In 1947, a joint statement on defence cooperation was signed by