

Milestones of Canadian Foreign Policy

1870-71	Sir John A. Macdonald is a member of the British High Commission that negotiates Treaty of Washington
1880	Appointment of Canadian High Commissioner to London, Canada's first high-level representative abroad
1887	Colonial Conference in London, the origins of present-day Commonwealth conferences
1899-1902	Participation by Canadian volunteers in the South African War
1909	Establishment of the Department of External Affairs
1914	Declaration of war by King George V on behalf of British Empire, Canada included
1919	Canada signs the Treaty of Versailles, which ends the war with Germany
1919	Membership in the League of Nations
1923	Halibut Treaty with the United States, the first treaty negotiated and signed entirely by the federal government
1926	Vincent Massey becomes Minister to Washington, the first Canadian diplomat in a foreign country
1931	Statute of Westminster, the British law that formally recognizes Canada's independence
1939	Canada enters World War II by separate declaration of Canadian Parliament
1945	Canada helps found the United Nations
1945-46	Gouzenko Affair brings the Cold War to Canada
1947	Canada signs General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
1949	Canada contributes to the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the first formal military alliance in Canada's peacetime history
1950	Membership in the Colombo Plan, the Commonwealth program of development assistance
1950-53	Participation with other members of United Nations in Korean War
1956	Resolution of the Suez Crisis and creation of the United Nations Emergency Force
1957	Lester B. Pearson wins Nobel Peace Prize
1957	Canada joins the North American Air (now Aerospace) Defence (NORAD) Command
1965	Autopact with U.S.
1970	Trudeau government releases Foreign Policy for Canadians
1972	Department of External Affairs' Third Option Paper calls for reassessment of Canadian-American relations
1975	Membership in the Group of Seven leading industrialized countries (G-7)
1975	"Contractual Link" with European Community
1979-80	"Canadian Caper" brings U.S. Embassy staff out of Iran
1982	Patriation of the Canadian Constitution
1983-84	Trudeau Peace Initiative
1985	"Shamrock Summit," Mulroney meets Reagan in Quebec City
1986	Canada, Quebec and New Brunswick attend the first Francophone Summit
1988	Signing of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with U.S.
1989	Pacific 2000 Initiative looks to the Far East
1990	Membership in the Organization of American States (OAS)
1990	Open Skies Conference, Ottawa
1991	Canadian participation in Persian Gulf War
1991	Negotiations with U.S. and Mexico toward a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)