

the need to build regional institutions in the face of US and Soviet/Russian drawdown of their military presence in the region resulting in a potential "power vacuum" that may invite aspiring powers such as China and Japan to contend for regional dominance. This further underlines the importance of both our understanding of Beijing's perspectives and how concerned countries in the region like Canada can encourage and facilitate China's active and positive involvement in the security-building endeavors.

Canada has been in a unique position to use its influence gained through years of contribution to international peace and its reputation as a trusted mediator in international conflicts and pioneer in international arms control and disarmament to engage China in cooperative security and various non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament (NACD) issues. At the same time, Canadian interests in expanding trade and investment opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region of necessity will have targeted China as both an important player and potential market. Ottawa has approached these issues through a variety of venues: the multilateral forums such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), and the Conference on Disarmament; bilateral dialogues such as the recently launched Canada-China Seminars on Asia Pacific Multilateralism and Cooperative Security (CANCHIS) held in Ottawa, Toronto, and Beijing over the past three years; and growing exchanges between Canadian and Chinese officials and academia. Much has been achieved through these undertakings, in particular a better understanding of each other's positions on a broad range of issues, and the establishment, although still at an initial stage, an epistemic community of experts. Obviously, differences in perspectives and approaches remain, due to the two countries' divergent historical, cultural, and geostrategic backgrounds.

The objectives of this policy paper are to inform policy discussion and develop new innovative China policy options for the years to come. Past experience has indicated that neither the Trudeau era "special relationship" nor the post-Tiananmen rhetoric have served Canadian foreign policy interests well. What is needed is a pragmatic approach, which has evolved over the last years but which needs renewed focus on the issues, alternatives, and policy choices in a holistic fashion so that the overall Canadian foreign policy objectives can be achieved.

## CANADIAN APPROACHES TO ASIA-PACIFIC SECURITY

Post-Cold War Canadian foreign policy has sought to achieve three key objectives: the promotion of prosperity and employment; the protection of security, with an emphasis increasingly placed on human security, within a stable global framework; and the projection of Canadian values and culture abroad.<sup>1</sup> Within this broad context and under the new circumstances, security has been refined as not just the absence of military threats against the state, but more broadly as the protection against economic privation,

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<sup>1</sup> André Ouellet, *Government's Official Response to the Foreign Policy Review*, 7 February 1995.