

---

that guarantees us leverage, influence and protection in a world beset with change. For all the happy talk about globalization, I cannot see any future beyond the nation state. For all the talk of global governance, I cannot see how global solutions to common problems are possible unless states exist that deliver meaningful protection to their citizens. The state is the fundamental guarantor of political legitimacy and the essential source of citizen's protection. The Canadian state matters to us instrumentally because its passports and its resources protect us at home and abroad. It matters to us intrinsically because it symbolizes our home, our native land. We cannot love the world, or the international community, or any other abstraction. We can only love the countries we come from. Patriotic feeling must be the real driver of any foreign policy review that hopes to capture our interests and our values and reflect the ultimate commitments of our fellow citizens.

Why do we love our country? Why should we care about its continued independence? Why should we place this interest—and this value—at the centre of our foreign policy? Millions love this country, as I do, because it gave their families refuge from tyranny and fear; others love it because it is a land of opportunity; still others love it because it is so astoundingly beautiful. For an older generation, it is worthy of love because it has been a community of sacrifice. We are a country whose young men and women have laid down their lives to secure the freedom of others. Just ask the Dutch how they remember the young Canadians who fought their way into Holland in the autumn of 1944. Just think of what we commemorate every year at the Cenotaph.

But none of these reasons to love our country—for its land, its opportunities, for its history of sacrifice—is distinctive. Other countries' forms of patriotism are rooted in many of the same experiences. What is it about being a Canadian that is such a special destiny? We need an answer to that question because we want a foreign policy that does not just reflect cosmopolitan values—human rights, tolerance, multiculturalism—but national values rooted in our soil and in our own history. National values, by the way, are not the enemy of cosmopolitan ones, but their friend. Liberal internationalism—the passion to help others, to defend their rights—is best nurtured by a fierce desire to protect and defend our own.