

Canada has a respected international tradition to uphold. But Canadians in their own interest also has a responsibility to allies and the global community to help organize international affairs on a foundation built on peaceful change and security for all while defending liberal democracy at home and promoting it reasonably abroad. Diplomatic and security coalitions will continue to be a central instrument – an organizing principle – through which Canada achieves these related aims. Coalitions, fortunately, can also be the most productive means for explaining, guarding, and realizing Canada's national interests. The challenge, therefore, is to collect our national thoughts, construct a national consensus on Canada's place in the world to guide politicians, military officers, and officials, and then to build the machinery of government and the soft and hard assets that will turn policy visions into policies outcomes.

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