

Many Canadians have forgotten that in the late 1940s, their country had a substantial influence in shaping the response to these urgent security challenges, and some who do remember may think that such a Canadian role is no longer needed or justified. In fact, the forging of the responses of the Post-Wall security challenges in Europe and elsewhere are, if anything, more important than ever to Canada, and it is possible that Canadian contributions are more necessary than ever as well.

As one of its key designers, a Canadian, has written, the North Atlantic Treaty was conceived and born in a "*time of fear and hope*".⁶ We are again living through a time of great change and uncertainty in Europe and the world; the difference is that this is more a *time of hope and fear*, with hope being much stronger, but fear by no means entirely dispelled.

If we assumed that, as in 1947-48, we were facing today's uncertain world without a trans-Atlantic security structure, what, if anything, would we now try to invent?