

International Perspectives

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Publisher's Message:

This current issue of International Perspectives is the second one published under the new ownership of Baxter Publishing, a Canadian company established in 1948. International Perspectives, an independent journal with a Canadian point of view on our country's role in world affairs, complements the progressive role evidenced in the other respected publications our company produces. These publications cover the diverse fields of business travel, the transportation industry, military and strategic affairs, and weekly newspapers.

Under the editorial leadership of Gordon Cullingham, International Perspectives has maintained the highest standards of integrity and independent thinking, a tradition we are wholly committed to maintain.

Most countries have many journals engaged in the consideration of foreign and public policy. International Perspectives alone fills that role in Canada. To ensure that we are successful in continuing these exemplary standards, we plan to support our efforts with an intensive drive to secure quality advertising from advertisers whose products will interest our readers.

In the meantime we request but one thing of you, the reader: reaction.

Good intentions are fine; but without comments or criticisms, we have no way of knowing whether our readers are being properly served (or stimulated). We value your opinion.

Editor's Note:

The rise and fall of empires is not as easy to observe up close as it is from a distance of centuries. But John Holmes dares to probe the state of today's "American Empire in an essay which provides just the right opportunity for his wise wit to flourish. Naturally he found no simple answers, but it's fun to carouse with him in his vast warehouse of insights. John Holmes of Toronto, of CIIA, has been a refreshing and reliable commentator on international affairs and foreign policy for decades, and he can't stop. That makes us the winners.

Other articles touch directly or tangentially on Canadian foreign policy. Clyde Sanger follows up his book on the making of the Law of the Sea with some new material on what has happened in the past year. That includes a job for Canada. The Free Trade Agreement gets closer and closer to becoming a reality, and there will undoubtedly be some surprises in it for us as it comes into force. One of these could be in hydroelectricity, and its export by Canada to the US. Alex Netherton of Acadia University isn't so sure we can recapture it when we need it.

The United Nations may be emerging from the darkest period in its history, at least financially, according to Peter Ross of Ottawa. We hope he's right. The defence debate triggered by the White Paper throws up a great range of inquiry. A lot of that is financial, and Michael Hawes of Queen's University finds some instruction in the experience of Sweden, an industrial small country that had to learn to defend itself — and to develop its own weapons.

And to end, a look at how Turkey deals with the pressures from the multi-state nation of the Kurds.