

sustainable development, preservation and protection of rivers and oceans, domestically, and abroad.

- Canada should use and further its comparative advantage in international affairs in areas such as freshwater and ocean policy and development, and to further the development of regimes which promote conservation and good governance.

Territoriality and Permeability

The state of the "nation-state" could hardly have been anything other than a constant theme throughout the Conference, but one which emerged more obviously in some presentations than others. Professor David Newman addressed the theme directly in his consideration of "de-territorialisation" and "re-territorialisation". For him, notions of a "borderless world" and political "deterritorialisation" are seen as signaling a new world order in which the territorial component in world affairs is no longer of any importance. The impact of globalisation and the changing nature of the world political order have raised major questions concerning the role of the nation state and the way in which territory continues to define the spatial extent of sovereignty, in particular, the "end of the nation state" thesis question, by defining the role and function of state boundaries. The argument that boundaries have disappeared altogether is met by those who hold that boundaries remain an important component through which the territorial features of a state are defined and continually reconfigured, but that their roles and functions are undergoing important changes as they become more permeable and open to transboundary movement of people, goods and information.

Newman addressed the de-territorialisation argument by focusing on the continued importance of territory and its physical delimiters- boundaries- in the formation of ethnic and national identities. He contended that economic arguments lie at the heart of the "end of the nation state" thesis, and some commentators consider that this view may contain as much prescription as analysis. If tests relying on ethno-territorial characteristics are applied, the results are rather different. Some boundaries are opening up, as in western Europe, but elsewhere new boundaries and new fears of separation are being created as ethno-territorial conflicts are being fought out and/or being resolved. The conclusion is a reminder that boundaries must always be examined from a multidimensional perspective, taking into account the diverse factors which may or may not bring about a change in their traditional functions as barriers to communication and movement.