

Before the Second World War, Canada's international role was modest. Its significant war effort, and the fact that it came out of the war with a strengthened economy, unlike most other industrialized countries, gave Canada both the opportunity and the responsibility to play a more important part in world affairs after 1945. Since that time, Canada has been increasingly active, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

Geography, trade and history have made Canada's ties with the United States, Western Europe and Japan particularly close. In many cases these links have been strengthened with economic, political and military agreements of a bilateral and multilateral nature.

Canada is a partner with the United States in the North American Aerospace Defence Command. Also, Canada, with the United States and many Western

