

other important Party Committee membership. Leading members of state organs, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and provincial leadership provide a thorough list of China's public political elite. The final table lists the biographies by occupations.

The second edition is highly recommended to scholars, diplomats and organizations having exchanges or business with China. A few spelling errors marred the text, but it is otherwise a high quality, easy to use reference work. Because of rapid changes, and high personnel turnover, an annual update would improve its usefulness.

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Textbook IR

by Jim Guy

"Foreign Policy and Defence Policy," a chapter in Politics in Canada by Robert J. Jackson, Doreen Jackson and Nicolas Baxter-Moore. Scarborough, Ont: Prentice-Hall Canada, 1986, 778 pages, \$34.80.

Textbooks of Canadian politics are vulnerable documents. Their authors are instructed by publishers to write for the uninitiated, while many potential adopters demand an analytical sophistication beyond the digestive capability of their intended audience. Sometimes the end product is a reading experience acceptable to neither constituency. But, from time to time, a book is produced that can teach the novice political scientist and at the same time satisfy the expectations of teaching colleagues by using nuanced evaluation and persuasive organization.

The questions to ask in judging the value of a text on Canadian politics are: Is it readable? Can adopters teach around its organization? Is it comprehensive? Is it factual and informative? Does it stimulate readers to ask questions and raise theoretical issues?

This is a review of *one* chapter entitled "Foreign Policy and Defence Policy" in Jackson et al., *Politics in Canada*. Foreign policy and international relations tend to be neglected areas in introductory texts on Canadian politics. Part of the reason for this is that, at most Canadian universities, course specialization in political science relegates the study of foreign affairs to upper-level offerings. Unfortunately, many students are introduced to Canada solely as a domestic political study, even though foreign policy can also be an exciting gallery of learning for the amateur political analyst.

The writers of *Politics in Canada* make good their claim of "a fresh contribution to the general literature on Canadian politics." The inclusion of a chapter on foreign and defence policy gives students using this text a chance to gain a comprehensive perspective of

the Canadian political system. On balance, this is a good chapter, with stimulating, wide-ranging questions and written in a provocative fashion. The approach used is attractive for the beginning student, blending perspectives on foreign policy by revealing historical and descriptive insights.


This last of the chapters in the book begins with a nuts and bolts examination of Canadian foreign policy, focusing on its history, contemporary sources, and dissecting it into trade policy, involvement with international organizations, bilateral and multilateral ties, and defence policy. Each heading and subheading takes the reader on an excursion of interesting insights into the organization and process of one of the most complicated aspects of policymaking for Canadians. Students quickly learn of the scattered inputs for determining foreign policy within a federal state. The result is an excellent case study of how bureaucrats can colonize politicians in an apparently accountable political system.

The authors argue convincingly that institutions play a major role in the conduct of foreign policy. A compelling case is made that institutions matter and that foreign policymaking is an economic as well as a political process. In short, students are exposed to the intricacies of a complex decision-making system with clearly written descriptive vignettes of Canada's international presence.

There are some shortcomings. A number of statements can mislead the novice consumer, such as "Outside its borders, a government has no legal authority." Then there is the ridiculous married to the redundant, as with "Policy-makers must take into account latent opinions and anticipate in advance the public's reactions to various policy alternatives." We also are treated to an occasional understatement, as in "But in recent years the economic component of foreign policy has become increasingly important." The authors might also want to verify the membership figure on the Commonwealth. It appears understated or is a typo that could easily be corrected, along with other minor ones, in a future run of the book.

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