

Canadian Foreign Policy: Options and Perspectives

[BY DALE THOMSON AND ROGER SWANSON, MCGRAW-HILL RYERSON, TORONTO]

From time to time *Canada Today* will publish book reviews on new works that might be useful to its readers.

The title of the first chapter is "Domestic Sources of Canadian Foreign Policy" and, in truth, all foreign policy has domestic sources. But this book delivers more than the truism promised. There are nine chapters and a table at the end. Canadians are easier to sum up in a

table than in a phrase—they are not simply bastard Englishmen who have become bastard Americans. They have things in common too with Tanzanians (linguistic fractionalization), the Russians (the immensity of a cold land), the people of Botswana (their scarcity) and the Swedes (relative prosperity and a lot of technicians). Canada is highly industrialized, as in Toronto and Windsor, and underdeveloped, as in most of its 3,852,000 square miles.

It is at the moment a nation in search of itself, though not the only one.

Dr. Thomson and Dr. Swanson, of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, have tried with success to explain the pressures and fancies that have induced the search and pushed Canada out onto at least the edge of the world stage. Since a third of its citizens are French-speaking, for example, it is involved with particular intimacy not only with France but with the Francophonie, the group of French-speaking nations of the world.

The most significant fact of Canada's existence is that it lies next to the most powerful nation in the world. The second most significant is what the table calls fractionalization. Canada is not—



like the United States—a melting pot but a mosaic, a country that, through necessity perhaps, keeps and values its diversity. "Canada has attained a population approaching 22 million, about one tenth that of the United States. 43.8 per cent of Canadians trace their origins to the British Isles, 30.4 per cent to France, 22.6 per cent to other countries in Europe. The proportion of Asian origin

accounts for a mere 0.7 per cent of the total, Negroes, 0.2 per cent and native Indians and Eskimos, 2.5 per cent."

From such matter-of-fact foundations the authors explain with remarkable clarity how the country has come to regard the outside world and itself. The Fathers of Confederation were able to force the British North American Provinces to come together because, in the period after the American Civil War, the Canadians were already united in their fear of an American invasion. For much the same reason Canada chose to be part of the British Empire and for most of the rest of the century Canadian foreign policy was a footnote to Britain's. In 1870 the Canadian Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, was merely one of five members of the imperial team that negotiated the Treaty of Washington. But things were changing and not too slowly; by 1907 two Canadians negotiated a treaty with France directly, and the British Ambassador merely gave formal approval.

By 1914 the old ties were still strong enough to involve Canada automatically in World War I, but the authors suggest that the war finally

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