

animosity.<sup>9</sup> Its legacy, however, casts a shadow over whether opportunities afforded by the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will be seen as points of conflict and contestation or of cooperation.

This opening paper is intended to introduce our Japanese audience to Canadian perspectives on peace and security in the Asia Pacific. Although a discussion of Canada and Asia Pacific security should be a separate paper, but let me at least conclude my presentation with a few remarks on this topic. The easiest entry point is to note that, as with most western governments, those foreign policy issues of primary concern to Canadian governments address the basic questions of enhancing what are loosely referred to as core values, of sustaining Canadian culture and institutions, and of improving the quality of life of Canadian citizens; hence, economic relations, trade and investment, and immigration remain in the forefront of the bilateral agenda, while peace and security, including human security and of course human rights and democratization, are at the cutting edge of Canada's multilateral efforts. I stress that for the Canadian government, multilateralism is viewed as complementing and not replacing sustained bilateralism to international affairs.

This is reflected in the history of Canada's involvement in and relations with the Asia Pacific community. Canada has had a continual presence in matters of peace and security in Asia and in the larger Asia Pacific for over half a century. Our diplomatic and military involvement has been in cooperation with others under multilateral auspices. While some Canadian bilateral policy has not been immune to serious criticism — for instance, regarding sales of military hardware in the region, or the sale and transfer of nuclear technology, or balancing economic and trade interests with human rights concerns in relations with China, or expressing concern over nuclear proliferation in South Asia while also seeking ways to pursue commercial interests — by and large Canadian involvement in issues of conflict and security are widely regarded as responsible and moderate. Canada's non-imperial history coupled with its special relationship especially with the United States but also with the other NATO countries, the European Union and many of the major developing states has been viewed as an asset that Canada brings into this region. The Canadian preference for multilateral institutions and processes, though at times strained by the ongoing commitment-capability gap in Canada's international engagements, remains a preferred approach to security involvement. From within Canada, the changing demographics of Canada, wherein the vast majority of our new citizens are of Asian origin, where the newspaper with the largest circulation in western Canada is in Mandarin, and where trade and investment between Asian countries and Canada is now second only to Canada's bilateral flows with the United States, means that Asia is not merely a hyphenated part of the Canadian identity, but has emerged as an essential element in Canada's social, political, and economic life.

In the beginning of the 1990s, the Canadian effort through the North Pacific Cooperative Security Dialogue to promote informal regionalism in Northeast Asian security

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<sup>9</sup> Whether in educational reform, cultural expressions and symbols, or the reluctance of militaries and other government agencies to share information, we all are aware of the ways in which "remembering and forgetting in East Asia" intrudes into everyday life as well as interstate relations. Many of us would like to believe that the intense forms of direct communication now afforded by the electronic highways would enhance understanding and break through negative stereotypes. However, the opposite may obtain, where with the heightened atmosphere of enlarged militaries and where technologies may reduce warning times, policy options may be significantly reduced, and threat carries much greater costs of mismanagement thereby leading to pressures for pre-emption or at least counter-threat escalation.