

Put at its most schematic, there are three interacting broad sets of actors which, in different ways, have some capacity to influence these regional power imbalances. These are: the differentiated domestic opposition in South Africa; the broad and changing regional alliances confronting Pretoria; the diffuse "international community." The latter two constitute the terrain of "third parties" most broadly defined.

The success or failure of such third-party interventions obviously depends on the objectives, the forms, the tactics, and the timing of such interventions. In notes such as these I clearly have neither the space nor time to discuss this broad range of potential interventions.

Suffice it to say that such interventions are largely worthless unless they are genuinely directed towards shifting these imbalances in Southern Africa. And they need to begin with the most important of these--the power imbalance. There are a very wide range of options which could be considered here, both in terms of strengthening South Africa's neighbours, and measures designed to weaken South Africa's ability to use its overwhelming power against these neighbours.

Whether such policies will be pursued of course raises another problematic issues--the political will in countries like Canada to confront and change these political realities in Southern Africa.

