

an important step towards closer economic integration. However, the close integration with American defence can produce the appearance of agreement or collaboration by Canada in policies and activities with which it would prefer not to be associated. Past examples include the Vietnam war, the SDI programme, some of the US activities in Central America, and some arms sales. Also, it is possible that Canada could be prevented from deploying some components of its increasingly limited armed forces for some future overseas mission because of an undertaking to keep them available for North American defence. In addition, the removal of trade barriers can limit the ability of Canada to retaliate for what it considers to be unfair practices in cross-border trade, sharing of fishing, fresh water, or other national resources, or in other commercial activities.

Carried to excess, a multipolar (non-aligned) strategy could deprive Canada of significant allies, and for security could have many of the disadvantages of isolation. It would have the attraction of counterweights to the powerful American presence. It could be advantageous in a world of free trade, presumably an objective of the GATT, but such a world has not been arranged, and the trend may be in the opposite direction, towards formation of rival trading blocs. In spite of some efforts towards a more worldwide distribution, only a quarter of Canada's external trade goes to countries other than the United States, and the high costs and low productivity of Canadian labour and consequent failure of Canadian industry to meet the prices of international competitors do not bode well for a policy of multipolarity.

Against this background of general considerations of security and economic relations, the same choices for international alignment are faced in the determination of Canadian space policy. For a country in Canada's precarious financial situation, and given the expensive and worldwide character of space technology, a policy of isolation would seem inappropriate. Even Japan, which began with a strategy of self-sufficiency in space technology, and has ample financial resources, has begun to buy technology and seek joint projects.