

I must first outline what I regard as the main factors which determine the foreign policy of an established middle power such as Canada. I believe that to be an honest appraisal of where Canada stands in a world in which there are two super-powers, a handful of what might be called great powers -- those that have recognized world responsibilities or have pretensions to world influence,--and at the other end of the scale a vast array of newly-independent and economically under-developed countries.

We have no need to pursue certain aims peculiar to super and great powers, and others that animate the less fortunate countries. We do not have to support a vast network of international alliances or pursue expansionist policies in respect of territory or resources. Our aims are less finite, less tangible and in some ways more difficult to define.

Major Foreign Policy Determinants

Our foreign policy, like that of most other countries, is a product of many fixed factors which condition our responses to the shifting international scene -- factors such as our history, our legal traditions, our resources, our racial composition and our geographical location.

Historically, we are a country which evolved non-violently from colony to nation -- a background which has given us a strong belief in independence and orderly ending of colonial rule and a preference for evolution over revolution as the method. It has given us strong ties with two major European powers, Britain and France, and, as others have followed our constitutional example, a belief in the Commonwealth as an institution. Our history has made us internationally-minded from the date of our birth nearly 100 years ago, conscious always of being a member of a world-wide grouping of peace-loving states.

In our traditions we have inherited British precepts of law and parliamentary government blended with the French system of codification, which have made us instinctive and strong advocates of the rule of law on an international scale. These legacies have affected our attitude towards observance of treaties, and other instruments such as the International Court of Justice for regulating relations between states in an orderly and civilized way, and, above all, have made us strong advocates of the United Nations, the main vehicle through which the international family of nations is striving, for the second time, to give expression to the universal desire for an ordered and peaceful world.

In resources, we are well enough blessed that we need have no external territorial ambitions. Indeed, the fact that we have productive capacity in excess of the needs of our population has made us world traders with a profound interest in the freest possible international exchange of goods under sensible international regulation of tariff levels and conservation measures. The size of the excess of our resources over our needs has enhanced our international influence as a major world trader.