International Perspectives

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Editor's Note:

Last issue we concluded the three-part series of articles on the making of Canadian foreign policy, and how that process, as well as its academic study, has been influenced by the "realism" of the superpower to the south. That was a lot of space for a particular thesis, and it stimulated some response. Our lead article—itself double-length—presents a different view of how we made and make up our minds. John Kirton of the University of Toronto demonstrates the independence and Canadian nationality of foreign policymaking in this country in an essay of conviction and eloquence.

Other articles nudge Canadians to do what they do well better. Stuart Smith of the Science Council of Canada sees tough days ahead for our internationally-traded minerals if our industry does not become more engaged in research into new uses and materials.

Canada is grudgingly acknowledging its existence as a Pacific country. That includes not only grasping trade opportunities, but also careful examination of investment and investment flows in the whole Pacific Rim. There are intimate connections, as Christopher Maule of Carleton points out, between trade and investment.

Lorne Green of the Defence Department iterates some home truths about security, and how arms control must not be allowed to become detached from military defence in the search for security.

For nearly a dozen years the world has been trying to get the most out of what happened at Helsinki. We call what is left "accord," "process," "spirit." Whatever the appellation, it was an important event in world history, and in relations between the superpowers. David Pepper, who participated in a bit of the process, evaluates its importance.

Nigeria is the most populous and perhaps the richest African nation. It might even be one of the most stable, but that is not apparent from the manner and frequency with which its leaders have changed. Mohammed Adam, an African student at Carleton University, sees hope in the current situation.

Next issue of International Perspectives — a major article by James Eayrs of Dalhousie University on his concept of statehood in the modern world.

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