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1. The Real Security Challenges Facing Canadian Foreign Policy 1

We are putting a disproportionate amount of resources into military security while other global threats to security are going destructively, dangerously unchecked. Our security crisis and our other worsening global crises have a common requirement for a solution: world political cooperation. But the evolution of such cooperation is hampered by a practicing adherence to the assumptions of the war system. The war system is defined as a system of international order in which the primary mode of security is the military of the nation-state, coupled with the threat of force. Chapter one concludes by describing the irrationality of trying to assure security through such a threat system in the nuclear age.

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Presents an alternative to the war system, and says we can choose as a matter of policy to direct Canadian efforts to achieving this alternative. The alternative to national security is common security. It is based on a commitment among all states to the evolution of reliable world institutions of security, law and due process, culminating ultimately in world federation. Although a fully developed common security world order is seen as a long term goal, it is politically possible and feasible, and the benefits of trying are immediate. Evidence of this is that the world is already in the midst of such a transformational process. The determined efforts of one or a few countries could make the crucial difference to progress toward common security. Can we achieve it in time to avert nuclear war and take action on other global crises requiring complex international cooperation? Chapter two presents common security as a total orientation, the tenets of which would pervade, and provide coherence for, Canadian foreign policy as a whole, much the way the tenets of the war system do today. A common security policy would be positive, activist, and would have strong public support.

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Describes what a common security policy would look like in practice. Concrete measures are proposed, near, medium and long-term.

4. Common Security and Arms Control in a Period of Transition 23

Reconciles common security with current arms control and military security. In the transition to a world of common security, a credible national military deterrence would be maintained. It would decrease gradually only as confidence in common security grew. This chapter argues, however, that with or without common security, too many weapons can be as dangerous to security as not enough.

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