

Book Reviews

when Louis St. Laurent set out the principles of Canadian foreign policy in the Grey Lecture at the University of Toronto in 1948, the only domestic consideration related thereto was that it not be divisive. This meant that, within the limitations of ability and opportunity, Canada could and did assume its responsibilities in and to the world. Ignatieff was there and bears witness.

The son of a Russian count, George Ignatieff was a child at the time of the Bolshevik revolution. His family escaped to Britain and subsequently immigrated to Canada, where George completed his secondary and university education, graduating from the University of Toronto. A Rhodes Scholar, he attended Oxford, joining External Affairs through Canada House in London at the outbreak of World War Two.

As a young diplomat, he was tutored by the masters of his craft: Mike Pearson, Hume Wrong and Norman Robertson. He served variously in London, Ottawa, New York and Washington before his first posting as ambassador. When Pearson and St. Laurent sent him to Belgrade in early 1957, Ignatieff was a committed instrument of an interventionist foreign policy. Unfortunately, within months nothing would ever be the same again. In June 1957 Louis St. Laurent was defeated and John Diefenbaker

became Prime Minister. Confusion, contradiction and, ultimately, chaos replaced the high professionalism of the St. Laurent/Pearson years. Ignatieff is too kind in his assessment of those years and not a little disingenuous in dealing with their significance. Why was it that after their return to power in 1963, Pearson and Martin could not recover Canada's reputation and stature internationally? How was it that when Pearson attempted the traditional "helpful fixer" approach to the US involvement in Vietnam in a speech at Temple University, Lyndon Johnson felt free to treat the Canadian Prime Minister with contempt?

Curiously, the advent of Pierre Trudeau and Mitchell Sharp made Ignatieff almost nostalgic for Howard Green's quest for disarmament. Green's was a *foreign* policy. Sharp was the beginning of the end for External Affairs. Would one like to list the contributions to international peace and stability of Sharp and his successors as SSEA? Ignatieff is of course right and his memoirs are worth reading.

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