

Canada's Foreign Affairs

"In the five decades that I have been involved, in one way or another, in Canadian foreign policy, I have often thought that Canadians have a split personality. We seem constantly attracted to opposite poles in our thinking about our role in the world. One pole ties us to hard reality, realpolitik if you will, and makes us want our governments to protect the national interest when it deals with other states. In contrast to the pole of realism, there is another pole that attracts Canadians to an idealistic vocation. Its advocates tend to have a visionary, at times almost romantic, approach to our position in the world...Canadians believe, as the slogan of a national book chain proclaims, "the world needs more Canada."

- *Allan Gotlieb, Former Canadian Ambassador to the United States and Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

Focus Question:

What should Canada's role be in global engagement in the 21st Century?

Enduring Understandings in Focus in this Unit:

1. Canada continues to be influenced by issues of war and peace, international relations, and global interactions.
2. Geographic, economic, cultural, and political links to the United States continue to be important factors in Canada's development.
3. Since the beginning of the 20th century, Canada has played an increasingly active role in world affairs through trade and development, military engagement, and participation in international organizations.
4. Global interdependence challenges Canadians to examine and redefine the responsibilities of citizenship.

Curriculum Connections:

3.4 How was Canada's identity as a nation shaped by the First World War and by its changing relationship to Great Britain and the world?

4.3 How was Canada's presence on the world stage shaped by its role in the Second World War and its growing participation in the international community?

5.4 How have Canada's international relations changed since 1982 and what should its global commitments be for the future?

Unit Structure:

1. From Confederation through the Great War to the Statute of Westminster
2. Canada and the Second World War and Cold War
3. Canada as a Middle Power