

## Canada's independent and impartial position

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### Summary

Canada is in a special position on the international stage. She is an independent player with impartiality and progressive policies. I want to discuss why she has such characteristics, and what she can do in the position in near future.

Canada has been regarded as impartial country in the world through her contributions to world peace. Her influence is not so great as other powers. But Canada can easily cooperate with other countries. This is because she has carried out her idea of peacekeeping, and had significant performance for a long time. One of the most valued examples of Canada's contributions is peacekeeping operation PKO.

PKO stems from the establishment of United Emergency Force for Suez Crisis in 1956. This establishment owed Lester Pearson, the Foreign Minister of Canada. He convinced many states sending United Emergency Force to limit their activity only to cease-fire monitoring, This force contributed to control Suez Crisis, and eventually he was given Nobel Prize for peace. That system became PKO, and Canada has been involved in all PKO. Canada's military cooperation for PKO is great at not only the quantity, but also the quality. Her force is trained appropriately for

peacekeeping and prepared as United Nations Stand-by force. Compared with PKO efforts of Japan, here is the major difference. Canada can use force for peace if it is needed. It is true that sending force is not all of the international contribution, but the capability must be greatly limited without force.

Of course, Canada's PKO efforts are not limited only to deployment of military forces. Many civilians such as experts on keeping peace, human rights, and good governance are sent to many hot spots. Many Canadian NGOs also play an important role.

Such contributions are now, so to say, tradition of national defense policy of Canada. I think this policy comes from her awareness of her position as a middle power. Through pacifism and the principle of international cooperation, she gets influence and reputation in the world.

Of course, there are many other impartial countries such as Switzerland, Austria, and Northern European countries. Many of them including Japan also have contributed in various international activities, and have tried to make this image. However I think there is no country doing as well as Canada.

The important difference is that Canada can independently decide her policies. She won't easily obey powers, especially United States. Canada is located next to United States, and has a close relation with United States in many senses, economics, security and so on. One of the most important diplomatic policies is negotiating well with United States. However, by using direct negotiation and

multilateral negotiation properly, Canada stops over unilateralism of United States. For example, when United States started Iraq War, Canada didn't agree with the war and kept her multilateral policy. She continued to negotiate in United Nations and try to observe the principle of United Nations. Controlling powers like United States, which sometimes becomes warlike is very important to keep the world peace.

Canada's good reputation in the international society is essential for her policies. Many countries can cooperate with her, or accept her army as PKO troop. Many conflicts can be mediated by Canada. Today's world is too complex to be dealt with the one single power, US. So, the importance of Canada as impartial power for world peace will increase.

This position can be useful for many other issues. International society can listen to Canada without misunderstanding because of her reliance. I expect Canada will play more important roles as an independent actor with her strong policy.

Environmental problem is one of fields that Canada can lead the world. My strongest image of Canada is magnificent nature, since I have been to Canada to see Niagara Falls. I watched the Horseshoe Falls and I was totally overwhelmed. Canada's effort to protect her environment is great. She has a lot of national parks and state parks like Queen Victoria Park around Niagara Falls, in order to preserve nature and ecosystems.

Canada has tried to be leading power about environmental problems on the international society, too. For example, in order to stop the destruction of the ozone

layer, Canada is the first country, which ratified Vienna Treaties, and she achieved the target reduction of Ozone Depleting Substances ahead of the schedule. Her role to spread her spirit and measures to save worldwide ecosystem will be still more important, as environmental problems become more serious.

Another field is culture. Canada is advanced country in the field of multiculturalism, which is an idea to protect various kinds of cultures and eliminate all kinds of gaps between cultures. Canada has many races and cultures itself, so she has broadly two big cultural issues and has tried hard to solve them.

Firstly, there is the Quebec issue, which comes from the differences between French Canadian and British Canadian. Especially in Quebec, there are many French Canadian. So they have different identity from other states in Canada, and it causes some conflicts such as independence movements. To resolve them, Canadian federal government has tried hard for a long time and gave Quebec with special rights like diplomatic right.

Secondly, Canada has made remarkable efforts to deal with two indigenous inhabitants, Inuit and American Indian. Canadian federal government approved of the existence of indigenous people's rights in their constitution. According to this approval, Canadian federal government conducted many policies such as Canadian federal government built Nunavut territory to protect Native Titles of Inuit.

In the world, there are many regions suffering with conflicts that come from various differences of culture, race, and religion. I think Canada's multicultural policy to manage these problems is worth spreading to pursue the world peace.

In conclusion, the position of Canada on international stage is very unique, and it supported by her continues contributions and firm policies. Through maintaining and reinforcing present position, and taking advantage of the position, I believe she can play "a role of pride and influence in the world", which is the goal of Canada's International Policy Statement (2005).