

# Factors Influencing Foreign Policy

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## FACTOR

## CANADIAN EXAMPLE(S)

### **Actions of Other Countries**

The foreign policy of nations is, in part, a product of the attitudes and realities of surrounding nations.

### **Civil Society**

Governments create foreign policy, but they are influenced by different groups within society. Grassroots movements can sometimes affect the direction or intent of policy.

### **Geography**

The geographic realities of a country (size, climate, resources, etc.) can play a large part in determining aspects of foreign policy.

### **History**

Despite the changes in the world, countries often cling to traditions within foreign policy including relationships with neighbours and reputation on the 'world stage.'

### **Ideology**

The political ideology of the party in power can have a direct influence on how they shape and present foreign policy. This is most notable in their attitudes to war as an extension of policy and the extent to which they see policy formation as collaborative.

## FACTOR

## CANADIAN EXAMPLE(S)

### **Leadership**

The style and personality of a nation's leader can greatly affect what kind of image and actions the country projects. It is also interesting to study whether government officials in the foreign policy area obtain key leadership roles.

### **Media**

Public attitude towards foreign policy issues such as refugees, amounts of foreign aid or declaring war are partly shaped by media coverage and point of view.

### **National Economy**

The economic interests of a nation are key in shaping policy – most countries use foreign policy to protect trade and access to resources.

### **Power and Influence**

The economic and military power of a country can be used to influence other nations and powerful nations can create a foreign policy that maintains or extends these interests.

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Write a half page summary of a situation not discussed above that Canada was or is involved in, and clearly explain in another half page which factor(s) influenced our response to that particular situation.