

Goals of Canadian Foreign Policy



Read the statements below and become familiar with these foundations of Canada's foreign policy.

1. Promotion of trade and economic growth.

Canada's foreign policy is motivated by a commitment to fostering economic growth in the developing nations of the world, and also promoting expanded global trade and investment.

2. Environment.

Canada's foreign policy is concerned with promoting a greater awareness of global environmental issues, and works to reduce environmental hazards like global warming.

3. Peace and Security.

Canada's foreign policy seeks to use what influence it may have in different conflict-zones in the world to prevent further bloodshed, promote negotiations between the warring parties, and restore stability to the region in which the conflict is raging.

4. Canadian Sovereignty.

Canada's foreign policy is interested in promoting a distinctively Canadian approach to global issues and problems, one that while generally supportive of its ally the United States, does not automatically assume the same position as its neighbour.

5. Human Rights and Social Justice.

Canada's foreign policy is committed to promoting greater human rights and social justice in the world, and seeks to use its influence to encourage greater respect these principles in places where they are under threat.

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Situation Worksheet



For each foreign policy action listed below, explain which goal of Canadian foreign policy justifies our involvement in the issue.

Action	Goal(s) Justifying Our Involvement
Canada restricts arms sales to China	
Canada publicly criticizes sweatshop labour practices, but is slow to implement a federal labelling plan	
Canada pushes hard for a ban on landmines	
Canada urges countries to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty	
Canada divides the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade into two separate ministries	
Canada refuses to distance itself from US support for the right-wing government in Columbia despite accusations of human rights abuses	
Through the 1980s and 1990s peacekeeping becomes peacemaking	
Canada condemns child labour throughout the world, but is accused by critics of ignoring high levels of child poverty within Canada	

Write a half page summary of one of the Case Studies in Canadian Foreign Policy available in class. On an additional half page, clearly explain which foreign policy goal(s) justified our involvement in that situation.