

Promotion of Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy refers to the way in which a nation handles its relations with other countries.

Key Questions

- How do countries set foreign policy?
- How can states promote internationalism through foreign policy?
- Should foreign policy promote internationalism?

International Involvement

Isolationism

- concentrate on internal affairs and virtually ignore the rest of the world
- Interwar Years - United States decided to return to an isolationist approach to politics (League of Nations)

Protectionism

- a nation chooses to impose duties or tariffs (taxes) in order to protect domestic industries
- 1929 Stock Market Crash and the Great Depression

Idea- encourage citizens to purchase goods made locally by increasing tariffs to limit international trade.

Problem: if local industries are protected, they are less likely to compete = higher prices without improved quality of goods.

Unilateralism

- when a nation takes action without the support of other nations
- *similar to isolationism, but a nation can get involved in an international issue in a unilateral way, whereas isolationism is an ideology that encourages non-involvement.*

Bilateralism

- two nations negotiate trade or defense agreements that help both nations
- a treaty, a joint declaration on common issue, or agreement of foreign aid between the donor country and the country receiving the aid.

Multilateralism

- many nations working together; taking a supranational approach
- Example: negotiating trade or defense agreements, work on assisting a humanitarian effort, or creating international law

Benefits

- support from a variety of nations and nation-states.
- having many voices = effective solution can be found.

Concern

- it takes time to listen to everyone. (*While a multilateral organization is discussing what should be done, a nation could have already gone in and unilaterally dealt with the problem.*)

Supranationalism

- supporting an internationalist organization which brings several nations together; to go above the authority of a nation-state

- nations from around the world work together, directed by an independent administration (national governments cannot control it).
- priorities of the group must come before the priorities of your nation in order to be successful
- concern - sovereignty.

Canada's foreign policy goals

- Peace and security: Canada works to encourage world peace through defense arrangements, peacekeeping efforts and by maintaining friendly relations with other nations.
- Social justice: Canada provides foreign aid, loans and other support to nations in need.
- Economic growth: Canada wants to maintain a high standard of living for its citizens. It pursues policies such as trade agreements to improve the economic well-being of its citizens.
- Sovereignty: Canada needs to ensure its own existence by preserving control over our own affairs and not allowing other nation-states to control or excessively influence us.
- Safe environment: The world is becoming increasingly aware of the need to protect the earth's environment. Canada cooperates with other countries in attempting to control pollution and other environmental hazards.
- Quality of Life: Canada believes quality of life is an important consideration. Canada participates in cultural, technological, and scientific exchanges. These can improve the quality of life for Canadians and citizens of other nations.

What influences our Foreign Policy Decisions

- Geography: our location in the world (relation to U.S., northern hemisphere, North America).
- Past experience: history of our relations with other countries, our colonial links to Britain and France.
- Ideology: the ideas and values a nation stands for (democracy, freedom)
- Personal view of the Prime Minister: the leader of the current government has a tremendous influence on foreign policy; if the government changes, often the priorities of foreign policy change.
- Public opinion: Canadians can influence foreign policy by voting, joining pressure groups, writing letters to newspapers and politicians.
- Canada's status in the world: we are a middle power (not a superpower, but important).
- Policies of other nations: in particular the stronger nations are going to influence Canada's decisions.

Examples of ways to implement Canada's foreign policy goals

- diplomats
- international trade
- military agreements
- act as negotiator, or observe events (*like an election to encourage peace between or within nation-states*).
- If we disagree with how a nation-state is behaving we can use:
 - diplomacy
 - economic sanctions
 - threat of war