

RE-IMAGINING CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICIES

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The foreign policies of the United States and Canada regarding international law and war have taken a bumpy road. Since the 1950s Canada has built a reputation in UN peacekeeping and collaborative leadership, but this is threatened by its current ties with the United States and its involvement in Afghanistan. Aggressive and unilateral foreign policies of US leaders, especially since 9/11, and powerful mercenary movements exemplified by the Blackwater group allied with the Bush administration, have marked contemporary Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. They have damaged the US image in the world and have made the Afghanistan war unsustainable. Better policies would be to strengthen the UN and the International Criminal Court, which Canadian foreign policy leaders helped launch. Such harmonized and progressive US-Canadian foreign policies would go far to establish the Rule of Law in the world and the well-being of the world's people.

INTRODUCTION

This article arises from research on Canadian and American foreign policy-makers and the fields of conflict resolution and peacemaking. With a focus on the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, it urges the strengthening of North America's position in the global community by merging the best ideas on progressive foreign policy-making from Canada and the United States. The ideas come from the fields of conflict resolution, negotiation, dialogue, strategic planning, and facilitated policy-making. The article identifies strengths and shortcomings in both countries' foreign policies, and suggests ways that

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