

CHC2P Unit 5: Canada's Century

Activity 6: Canada in the Global Community

Overview

In this activity, you will explore Canada's role in international affairs.

Lesson

Canada's Membership in International Organizations

- United Nations
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- The International Criminal Court (prosecutes individuals accused of war crimes)
- The International Court of Justice (settles legal disputes between nations)
- The Commonwealth (53 states that formerly had colonial ties to Britain and its monarch)
- La Francophonie (cultural organization of French speaking people on five continents)
- International Olympic Committee
- International Monetary Fund and World Bank (regulate global money systems)
- World Trade Organization (WTO - sets rules for global trade in goods and services)

Canada and United Nations Peacekeeping

Canada played a leading role in the formation of the United Nations in 1945 and in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

Canada proposed the idea of the first United Nations peacekeeping force, as a solution to the Suez crisis in 1956. Canada has participated in every important United Nations peacekeeping mission. Since 1990, Canada has contributed to peacekeeping and humanitarian relief efforts in countries such as Bosnia, Rwanda, Somalia, Haiti, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq and East Timor.

Canada and Globalization

In recent decades, globalization is a word used to describe the process in which many regions of the world have become increasingly interconnected. Through trade, technology and through membership in many international organizations, Canada is very much involved in globalization. Some of the ideas attached to the theory of globalization include:

- people in different parts of the world are linked by modern communications technologies;
- global markets are linked and are free of trade barriers (such as tariffs or government regulations);
- globalization is inevitable and cannot be avoided or reversed;
- impersonal laws of economics direct globalization;
- globalization, particularly through the mass media, will spread democracy globally.

Assignment

View “Welcome to Timor” broadcast on Dec 19, 1999 at the CBC Archives:
<http://www.cbc.ca/archives/categories/war-conflict/peacekeeping/peacekeeper-to-the-world/welcome-to-timor.html>

1. Explain what Canadian UN peacekeeping forces were doing in East Timor.
2. Which of the following statements about globalization do you think are true and which are false? Give reasons for your choices.
 - People in different parts of the world are linked by modern communications technologies.
 - Globalization eliminates poverty in less developed countries.
 - Globalization is inevitable and cannot be avoided or reversed.
 - Globalization is controlled by huge corporations like McDonald’s/Coke/Pepsi.
 - Globalization spreads democracy worldwide.
 - Globalization is a negative force.
3. Conduct an inventory of the clothes you are wearing. Determine in what country each piece of clothing or accessory was manufactured. Do the results of your inventory demonstrate the interdependence of Canada’s economy with that of the rest of the world?
4. Why does Canada conduct trade with other countries? Provide an example.
5. Read the following statement then answer the question in a complete paragraph:

The richest 20% of the world’s population receive 80% of the world’s income and 1.5 billion people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1 a day.

- What is Canada’s obligation to the people that are less fortunate in other parts of the world?