

Books

EMBASSY'S 20 MOST INFLUENTIAL READS

Lee Berthiaume

Embassy has looked back over the foreign policy and political books published since September 2008 to find out which ones have entered into the public consciousness and influenced political debate in Canada.

The following is a list, in alphabetical order by author, of the books that have brought forward worthwhile and sometimes provocative ideas and concepts that have inspired discussion and debate amongst Canada's politicians, experts and academics.



Bitter Roots Tender Shoots: The Uncertain Fate of Afghanistan's Women

By Sally Armstrong

Former magazine editor and human rights activist Sally Armstrong records the brutal lives that Afghanistan's women have lived, continue to live, and which today many of the bravest women are trying desperately to fight against, or just escape. Ms. Armstrong reveals that despite grand rhetoric from NATO allies, the majority of women in Afghanistan face great despair while the world looks the other way.



Five to Rule Them All

By David L. Bosco

David L. Bosco, assistant professor in American University's School of International Science, tells the story of how the UN Security Council was created after the Second World War and moulded into its present form of being the grand arbiter of international peace—and war. Highlighting both the failures and successes, it is a revealing portrait that includes recommendations on how to make the organization more effective and in tune with the realities of today's world.



Canada Among Nations 2008

The 100th anniversary of Canada's foreign service is commemorated in this year's edition of the venerable *Canada Among Nations* publication with a number of essays that look at the popular belief that Canadian

diplomacy is on the decline. The writers also discuss the importance of Canada's traditional allies—the United Kingdom, France and the US—as well as the fate of Canada's foreign service as a profession.



An Independent Foreign Policy for Canada?

A collection of essays from a wide range of policy thinkers who debate whether Canada is better off working with the US or charting its own course. It addresses current hot-button issues like

the Arctic, combating climate change, NAFTA and the realities of a post-9/11 world. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Canadian international aid figure prominently, particularly in the context of shrinking resources and increasingly complex demands.



Who Owns the Arctic?

Red-hot rhetoric has come to define national questions of Arctic sovereignty and ownership, and Canada is no exception. University of British Columbia professor Michael Byers attempts

to cut through the rhetoric and focus on the real issues, such as the irrelevance of Hans Island to anything but nationalist feelings and the fact Canada and Russia are, contrary to popular belief, co-operating in the North. Mr. Byers offers several innovative suggestions on how to resolve many of Canada's most sensitive international disputes.

Does North America Exist?

By Stephen Clarkson
In the wake of NAFTA and the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, University of Toronto professor Stephen Clarkson asks whether North America "exists" in the same way the European Union has made Europe exist. He studies the political and economic relationships that link

Canada, the United States, and Mexico, looks at the institutions created by NAFTA, a broad selection of economic sectors, and the security policies put in place by the three neighbouring countries following 9/11.

Arctic Front: Defending Canada in the Far North

By Ken Coates, P. Whitney Lackenbauer, Greg Poelzer and Bill Morrison
Four academics team up to challenge the government and Canadians to recognize the North's overwhelming value. Limited government and civil

activity in the North over many decades are at the root of what they see as today's continually failed policies. However, the last pages include a well thought-out list of ideas, priorities, and issues for Canada to address if it is to advance its Arctic interests.

Guerrilla Diplomacy: Rethinking International Relations

By Daryl Copeland
A 28-year veteran of Canada's foreign service, Daryl Copeland diagnoses the shortcomings of his profession, and offers a new breed of diplomat. These guerilla diplomats—smarter, suppler and more autonomous—are almost

analogous to special forces soldiers in their light, fast, flexible approach. Diplomacy is the antithesis of war, he says, and therefore must be used to end insurgencies. And since successful counter-insurgency strategies from history (i.e. mass brutality) are no longer acceptable, political solutions are the only answer, including talking to the Taliban.

Climate Wars

By Gwynne Dyer
Books and documentaries have been written about the science behind climate change, the effects it is having on the world, and the politics behind national responses. But what's been missing has been a real hard look at the geopolitics that are at play

as the world faces its most dire threat ever. In his latest book, the syndicated columnist and author outlines the issues and provides a number of disturbing scenarios for a world of dwindling resources, massive population shifts, natural disasters, spreading epidemics and crashing economies as the world continues to heat up.

The World and Darfur: International Response to Crimes Against Humanity in Western Sudan

Edited by Amanda F. Grzyb
In the aftermath of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, the international community promised that "never again" would they stand by while mass atrocities were perpetrated. Yet more than five years after the world was alerted to the

humanitarian disaster unfolding in Darfur, 450,000 people have been killed, millions displaced, and countless families torn and scarred. *The World and Darfur* chronicles how the international community has gone to great lengths to investigate and record what is taking place in Darfur, but refused to recognize and act on its responsibilities.



From Pride to Influence: Towards a New Canadian Foreign Policy

By Michael Hart
Carleton University professor Michael Hart argues that for too long, political leaders have been largely constrained by an ongoing and distracting obsession with re-affirming a Canadian identity separate from the American.

Instead, Mr. Hart believes Canadians will be better served by a foreign policy focused almost entirely on its bilateral ties to the United States and in exploring further economic opportunities within the Americas and Asia. Africa and Europe, he says, are marginal to Canada's future.



Open & Shut: Why America Has Barack Obama, and Canada Has Stephen Harper

By John Ibbitson
A look at the differences between the American and Canadian political systems. The president's right to choose anyone for cabinet posts helps ensure the most capable people

are running the country. But power and decision-making in Ottawa have become concentrated to the centre. The department bearing the brunt of the criticisms is Foreign Affairs. In today's Ottawa, foreign policy decisions are made by the prime minister while deputy ministers are more likely to represent Canada at various meetings.



The Accidental Guerrilla

By David Kilcullen
Reportedly being read by staff in the government's Afghanistan task force. David Kilcullen served as an adviser to US General David Petraeus and is credited with influencing American military strategy in Iraq. Here, Mr. Kilcullen warns

that America's actions in the war on terrorism have tended to blur the distinction between local and global struggles. This poor job of applying different tactics to very different situations and misidentifying insurgents with limited aims and legitimate grievances has only hurt us.



Dead Aid

By Dambisa Moyo
The most talked about book on international development of the past year, this bestseller argues that the more than \$1 trillion in aid given to Africa has done nothing to improve people's lives. In fact, Dambisa Moyo, a Zambian-born and

Oxford-educated economist, says it has only made things worse as poverty levels increase and growth rates decline. Ms. Moyo contrasts countries that have rejected aid and prospered with those who have become aid-dependent, trapping them in a perpetual cycle. Rather, she presents a new—and highly controversial—strategy for financing development using capital markets, foreign direct investment and micro-lending.



Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent

By Andrew Nikiforuk
A veteran journalist and Governor General's Award winner, Andrew Nikiforuk paints a pre-apocalyptic picture of a place with barely a trace of state monitoring

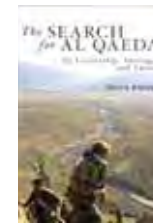
or management, where development is proceeding at a runaway pace, and where government envoys shill oilsands plots like used car salesmen gone mad. In the United States, a spin war is underway between environmental NGOs and Canadian and Albertan officials over whether tar sands produce "dirty oil." This is one contribution to that fight.



Branding Canada: Projecting Canada's Soft Power through Public Diplomacy

By Evan H. Potter
University of Ottawa professor Evan Potter speaks of how in the modern age, with globalization and the "communications revolutions," countries need to present a "distinct national

voice." He gives well-reasoned solutions for the problems he sees in how Canada uses its influence. The advice provided in *Branding Canada* is important in pointing out that as a country that relies on trade with the rest of the world, projecting a good image is vitally important to maintaining strong positions in trade relations.



Search for al Qaeda: Its Leadership, Ideology, and Future

By Bruce Riedel
An important look into the world's most notorious terrorist organization. A special assistant to the president and National Security Council senior director for Near East affairs during 9/11, Mr. Riedel brings first-hand

knowledge of al-Qaeda and its workings. He explains its underlying objectives and strategy, including drawing the US into "bleeding wars," building a safe haven for al-Qaeda in Pakistan and developing franchises in the Islamic world to overthrow pro-American regimes.



Why Your World is About to Get a Whole Lot Smaller

By Jeff Rubin
By far the most recommended book on this year's list. Jeff Rubin, former chief economist for CIBC World Markets, argues that cheap oil is what makes our world—complete with cheap

products from China, shuttered North American auto plants and food imports from abroad—go round. Yet the recession the world has just experienced will be much worse when demand for oil eventually outstrips supply, leading to economic upheaval and worse. A new world order—in which local rules—will become the norm.



The Inheritance

By David Sanger
New York Times' Washington correspondent David Sanger reveals some of the actions George W. Bush took in his last year as president, including efforts to stem the growing insurgency in Pakistan. The inheritance

referred to is the unparalleled challenges Barack Obama takes on as his successor, particularly on Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran—at a time when American influence is on the decline. An important read for anyone trying to understand the challenges the Obama administration faces in its foreign policy.



The Global Deal

By Nicholas Stern
Renowned economist Nicholas Stern delivered a 700-page report on the effects of climate change on the world economy to the British government in October 2006. In *The Global Deal*, Mr. Stern brings his message to the mainstream, laying out a narrative of the steps to be taken to protect growth and reduce poverty while managing climate change—and the costs for not doing so.