

## Timeline: Canada on the World Stage since 1945

6.3.4  
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Date	Event
June 1945	The United Nations is created in San Francisco. Canada is one of the original members to sign the Charter.
about 1945 to 1989 Cold War	Two superpowers – the Soviet Union in the East and the United States in the West – build up powerful nuclear weapons in a hostile and tense competition for world power. Countries ally with one side or the other in military alliances. Fears of Communism, spies, and nuclear war grow in the West.
1945	Soviet spy Igor Gouzenko defects to Canada and exposes a Russian spy ring in Canada.
December 1948	U.N. countries sign the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which Canadian John Humphrey had an important role in writing.
1949	The British Commonwealth is created: Canada is one of the original members.
1949	NATO – the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – is created as a military defence alliance because of fears created by the Cold War with Russia and its allies. NATO includes Canada, the U.S., Britain, and countries of northwestern Europe.
1950 - 1953	Canada sends troops to the Korean War in a United Nations-supported military action.
1952	Lester Pearson becomes Canada's ambassador to the United Nations.
1956	The first U.N. peacekeeping troops, in a decision negotiated by Lester Pearson, are sent to prevent war in the Suez Crisis.
1957	Lester Pearson wins the Nobel Peace Prize.
1958	Canada creates the Canadian International Development Agency to support international cooperation with countries of the world.
1962	Cuban Missile Crisis: The U.S. and Soviet Union come close to nuclear war.
1964	Canada participates in a U.N. peacekeeping mission to Cyprus.
1965	Canada signs the Automobile Pact with the U.S. This is the beginning of free trade between the two countries.
1970	The Organization of American States is created.
1970	The international organization of the Francophonie is created.
1973	Pierre Elliott Trudeau visits China on a peace mission.
1976	Olympic Games are held in Montreal.
1977	Canada establishes protected fishing zones up to 200 miles from its coasts.

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1977	Canada participates in the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference with other northern nations.
1983	The Inuit Circumpolar Conference is held in Iqaluit (NWT).
1988	Olympic Games are held in Calgary.
1991	Canada sends troops to support the U.S. in the Gulf War against Iraq.
1994	U.S., Canada, and Mexico sign the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
1995	Canada seizes a Spanish ship that is fishing illegally in Canadian waters.
1997	Canada sends troops to U.N. Peacekeeping mission in Bosnia.
1997	Canada is one of the first countries to sign the Land Mine Ban Treaty.
1997	Canada signs the Kyoto Accord, an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to control climate change.
July 1999	The Pan Am Games take place in Winnipeg.
October 2001	Canada begins collaboration in military defence, development, and reconstruction missions in Afghanistan.
2001	UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan names Stephen Lewis special envoy for AIDS in Africa.
2001	Nelson Mandela visits Canada and is named an honorary citizen.
2003	PM Jean Chrétien announces that Canada will not participate in military action against Iraq without UN validation.
2004	Judge Louise Arbour is named High Commissioner for Refugees of the UN.
January 2005	Canada devotes considerable resources - human and financial - to Southeast Asia following a devastating tsunami.
2005	Canada creates a special advisory team to coordinate Canada's efforts to resolve the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan.
2005	A reconstruction team is sent to Kandahar, Afghanistan to assist the newly elected Afghanistan government.

*Nuclear arms:* Scientifically designed bombs with extreme powers of mass destruction of life, property, and the environment (such as the bombs used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II).

*Cold War:* a situation of hostility, tension, and threats between countries who are involved in building more and more weapons (the arms race), and espionage (spying), without any real combat.

*Communism:* a system in which all property is centrally controlled by the government instead of being owned by private citizens. This type of government existed in the Soviet Union, or the U.S.S.R, after the Russian Revolution in 1917.

*Free Trade:* an agreement between countries to buy and sell without any restrictions or tariffs (a type of tax on goods from other countries).