CANADIAN POLITICS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY

CANADA PURSUES ITS POLITICAL INTERESTS BY ENGAGING IN THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY. DOMESTIC CONCERNS REGARDING HUMANITARIAN CRISES ARE ADDRESSED POLITICALLY THROUGH CANADIAN TRADE AND MONETARY POLICIES.
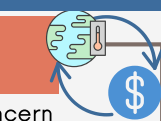
POLITICAL STRUCTURE

Canada is a parliamentary democracy in which citizens elect Parliament members and a Prime Minister who cooperate to create government policy. Canada has a multiple-party system, and the party currently in power is the Liberals, led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Politically, the Liberals fall to the center-left and are known as proponents of progressive multicultural, environmental, and economic human rights policies.

POLITICAL PRIORITIES

CLIMATE CONCERN

Canadians have expressed serious concern for the environment. As a trade-intensive economy, one of Canada's policy objectives is to ensure that trade and environmental protections are mutually supportive. To pursue this objective, Canada incorporates environmental clauses into its trade agreements.
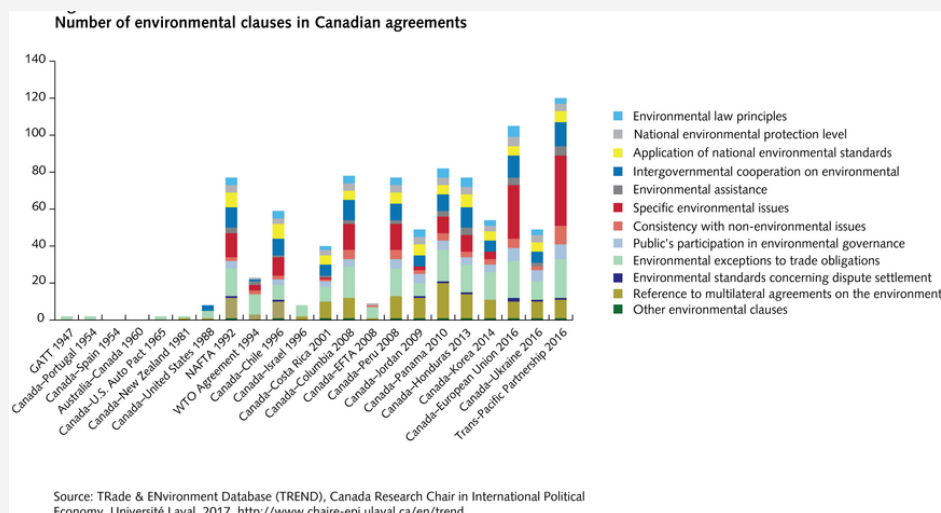
FEMINISM

Canada uses international development aid as an avenue to promote peace, inclusion, and prosperity. Canada is committed to integrate feminism into its development projects with its Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) to increase women's involvement in peace and development movements abroad.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLAUSES IN TRADE AGREEMENTS

The Canadian government has engaged in several bilateral and regional trade negotiations that aim to maintain environmental protection while promoting liberalized trade among its trading partners. The purpose of these negotiations is to impose standards that encourage effective environmental governance, the enforcement of environmental regulations, and to ensure that environmental laws are not compromised for a country's individual economic gain. Less than a century of Canadian trade negotiations indicates that there is increased urgency to address environmental concerns, as there has been an increase in the inclusion of environmental clauses in trade agreements over time.

Number of environmental clauses in Canadian agreements

Legend:
- Environmental law principles
- National environmental protection level
- Application of national environmental standards
- Intergovernmental cooperation on environmental
- Environmental assistance
- Specific environmental issues
- Consistency with non-environmental issues
- Public's participation in environmental governance
- Environmental exceptions to trade obligations
- Environmental standards concerning dispute settlement
- Reference to multilateral agreements on the environment
- Other environmental clauses

Source: TRade & ENvironment Database (TREND), Canada Research Chair in International Political Economy, Université Laval, 2017. http://www.chaire-epi.ulaval.ca/en/trend.

Since the adoption of NAFTA, Canada (alongside the United States) has had the highest number of environmental clauses per trade agreement worldwide.

FEMINIST INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls" is the core action area of Canadian international assistance policy and is to be integrated into the other action areas.

HUMAN DIGNITY

PEACE AND SECURITY

GROWTH THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Canada has promised that by 2021-2022, "no less than 95% of Canada's international development assistance will target or integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.".

Canada has created a Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) to increase women's involvement in peace and development movements abroad. Canada intends to connect with women's rights groups in developing countries in areas of sexual and reproductive health. The ultimate goal of FIAP is to reduce gender-violence and increase women's participation in politics and sustainable development processes.

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Other sources used in this graphic are cited in my full research paper.