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THÈMES CANADIENS

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A TIME to Reflect

The actions of a handful of terrorists reverberate still. Across much of the globe, nation upon nation has attempted to come to grips with an event that, in ninety minutes, mandated a re-examination of governmental priorities, domestic vulnerabilities and international alliances. Little has been left untouched. This is perhaps most true within the shifting sands of foreign policy.

Canada's proximity to the United States, however defined, ensured that the spotlight would focus sharply on our leaders as well. Each word, each response, each suggested modification of policy was closely monitored by an attentive population. Rarely since 1945 has domestic security been so woven into the fabric of world affairs. Over the course of the past year, Canadians have demonstrated both support for American counter-terrorism efforts and concern for an over-reaching commitment to a prolonged war. Fears of repeated attacks have waned, but memories have scarcely abated.

In the shadow of a remarkable year in history, it is only now possible to begin a fair assessment of how a few hours last September sparked a significant re-alignment of priorities for Canada and Canadians. Bill Graham, Minister of Foreign Affairs, leads off the debate by answering some pointed questions on the challenges to Canadian foreign policy since 9-11 and into the unpredictable years ahead.

Charles Doran then looks at how Canada and the US diverge on their respective views of globalization, which he points out is not tantamount to Americanization. David Grondin then makes the case for how 9-11 could lead to an eventual synthesis of North American military forces into a continental defence structure. Stephen Clarkson suggests that Canada's security parameters have not been severely affected, and that Canada should continue to resist significant North American integration and ensure that Canadian autonomy on such matters survives.

Kathy Bickmore addresses the critical issue of teaching in light of modern terror and, as she calls it, a fragile peace. She warns that Canadians have an awesome responsibility in education, then offers an academic model for peacebuilding citizenship. Martin Rudner examines how Canada's security and intelligence community is mobilizing itself for the war against terrorism.

Hector Mackenzie then returns us to the international realm with a look at Canada's fundamental foreign relations over time. Denis Stairs takes a critical view of Canada's assets internationally, and wonders where Canada can make a particularly useful contribution abroad. David Malone and Patrick Wittman look favourably on one aspect of Canada's foreign policy – its productive role within the UN Security Council.

Desmond Morton writes that 9-11 finally led many Canadians to recognize the limits of their armed forces. He examines the historical significance of this. Jack Jedwab explores the effect of public opinion polls since September 11, noting how Americans have grown more interested in world opinion over the last twelve months. John Biles and Humera Ibrahim then provide a report card for the level of domestic tolerance Canadians have demonstrated since last September. Dean Oliver wraps up the discussion with his views on whether the acts of last year will have so profound an effect that homeland defence and international security will become closely fused in the minds of Canadians.

The Association for Canadian Studies is proud to offer this special edition of *Canadian Issues* at its conference *September 11th, 2001: The Impact and Aftermath for Canada and Canadians*. The editors hope it contributes to a lively and important debate.