



# Trudeau's Foreign Policy Report Card

**Kim Richard Nossal**

Professor of Political Studies and Director, Centre for International and Defence Policy, Queen's University

March 22, 2019

9:00am – 4:30pm

## Summary

As Canadians prepare to vote in the 43rd federal election on October 21, this workshop seeks to contribute to the 10th anniversary theme of the WSSR — Deliberating a Public Agenda for Election 2019 — by assessing the foreign and defence policy record of the Liberal government of Justin Trudeau.

Just as the Conservatives did in 2006, the Liberals came to power in November 2015 having promised to introduce significant change in Canada's global policies. We will begin with an examination of the tendency of political parties in Canada to promise significant foreign policy change, comparing the Conservatives under Stephen Harper and the Trudeau Liberals. The second session assesses how success the Trudeau government has been in managing foreign and defence policy. After lunch, the seminar will concentrate on how the Trudeau government has managed the trade relationship with the United States. The final session looks at the challenges for Canada posed by the changes in the international order that we have seen since the administration of Donald J. Trump took office in January 2017, and the implications the new world order will have for the Canadian general election in 2019.

## Outline

- (1) Breaking with the past: comparing the Harper Conservatives and the Trudeau Liberals
- (2) Assessing the Trudeau foreign policy record: hits and myths
- (3) Trump and trade: "Trade wars are good, and easy to win"
- (4) Canada, the evolving global order, and the 2019 election

## Required Readings\*

### Session 1:

Roland Paris, "Are Canadians still liberal internationalists? Foreign policy and public opinion in the Harper era," *International Journal* 69:3 (2014): 274–307, [http://aix1.uottawa.ca/~rparis/lib\\_int.pdf](http://aix1.uottawa.ca/~rparis/lib_int.pdf).

### Session 2:

Kim Richard Nossal, "Promises Made, Promises Kept? A Mid-term Trudeau Foreign Policy Report Card," in *Canada Among Nations 2017: Justin Trudeau and Canadian Foreign Policy*, eds. Norman Hillmer and Philippe Lagassé (Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), 31–53, [https://nossalk.files.wordpress.com/2019/02/nossal\\_2018\\_trudeau-midterm.pdf](https://nossalk.files.wordpress.com/2019/02/nossal_2018_trudeau-midterm.pdf).

### Session 3:

Centre for International Governance Innovation, *The Future of North America's Economic Relationship: From NAFTA to the New Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement and Beyond — Special Report*, by Meredith Lilly, Christine McDaniel, and Hugo Perezcano Díaz (2019), <https://www.cigionline.org/publications/future-north-americas-economic-relationship-nafta-new-canada-united-states-mexico>





#### Session 4:

“Address by Minister Freeland on Canada’s foreign policy priorities,” Ottawa, 6 June 2017,

[https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/06/address\\_by\\_ministerfreelandoncanadasforeignpolicypriorities.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/06/address_by_ministerfreelandoncanadasforeignpolicypriorities.html)

Derek Burney, “How Canada can forge a path forward in this new world order,” *Globe and Mail*, 7 January 2019,

<http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF3A09> OR <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-how-canada-can-forge-a-path-forward-in-this-new-world-order/>

Colin Robertson, “Donald Trump has ushered in a new global order. Here’s how Canada can protect itself,” *Globe and Mail*, 22 January 2019, <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF3A0A> OR

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-donald-trump-has-ushered-in-a-new-global-order-heres-how-canada-can/>

#### **Additional Resources**

Jocelyn Coulon, *Un Selfie avec Justin Trudeau: regard critique sur la diplomatie du premier ministre* (Montréal: Québec Amérique, 2018)

Norman Hillmer and Philippe Lagassé, eds., *Canada Among Nations 2017: Justin Trudeau and Canadian Foreign Policy* (Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018)

Kim Richard Nossal, “The liberal past in the conservative present: internationalism in the Harper era,” in Heather A. Smith and Claire Turenne Sjolander, eds., *Canada in the World: Internationalism in Canadian Foreign Policy* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2013), 21–35,

[https://nossalk.files.wordpress.com/2016/08/nossal\\_2013\\_liberal\\_past.pdf](https://nossalk.files.wordpress.com/2016/08/nossal_2013_liberal_past.pdf).

Andrew Richter, “The Liberal government and Canadian defence policy: three critical issues,” *Journal of Military and Strategic Studies* 19:1 (2018): 64–100, <https://jmss.org/article/download/58351/43882>

Christoph Zuercher, “Canada’s feminist international assistance: can bad policy be well implemented? (Parts 1 and 2), *CIPSBlog*, September 13, 2018, <https://www.cips-cepi.ca/2018/09/13/feminist-international-assistance-can-bad-policy-be-well-implemented-part-1/> and <https://www.cips-cepi.ca/2018/09/13/feminist-international-assistance-can-bad-policy-be-well-implemented-part-2/>

\*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to locate the readings, please contact us at [wssr@concordia.ca](mailto:wssr@concordia.ca)

Workshops on Social Science Research (WSSR)  
1455 de Maisonneuve W. – H1 2Z5 3G  
Montreal, Qc H3G 1M8  
Telephone: 514-848-2424 x7854, x5473

