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October, 06, 2011

## Top 20 FOREIGN POLICY books of 2011

By Carl Meyer

Published October 5, 2011

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 To the Editor



Jim Creskey  
Canada throws away the welcome mat

Embassy has looked back over the foreign policy and political books published since September 2010 to find out which ones have entered into the public consciousness, which have influenced political debate in Canada, and which ones should have.

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.

### The Long Way Back: Afghanistan's Quest for Peace

Chris Alexander

Harper (November 2011)

For a significant portion of 2011, the Ottawa foreign policy circuit was buzzing about what this former long-time envoy's book would or wouldn't reveal, ever since he moved from the diplomatic to the political world by becoming a Conservative MP. A former Canadian

ambassador and UN deputy special representative in Afghanistan, The author—who was quickly elevated after getting elected to parliamentary secretary to the minister of national defence—says his book tells the proper version of Afghanistan's story since 2001, drawing from his own experiences and interactions. Although some don't agree that his analysis is correct, there is no doubt that the book is making waves.

### Let Sleeping Dogs Lie: The Influence of External Studies and Reports on National Defence Policy 2000 to 2006

Douglas L. Bland, Richard Shimooka

Queen's University, School of Policy Studies, 2011

Although this is not a proper book, but a paper in a series of studies, reports and opinions on defence management, it is worthy of including on this list because of the questions it raised on

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the functioning of the department of national defence. The study here looked at 3,500 departmental documents, seeing how much attention was paid to a sample of 15 studies. The answer? Practically none, say the authors; heavily-researched advice is routinely ignored by ministers and downplayed by senior public servants, and the reports filed away into oblivion once the media turned its attention to another matter. Especially in light of Lt.-Gen. (Ret'd) Andrew Leslie's recent report on transformation, this book is worth a look.

### **Readings in Canadian Foreign Policy: Classic Debates and New Ideas (Second Edition)**

**Duane Bratt (Editor), Christopher J. Kukucha (Editor)**

**Oxford University Press (Feb 3 2011)**

The first edition of this book was added to course packs at universities, and the second edition is sure to do the same. The book gives a broad overview of the mechanics and functionality of Canadian foreign policy, and draws upon the expertise from several foreign policy experts that *Embassy* readers will be familiar with. The subject matter is also in a familiar vein, covering topics such as the Arctic, Afghanistan and NATO, the G8 and G20, to name a few. The book also delves into the historical aspects of policy-making. One of the editors, Mr. Kukucha, wrote a 2008 book *The Provinces and Canadian Foreign Trade Policy* that has already made a previous *Embassy* book list, and here he helps turn another notable one out.

### **The Savage War: The Untold Battles of Afghanistan**

**Murray Brewster**

**Wiley (Oct 24 2011)**

Hot off the presses, the long-awaited book by this veteran defence journalist was advertised on Oct. 3 by a Canadian Press story detailing its new bits of gossip: That the office of Prime Minister Stephen Harper wanted to control public opinion of Afghanistan so badly that it sometimes kept even its own defence minister out of the loop. For example, Defence Minister Peter MacKay says he was kept out of the decision to set up the panel headed by former Liberal cabinet minister John Manley that would review the mission. He also said Canada accepted the Kandahar mission without a "true recognition" of its difficulty. The book also contains interviews with former NDP leader Jack Layton before his death this August that show Mr. Harper never talked with him in detail concerning Canada's ever-increasing involvement in the Afghanistan mission.

### **The China Challenge: Sino-Canadian Relations in the 21st Century**

**Huhua Cao (Editor), Vivienne Poy (Editor)**

**University of Ottawa Press (May 28 2011)**

In the footsteps of Foreign Minister John Baird and Trade Minister Ed Fast, Mr. Harper is expected to visit China in November. As Canada's second-largest trading partner, potential benefactor of a proposed pipeline to the West coast to export oil to Asia, and now prime ministerial destination, China is reason enough to make this book key reading for those hoping to bone up on the list of complex bilateral issues. The China file has also been electrified this year with a series of contentious stories, such as its increased interest over Arctic jurisdiction, claims that it was the origin of cyber espionage, and even Conservative MP Bob Dechert's amorous emails. It's not hard to imagine Mr. Harper nodding in agreement at the title of this book.




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## **Dependent America?: How Canada and Mexico Construct US Power**

**Stephen Clarkson (Author), Matto Mildenerger (Author)**

**University of Toronto Press, Scholarly Publishing Division (Oct 30 2011)**

If one has conversations with Canadians such as diplomats and lobbyists who are engaged on the US file, they often exclaim that a large portion of their job is reminding Americans of how important Canada is to their well-being. This book puts that in perspective by demonstrating how Canada and Mexico contribute to the prosperity of the US, especially to its wealth, power and security—and how the US, nevertheless, has maneuvered to neutralize this potential influence. In that sense it represents an emerging viewpoint that Canada needs to further flex

its continental muscles, boasting about its abundant natural resources, showing how its market is fundamentally compatible with American needs, and demonstrating its ability to co-operate on security, all to gain back that neutralized position.

## **Keeping Watch: Monitoring Technology and Innovation in UN Peace Operations**

**A. Walter Dorn**

**United Nations University Press (Jun 1 2011)**

There are few defenders of Canadian peacekeeping as fierce as this author. Chair of the department of security and international affairs at the Canadian Forces College, he believes that even in the age of a Conservative government where Canadian military power is ever more readily thrown around in theatres like Kandahar and Libya, and when discussion of peacekeeping is dismissed by some commentators as archaic Canadian policy, it is possible to contribute in greater amounts to the blue berets. The book is a prescription for better, more efficient peacekeeping that countries can be proud to participate in; while raising the alarm over the relative lack of technology on missions today, the author is nevertheless optimistic that new technology is now affordable and widespread enough to employ on the field.

## **Exceptional People: How Migration Shaped Our World and Will Define Our Future**

**Ian Goldin (Author), Geoffrey Cameron (Author), Meera Balarajan (Author)**

**Princeton University Press (April 24 2011)**

**senior policy advisor with DFAIT is Cameron**

Here's an idea: Scrap the expensive, nationalistic paraphernalia of border controls that states use today to limit or pretend to limit migration, and return to the kind of free immigration policies that governed much of the world before World War I. This book does away with the idea that an open border is a wild thought that only the irresponsible would consider in 2011. Essentially a history of migration from "Adam and Eve" to the present, the book presents convincing reasons for rethinking the possessive love of national turf and xenophobic attitude to strangers and foreigners that sometimes permeates migration debates. The inclusion of one author, Mr. Cameron, who was a senior policy advisor with the foreign affairs department, makes this especially interesting reading given the current government's effort to amend Canada's immigration laws.

## **Citizens of Nowhere: From Refugee Camp to Canadian Campus**

**Debi Goodwin**

1. ...
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. Kenney hopes human smuggling bill will pass before Christmas
6. Help us help immigrants, Ottawa: Municipalities
7. Years from now, Canadians will apologize
8. Will EU-India trade snags spill over into Canada?
9. Shifting trends in Canada's immigration identity
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**Doubleday Canada (Sep 14 2010)**

This book made last year's list, but since refugees and migration have been such a hot topic in 2011, it is worth mentioning again. The author is a former CBC journalist at The National who produced a documentary entitled "The Lucky Ones" that inspired the book, which tells the story of eleven refugees who miraculously obtained scholarships from Canadian universities. The author follows their trials and tribulations from living in refugee camps to walking on Canadian campuses, first finding them in Africa, meeting them at the airport in Canada and following them as they adapt. Many books on this list present policy advice, research or personal experiences, while this book presents the experience of others shown through the lens of the refugee experience.

**Under An Afghan Sky: A Memoir Of Captivity****Mellissa Fung****HarperCollins Publishers Ltd (April 25 2011)**

Kidnapped in Afghanistan while working for the CBC in 2008, knifed in the hand and shoulder, held at gunpoint, and eventually thrown into a hole, the author was held for 28 days before being traded for the release of one of the family members of her captors. During her time in captivity, she was raped with a knife to her throat. Her memoir of this nightmare, she said in an interview when the book was released, was not cathartic at all to write; it weaves between a curious compassion presented by the author toward the landscape and the people, which is then tested over and over by her experiences. The book is especially poignant as the world observes the 10th anniversary of Western intervention in Afghanistan—not to mention that the reviews for this book were universally positive.

**Frontier Justice: The Global Refugee Crisis and What To Do About It****Andy Lamey****Doubleday Canada (April 5 2011)**

Another view into the world of refugees and migration, this book tackles issues like Guantánamo Bay, Iraq, and Ahmed Ressay, the so-called Millennium bomber. The author, another journalist who has produced radio documentaries for CBC's Ideas and written for several papers, takes several looks at the emerging global refugee crisis: a group of students who sued the US government on behalf of gitmo inmates, or Mr. Ressay's refugee claim in Canada, for example. In doing so the book highlights how human rights is often worked out in practice as citizen rights. It also proposes a set of solutions for protecting the rights of refugees around the world, and examining how Canada deals with asylum-seekers

**WikiLeaks: Inside Julian Assange's War on Secrecy****David Leigh (Author), Luke Harding (Author), The Guardian (Author)****PublicAffairs (Feb 8 2011)**

WikiLeaks blew the lid off the diplomatic world when it published thousands of secret diplomatic cables sent from American embassies all around the world. The cables, which continue to make news in Canada today on practically every foreign affairs subject under the sun, have significantly impacted the public perception of Canadian foreign policy, affirming some suspicions while altering others. This book is the *Guardian's* account of the man behind WikiLeaks, Julian Assange, and the deal that was crafted between him, the paper, the *New York Times* and *Der Spiegel* to release the military and diplomatic files. Also worth reading is the skinny from the effective number-two, Daniel Domscheit-Berg, named Inside WikiLeaks:

My Time with Julian Assange at the World's Most Dangerous Website.

### **Captivity: 118 Days in Iraq and the Struggle for a World Without War**

**James Loney**

**Knopf Canada (April 19 2011)**

This Canadian peace activist, who worked with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Iraq and Palestine, was kidnapped at gunpoint in Iraq in November 2005 along with a fellow Canadian, a Brit and an American. The hostage crisis ended in March 2006 when three of them were rescued by British special forces—the fourth, the American Tom Fox, was killed weeks before the others were saved. In a similar vein as *Under An Afghan Sky*, this book tells the story from the kidnapped's point of view, describing the details of his experience in detail, showing how captors often succumb to Stockholm Syndrome—he gave one of his captors massages—and the emotions involved, like his guilt over confronting other prisoners over their share of food.

### **Does the Elephant Dance?: Contemporary Indian Foreign Policy**

**David M. Malone**

**Oxford University Press (May 14 2011)**

India is rapidly climbing the list of the Harper government's priorities, gaining a page in this year's budget document and the subject of a comprehensive free trade deal that both governments hope to conclude by 2013. As the president of the International Development Research Centre, a crown corporation, and former High Commissioner to India, the author is well-placed to identify several elements that are unique to how India conducts its foreign policy. The book shows how domestic politics and the country's considerable problems with security contribute to how it sees the rest of the world. It also examines India's relationship with its neighbours and those countries in its sphere of influence. Keeping the relationship that IDRC has with the government in mind, this book is worthy reading for those who closely follow the India file.

### **Harperland: The Politics of Control**

**Lawrence Martin**

**Penguin; First Edition edition (Oct 5 2010)**

Another book that made last year's list, it gets another spot given the Conservative rise to majority government this spring, and the fact that it was one of the most talked-about books in 2011. Analysts all year repeatedly brought up this *Globe and Mail* columnist's insider book about Mr. Harper in their debates about where his government was taking Canada. The author details the prime minister's rise to power and prominence, showing that his government is a one-man show, running and vetting everything from inside his own office alongside his own inner circle. This is not unlike how former US president Richard Nixon ran things, hence the title, a play on Rick Perlstein's *Nixonland*. In that sense it is worthy reading for those wanting to get an angle on how foreign policy is crafted in Canada.

### **The North American Idea: A Vision of a Continental Future**

**Robert A. Pastor**

**Oxford University Press (July 8 2011)**

This thesis on NAFTA makes the case that the formidable continental trade agreement lost its relevance after 2001 when trade peaked and was eclipsed by other world players like China

continued after 2001, when trade peaked and was eclipsed by other world players like China, and the continent was wracked with drug violence. The author, a former US national security advisor on Latin America and the Caribbean, was a member of a task force on the creation of a North American community alongside Mr. Manley, and former chief executive of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives Thomas d'Aquino, as well as others. The book argues for strong interdependence, suggesting that the failure of Canada or Mexico means the failure of the United States, and conversely that the growth of one helps all. In this sense it advocates for common solutions, like the creation of a North American migration infrastructure fund.

### **Foreign Ownership of Canadian Industry**

**A.E. Safarian (Author)**

**University of Toronto Press, Scholarly Publishing Division (Aug 6 2011)**

This is the third edition of a book that has been around for years, this time including a new preface re-examining the argument made by this long-time analyst in light of the Harper government's demand in 2011 that foreign investment conform to a certain definition of Canada's best interests. This was reflected in the high-profile rejection of BHP Billiton's \$39-billion bid for PotashCorp of Saskatchewan in late 2010, just as it was in the acceptance of the sale of high-value Nortel Networks patents, and the government's addition of national security to the list of issues upon which it can reject investments. The author, a former federal government statistician, has held numerous positions at different universities, research institutes, societies and councils, many of which have looked at foreign investment.

### **Arrival City: The Final Migration and Our Next World**

**Doug Saunders**

**Knopf Canada (Sep 21 2010)**

Another addition to a migration-filled best books list, this book was published in 2010, yet too late to get on *Embassy's* list last year. Authored by the *Globe and Mail's* European correspondent, it received considerable attention in 2011 in the emerging debate over the future of cities. It takes another angle to the emerging global refugee and migration crisis by noting how rural migrants are increasingly populating urban neighbourhoods and that this situation, and the response to it by countries like Canada, will shape the next century. He travels from one city to another, documenting how rural migrants are clustered on the edges of urban areas, telling the story of several people involved, and in that atmosphere, suggesting solutions to some of the problems they face.

### **Decade of Fear: Reporting from Terrorism's Grey Zone**

**Michelle Shephard**

**Douglas & McIntyre (Aug 19 2011)**

*The Toronto Star's* national security reporter was a 29-year-old on the crime beat when 9/11 happened. She spent the next decade on assignments to far-flung places like Yemen, Syria, Mogadishu, Karachi and Guantánamo Bay, trying to understand terrorism, and this book is the result of those years of insight. In the book, the author highlights different characters and situations that all play into the unstable nature of the post-9/11 world, and in so doing, shows what she describes as a global view of terrorism and security issues. For *Embassy* readers, one of the most interesting areas might be her birds-eye view of the whole story of Omar Khadr, which she covered since 2002 when he was shot and captured in Afghanistan.

### **Diplomacy in the Digital Age: Essays in Honour of Ambassador Allan Gotlieb**

**Janice Gross Stein (Editor)**

**Signal (Oct 11 2011)**

Mr. Gotlieb was the Canadian ambassador to the United States from 1981 to 1989 and, according to the editor and several authors in this book, set a very high bar for his successors. Now a Senior Business Advisor at Bennett Jones, the former ambassador held famous parties in Washington attended by high-profile capital power players and personally connected with then-US President Ronald Reagan. He also practiced a new form of diplomacy, emphasizing connections with Congress and other powerful bodies outside of the traditional State Department link, an approach that would become a cornerstone of a new Canadian diplomatic methodology to influencing American decisions. The book reflects on this legacy in the new era of digital technology where communication is networked and distributed and the news cycle never stops spinning.



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