

LAW AND DEMOCRACY WEEK

Course n°15: Canada's International Relations and Foreign Policy (Martin Laberge)



Martin Laberge.

Specialist in international history, Martin Laberge is Associate Professor at the Department of Social Sciences at Université du Québec en Outaouais. His research focuses mainly on the 1919-1945 period and studies two main thematic: the analysis of the links between civilian and military institutions in international relations and the role of public diplomacy in arms limitation negotiations. His teaching focuses on the history of contemporary international relations. He is also a member of GIHRIC (Interuniversity

Group for the History of Contemporary International Relations).

Canada's form of democracy operates in the international arena. This country entertains diplomatic relations with a number of other states and it participates in the United Nations, regional organizations and specialized agencies. Although Canada's relative geographic isolation and consequential security reduces public attention toward international matters, no democratic regime operates in a void. Examination of the country's foreign relations is a necessary exercise to more fully understand Canada. Particular attention should be paid to the application of democratic principles to Canada's behaviour in the international arena.

Specific topics of current interest include the following:

- Canada's participation in the United Nations;
- Our relationship with the United States and the prospect of forging closer links with the European Union;
- Military ventures in Afghanistan, Libya and the remainder of the peacekeeping program;
- The great dilemmas of democracy :
 - o Internal : to what extent does Canada balance political dissent and democratic state security?
 - o External : to what extent and with what degree of force does Canada export democracy?