

Dear Prime Minister Chretien:

It is with great reluctance that I write you. As a Canadian citizen, as an historian and a professor of war studies, as one who has advised the Privy Council Office and Department of National Defence and one who has provided public commentary on Canadian national security policy and the nature of the war in which we have been engaged since 11 September 2001, I bring considerable expertise and experience to bear. I believe that Canada is currently at a critical point in her history and our long term ability to function as an independent nation is in peril.

Without a functional relationship with the United States, Canada will become a cold, impoverished, fragmented entity. Anti-American bigotry has run rampant, to our detriment. The chaotic national policies emanating from Ottawa, particularly our unwillingness to confront and eliminate the terrorist presence embedded in Canadian society and the federal government's unwillingness to properly fund and equip the Canadian Forces, are unacceptable. The failing hands that pass John McRae's torch in "In Flanders Fields" have passed that torch in vain. The Canadian government has essentially squandered the sacrifices of two generations of Canadians and turned its back on the critical foundations upon which Canada is constructed. It has finally succumbed to the cynicism and chaos of the so-called 'post-modern' age, an identifier and state of mind coined by a small collection of influential but sociopathic Marxist academics.

We have a tradition of countering totalitarianism, particularly in the Second World War and the Cold War, specifically when it threatens our interests. My own family members, particularly those who served in Bomber Command during the Second World War and burned out the black heart of Nazi Germany, now pilloried as 'war criminals' by federally-funded

institutions, were proud to take on our enemies on behalf of Canada and her people. Though the entire anti-totalitarian enterprise called the Cold War, which Canada participated in effectively for the first twenty-five years, is not even taught in school, and even though there are no monuments to those who were part of it, some of us will never forget the words of a West German award presented to the members of 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade in Lahr, applauding those who were prepared to risk all “für freiden und frieheit” (peace and freedom).

The ‘freedom’ component of that award is as important as the ‘peace’, something those who seek to anchor the Canadian identity in ‘peacekeeping’ deliberately obscure. We are in a fight for our identity, our economic freedom as well as our security. The anti-military mythology implemented by the ‘Baby Boom’ generation during the Vietnam years in the United States and transmitted here has neutered Canada. The exceptionalist ideology (borrowed from the Americans and modified) that Canadians are somehow morally superior and not a violent or military people, that everything is morally relative, combined with the cultural suppression of Canadian military history has convinced a generation of Canadians that there is nothing worth fighting for and that there never was. If Canada, her citizens, and her interests are no longer worth fighting for, then we deserve to cease to exist and we will fragment and be absorbed, or be ignored.

We are confronted not only with the despotism of the Hussein regime (and the threat it poses to the world we want to live in) but also with a medieval ideology equipped with modern weapons, including the agile means to manipulate our under-educated population’s perceptions. And there will be more threats. Canadians will die. Would you prefer to have them die like slaughtered sheep in a crowded Bali disco? We are now confronted with something as insidious as Communism and Nazism were, yet Canada’s full economic and economic potential remains caged like a starved dog locked away in a basement because the polite guests will soon be visiting. We who

have attempted to alert our leaders to the dangers are cavalierly ignored and even ridiculed by elected officials, unelected officials and their obsequious lackeys in Canada's small, cozy, and tragically insulated punditocracy.

When will you and your advisors understand that you can no longer sit back in our allegedly fire-proof house, pontificate and moralize without bringing something effective to the table? Any parent can scream criticism from the benches of an arena and it's easier to do so if you have no kids on the ice.

Prime Minister, you are in the position of a parent at a hockey game. Other kids on the team get checked, speared, and dumped on the ice and you say nothing as long as its not your kid. You are even willing to scream abuse at your team's coach and the other members when they aren't doing what you think they should be doing, rather than screaming at the members of the opposing team or chanting to support your own. You keep your kid on the bench and refuse to equip him with a stick or protective equipment. I suggest that you would be quite happy to share in the accolades and fruits of victory if your team wins, however.

Unlike a hockey parent, you can't leave the arena you are in now and go home. You may retire, but for Canada the game doesn't end. How are you going to play it?

-Sean M. Maloney, PhD

Historian