Learning in Retirement: *The Defence of North America: Legacies and Emerging Challenges*

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Series Description:

North American defence issues are situated in a complex political-military legacy shaped by national interests, the violent twentieth century, the chaotic twenty-first and the reality that Canada must accommodate the interests of its much larger and more powerful neighbour. These lectures will examine the origins of the Canada-US defence relationship and its development through world wars, the Cold War and the post-Cold war period. The series will conclude with discussions of the implications for Canada of world-wide instability, the prospects for a new era of Great Power competition and the de-stabilising effects of new thinking on nuclear weapons.

Series Outline:

**Week One: Legacies and Formative Influences**

Lessons from the 19th Century for Canada, USA, Mexico. The relationships and conflicts between the United States and its northern and southern neighbours to the end of the First World War were important formative influences long into the twentieth century. A second part of the discussion will examine the national plans for war in North America which were still being developed into the 1930’s.

**Week Two: The Origins of the Canada-US Defence Relationship**

Roosevelt and King: their reciprocal statements on cooperative defence and the Ogdensburg declaration. The Pacific theatre in North America was a minor strategic sideshow but the laboratory where much of the Canada-US defence relationship was tested. After the War, Canadian defence changed its focus from the Empire & Commonwealth to a US dominated reality.

**Week Three: Cold War I**

The threat of Soviet aggression against Western Europe drove the formation of NATO, with Canada a founding member while fighting a hot war against Communist aggression on the Korean peninsula. The Soviet Union's nuclear threat to North America led to intensified Canada-US defence cooperation and the eventual establishment of NORAD, which will be examined in detail.
**Week Four: Cold War II**

Technology and Deterrence: the Canada-US defence crises of the 1960's, including nuclear weapons for the Canadian forces and the Cuban missile crisis will lead off this session. Technological developments such as intercontinental ballistic missiles and cruise missiles and their influence on policy, including the evolution of the fundamental mandate of NORAD, will be considered. The question of ballistic missile defence will be examined.

**Week Five: Failed & Failing States, Terrorism, Stability Operations & Frozen Conflicts**

Terrorism: its origin in failing states; the forced institutional evolution of North American security relations. The power of trans-national criminal organisations. Canada at war in Afghanistan; operations other than war in the Middle East and Africa - what role for Canada? The risks posed by frozen conflicts complicated by nuclear proliferation.

**Week Six: Return to Great Power Competition; New Thinking on Nuclear Weapons**

The United States is now in open competition with revanchist Russia and ascending China; is the USA over-extended? The role of US allies and partners; expectations of Canada. The risks of war between the United States and China; is a clash inevitable; what role for nuclear weapons? Russia: re-armed, nationalist and revanchist; its stated military doctrine emphasising nuclear weapons. The de-stabilising effect of new types of weapons, cyber and space as battlefields.