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Subject: Canada's role in world politics

Posted by [Hydra](#) on Fri, 04 Mar 2005 06:19:40 GMT

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JavaxcxHave the Tories say what they will, our military is pretty much fine the way it is in our current situation in the world.

I think the author's point was that Canada's current situation in the world is, quite frankly, meaningless (that's just my interpretation of what he said and certainly mean no offense by it), and one of the reasons for that was a vastly underfunded military characterized in the editorial this way:

Quote:The recent deployment of our Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to tsunami-stricken Southeast Asia was a telling example. Our deployment was tiny and came almost two weeks after the Americans and Australians sent in their own larger forces. The spectacle mocked the government's boast that "Canada is among the most generous international donors to respond to this disaster with humanitarian and early recovery assistance."

Why were we so late compared with other nations? Like the rest of our military, DART is underfunded. Lacking their own transport planes, the team's members had to wait while a deal was struck to rent Russian aircraft. As the chart below shows, we spend a smaller share of our national wealth on military obligations than any NATO nation except tiny Luxembourg and Iceland (which has no military at all).

It's simultaneously funny and not funny. The Canadian military had to rent Russian transport planes just to deliver aid two weeks late.

Canada's role in international politics is, again, frankly but with no offense intended, quite inconsequential. About the only thing it may have going for itself is economic ties to the U.S.; correct me if you feel I'm wrong, though.

Quote:Call it pre-9/11 thinking if you will, but if you live in post-9/11 world forever, you'll burn yourself out. Especially when your country's size is bigger than that of America.

Call it post-9/11 thinking if you will, but if you live in a pre-9/11 world forever, you'll get blown up by state-sponsored Islamic terrorist groups. Especially when your country is one of America's biggest trading partners and believe in many of the same freedoms that make those terrorists so angry at your nation in the first place.

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