

Chapter 6

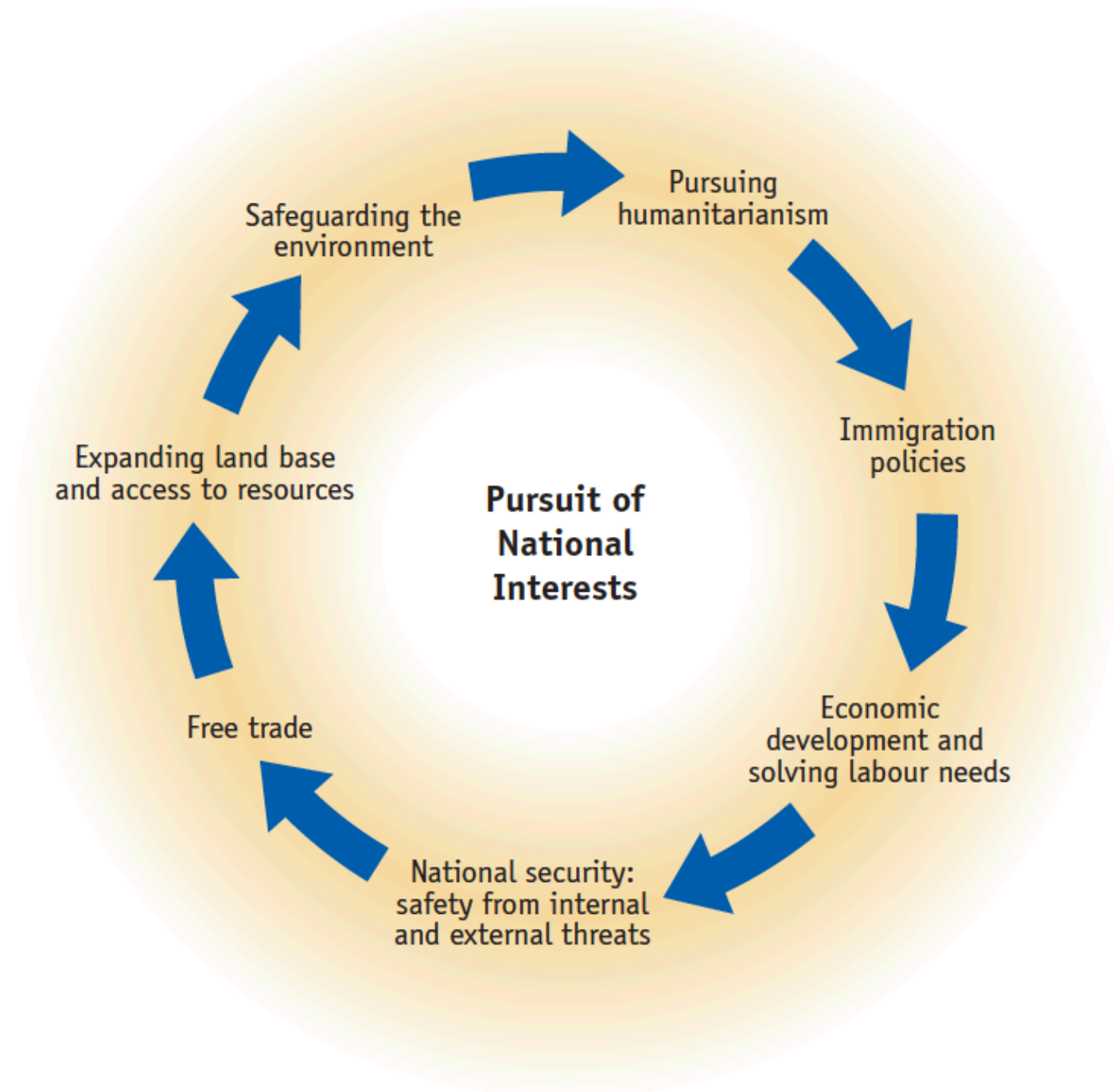
SS 20-1

Introduction

- In Unit 1, we explored understandings of nation, nationalism, and the diverse ways in which people express their nationalism, as well as how a collective consciousness or identity can develop when people identify with others who share similar experiences in history, language, culture, values, and beliefs.
- In Unit 2, we will focus on **the effects of nationalism, ultranationalism, and the pursuit of national interests**. In this chapter you will explore the relationship between nationalism and national interest.

National Interests

- A **national interest** may be a cultural, economic, political, religious, or military goal of a nation.
- A nation's pursuit of national interests is the purposeful activity of working toward these goals. Both nations and nation-states may pursue national interests. National interest is influenced by a nation's understanding of nationalism, and what is necessary for it to maintain its existence as a nation.



Nationalist vs Internationalist Interests

- The pursuit of national interests by a nation often affects not only the nation itself, but other nations as well. Many nation-states try to balance the interests of their own citizens with the interests of those outside the nation's borders. Often, countries must decide between national interests and international interests.
- A **nationalist** might believe that the nation should spend its money on its own citizens first, and on citizens of other nations through foreign aid only if there is any money left over.
- An **internationalist**, on the other hand, might believe that a nation should care both for its own citizens and the greater group of world citizens

Why Do Nations Pursue National Interests?

- Nations pursue national interests for a variety of reasons, many of which center around:
 - a nation's survival and security
 - a nation's economic growth and power
 - the maintenance of the quality of life for the people in the nation
- **Can you think of any historical or contemporary examples of these?**

Foreign Policy

- The national interests of a country may be reflected in its foreign policy. **Foreign policy** is a set of goals that outline how a country will interact with other countries.
- Themes of Canadian Foreign Policy (Historical and Contemporary)
 - ✓ Independence
 - ✓ Global Alliances
 - ✓ Membership in International Organizations
 - ✓ Anti- authoritarianism, totalitarianism, imperialism, and terrorism
 - ✓ Peacekeeping
 - ✓ Economic Interests

What other themes do you think we could add to this list?

Canadian Foreign Policy

*The Canadian Press
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OTTAWA -- The Liberal government has spent the last week rolling out a new foreign policy. Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland gave an overarching speech that positioned Canada as a champion of the global multilateral order that is under attack from the Donald Trump administration in the U.S., and Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan spoke to increasing defence spending over two decades.

On Friday, International Development Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau outlined the country's future direction on foreign aid.

Here are five things about Canada's busy week in foreign affairs:

Canadian Foreign Policy

- 1. Freeland says Canada will make its diversity an example to the world and that it will stand up for the persecuted and the downtrodden. She says Canada will "set a standard" for how women, gays and lesbians, transgendered people, racial, ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious minorities and indigenous people are treated in the world.*
- 2. Because the U.S. has chosen to "shrug off the burden" of being a world leader, Canada will work with other "like-minded" countries to protect international institutions such as the United Nations, NATO and the World Trade Organization, Freeland said*
- 3. Sajjan said the government is committed to a \$62-billion increase in defence spending over the next 20 years. The military will add 3,500 regular force troops and 1,500 reservists, while buying 15 new warships, 88 new fighter jets and armed drone aircraft capable of unmanned air strikes.*
- 4. Bibeau said Canada's new "feminist" international development strategy will reorient plans so Canada can fight poverty in the world by focusing on women and girls. But for now, Canada won't add new money to its \$5.3 billion annual development budget.*
- 5. She said the new policy, a result of consulting 15,000 people in 65 countries, has three core elements: preserving human dignity, empowering women and girls, helping local communities thrive*

What national and international interests do these policies represent?

Case Study: Arctic Sovereignty

- In recent years, several nations have become increasingly interested in the lands and waters of the Arctic. This may threaten Canadian sovereignty in the North. With the polar ice cap retreating and technology improving, shipping lanes in the Arctic Ocean could be used to transport goods.
- In 2007, Russian submarines descended to the seabed and planted a Russian flag under the North Pole ice. This was Russia's assertion of ownership of the potentially oil- and mineral-rich seabed. Canada's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Peter MacKay, responded with: "Look, this isn't the 15th century. You can't go around the world and just plant flags and say 'We're claiming this territory'."

Claims to Ownership...



...whose perspective is missing?

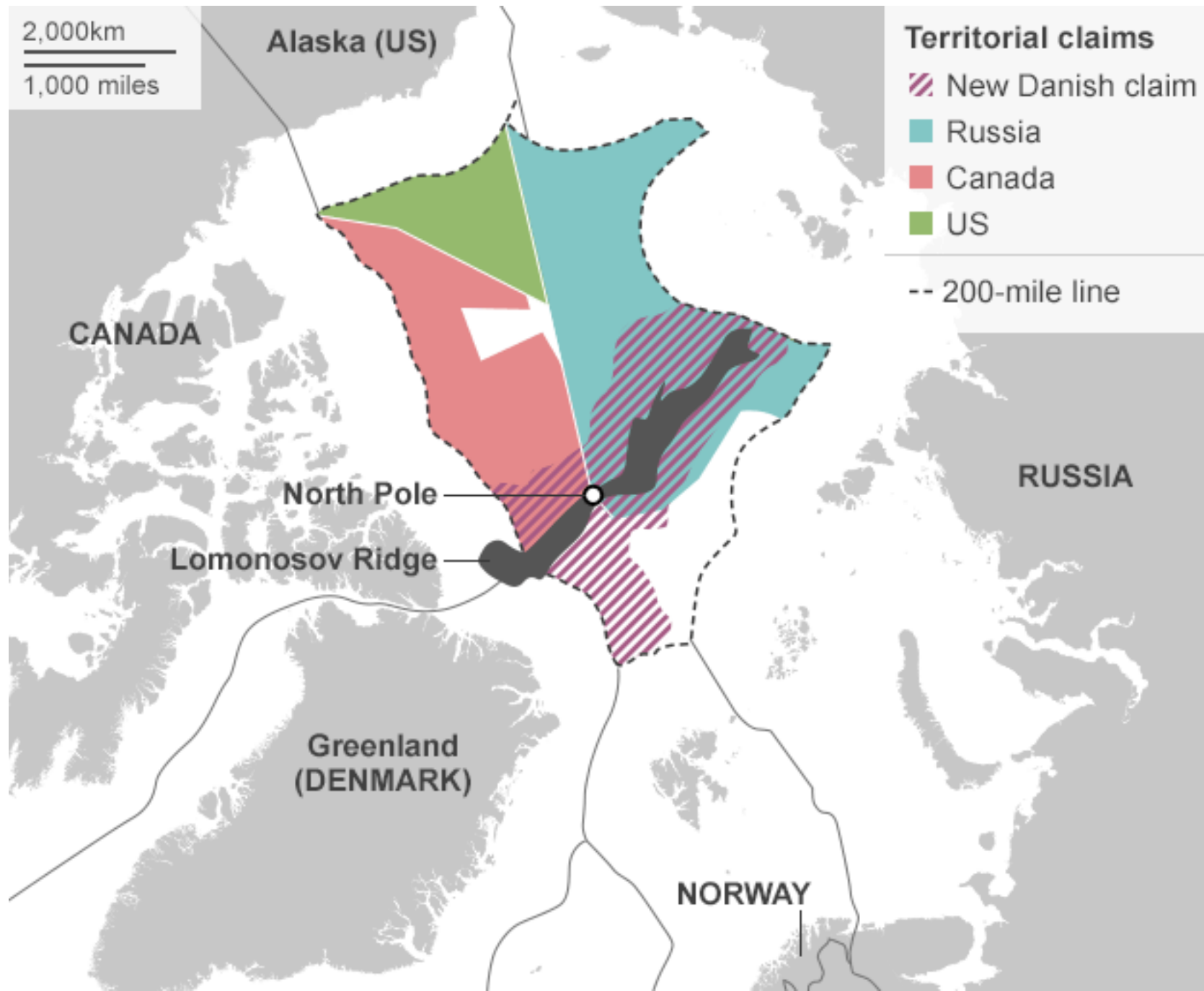




Figure 6-1 ▲

This map shows the strategically important Northwest Passage in the Arctic. How is our sense of Canadian nationalism related to the pursuit of our sovereignty over the North?

Control over the Northwest Passage

- Why would Canada want to maintain control over the Northwest Passage? Today, the Northwest Passage is considered in Canada to be Canadian internal waters. This is not a perspective held by other nations. The US asserts that the Northwest Passage is an **international strait**, not a body of water that belongs under Canadian jurisdiction.
- **In your opinion, is the use of the Northwest Passage by other nations a challenge to Canada's sovereignty, or is it an opportunity for Canada to assert its national interests in the passage?**

Case Study: Arctic Sovereignty

- Canada might pursue its national interests in the Arctic by
 - ✓ building military bases
 - ✓ resolving disputed land claims with Aboriginal groups
 - ✓ expanding resource exploration and development
 - ✓ starting to move goods by sea through the Northwest Passage

To what extent should Canada make defending Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic a priority?

Case Study: Arctic Sovereignty

- The former Soviet Union claimed—and Russia now claims—sovereignty over much of the Northeast Passage, in the Arctic Ocean north of Russia. Since turning back two US Coast Guard icebreakers in 1967, they have denied US surface vessels access to the route.
- **If Canada were to take similar actions now in the Northwest Passage, what might be the consequences?**

Arctic Sovereignty Summit

- Canada:
- The United States:
- Russia:
- Denmark:
- Norway:
- The Inuit: