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Expressing the Value of Symbiosis: The Role of Canada on the International Stage

Introduction

As a young Canada-lover in Japan, I believe that Canada can play more important roles on the international stage through expressing its soft power. Canada has potential ideas worth spreading all over the world. My keyword for Canadian soft power is “symbiosis”.

When I was 16 years old, I visited Canada with my family. Until then, Canada was not so an important country for me. My perception of Canada had been accompanied only by maple trees, smoked salmon, and ice hockey. However, on that trip, I was fascinated by her rich nature and sophisticated culture to love the country. Since that experience, from time to time, I have learned that Canada has great charms which deserve more attention of the international society. Especially, the notion of symbiosis of Canadian society seems attractive and worth claiming in the current international society. In this essay, I would like to explain my opinion regarding the role of Canada on the international stage by focusing on this keyword -symbiosis-, from three points of view; symbiosis within diverse cultures, symbiosis with nature, and symbiosis with the international society.

1.Symbiosis within diverse cultures

First of all, I would like to address the excellence of multiculturalism policy of Canada. Canada is sometimes called “ethnic mosaic”. From its origin as a country, Canada has been deeply related to immigrants, and they consist crucial part of current Canadian Society. According to a statistic conducted by the Ministry of ? In 2006, 1/5 of Canadian population was not born in the country. Now that Canada is one of the biggest multiracial state in the world.

In this era of ethnic conflict, people around the world pay more and more attention to the multiculturalism. Even in northern European countries, whose nations are thought to highly educated and tolerant to people from different backgrounds, the chain of hate crimes never seems to come to halt. Is the idea really viable, or just a fantasy? Canada can answer this important question. While I was traveling in Canada, I saw a lot of people from different cultural/ethnic backgrounds. Since I live in Japan, it was very surprising that so many races live together in one country, getting along with each other. I surely grasped the sense of symbiosis of people. Of course, I also have concrete evidence. Vancouver is always ranked as

one of the most secure and convenient cities in the world, though the city has seen several times of large immigrant influx for ages.

The key to the successive symbiosis of diverse ethnic groups is, I, think, Canadian government has made great efforts in both political and legal way. I learned that in 1988, the multiculturalism act embodying the idea of mutual respect of diverse ethnic groups in the country was enacted, and succeeded the declaration of the multiculturalism in the Constitution. Canadian laws also allow each ethnic groups to maintain their own cultures. In my opinion, this process of integrating country into mutual understanding can be established as “Canadian method”. By offering this idea, Canada can help the world to stop the hatred chain.

2.Symbiosis with nature

Canada can be a leading country in the environmental policy. These days, the importance of nature conservation has been regarded as a common value in the international society. Canada should make use of its rich natural environment to convey the value of nature protection.

The environmental policies inside the country are superior. During my stay in Rocky Mountains, I went hiking several times, and each time I was impressed how the conservation system is rigidly respected and grass-rooted. For example, I heard that population within National Parks and emissions of cars running through them are strictly limited, no less than garbage separation. More strict entering restrictions were implemented to those who want to hike in special regions such as Lake O'hara. The garbage cans in the mountains were made specially to prevent wildlife from scavenging food.

On the international level, she is famous for her effort to nature protection, too. Canada hosted the process of making Montreal Protocol for stop destruction of the ozone layer in 1988. Moreover, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, she became the first country to sign two renowned treaties; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Chang and Convention on Biological Diversity.

I regret to say that some recent Canadian policies have dismissed global environmental issues. For example, the government declared withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol last year. Even so, I believe that her citizens have fostered the mind to respect the environment thorough having fun in their neighboring mountains, forests, rivers and sea. Now is the time to reconsider the environmental problem in the world. Canada should show the longstanding experience and take the initiative to solve a lot of local /global

environmental problems.

3.Symbiosis with the international society

Canada has a long history of successful symbiosis with diverse countries and the international cooperation. Recently, pluralism is said to be proceeding in the international society. I think that Canada can adjust and guide the complex interest of each subject.

Canada has been renowned for her “Middle Power Diplomacy” since the early age of international politics. From time to time, Canada played important roles to arbitrate serious international conflicts such as Suez Crisis. Despite her strong connection with the United States, Canadian policies have considered balance and benefit of the whole countries in the world. The Nobel Peace Prize given to ex-prime minister Lester Bowles Pearson shows the superiority of Canadian diplomacy.

From my standpoint, Canada should take part in more international problems in various ways. It must be important to continue amendment of conflicts. Also, expressing new international frameworks or ideas would be valuable. For instance, through a seminar in my university, I was deeply inspired by “Human Security” which was first claimed by Canadian policy. Canada has established a unique status on the stage of international politics. Both superpowers and small countries would surely welcome more active engagement of Canada in the international society.

Summary

Thorough this essay, I have argued how fascinating and effective Canadian soft powers are. I have just overlooked three aspects of them by using the word “symbiosis”; symbiosis within diverse cultures, symbiosis with nature, symbiosis with the international society.

There still remain lots of problems regarding Canadian way of symbiosis. The conflicts between different ethnic or language groups have not completely stopped even in Canada. The environmental problems can be extremely difficult to solve because each country has its own huge interest. Development of Asia and Africa demands new international order. Such matters might be difficult for Canada to thoroughly resolve in a short term. However, Canada has overcome numerous problems since her origin, cooperating the international society. I believe that Canadian power is still crucial on the international stage. Expressing

the value of symbiosis can be a new way of Canada to contribute to the international society.

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