Throughout its history, Canada’s geographical location has set limitations on the scope of political and economic actions available to the Canadian government while concurrently supplying it with the political and economic clout that allows it to have a greater presence on the global stage. Thus, geopolitics, which is generally understood to be the study of the political and strategic relevance of geography to the pursuit of international power, has been of crucial importance to the Canadian political identity from the time of its formation.

This study examines this dynamic through the microcosm of the Canadian defence industry. In other words, it will look at how geopolitics has influenced the development of the Canadian defence industry and how this in turn is of concern to the Canadian government. This study begins by charting the development of the defence industry through three different phases of geopolitics, thereby looking at how changes in the international order have been played out not only on a theoretical level, but also in a real-life context. As it is the dependency of the Canadian defence industry on the United States that is of primary concern to this study, aspects of dependency theory are utilized to give a wider perspective to this issue. How the economic dependency of the industry affects Canada politically is the main focus of this study. The study ends by looking at possible policy options available to the Canadian government in deciding the future course for its defence industry.

Overall, this study attempts to provide an in-depth analysis of a real-life situation through a theoretical perspective. In doing so, it attempts to place an issue of present concern to the Canadian population in the wider context of International Relations discourse.

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