

# Pearson College and NATO's United World Colleges

In 2017, BC's Pearson College, a member of the United World Colleges (UWC) "movement," co-hosted an event with Global Affairs Canada at which then-Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland celebrated Pearson as a "Canadian Icon" who promoted "peace, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law around the world."<sup>1</sup>

Pearson College president, Désirée McGraw,<sup>2</sup> noted that Minister Freeland, an alumna of UWC Adriatic and a good and knowledgeable friend of the College and the UWC movement – spoke at this event to recognize her predecessor.<sup>3</sup>

Now-deputy prime minister, Freeland was a student at UWC Adriatic in Italy during her teens (1984-86).<sup>4</sup> The UWC network of elitist boarding schools has shaped the minds of all manner of celebrities, royal-family members and other agents of influence. Alumni from its 18 colleges on four continents have included those who ended up as heads of state, political decision makers, CEOs, venture capitalists, religious and military leaders, artists, actors and powerful members of the Fifth Estate. Besides training privileged kids of the elite, whose sponsors pay \$100,000 for a two-year degree, the UWC also allows refugees on scholarships from select war zones.

## The UWC's NATO origins

British Air Marshal Sir Lawrence Darwall played a key role in creating the UWC. Its website reveals that in 1955, UWC founder, Kurt Hahn, "visited the NATO Defense College in Paris" where Darwall was commandant. There, Hahn "was inspired by the cooperation and loyalty to a common cause that he witnessed among military men who had been adversaries in World War Two."<sup>5</sup> The military enemies who "inspired" Hahn with their "cooperation and loyalty" to NATO, included veterans of Italy and Germany which joined NATO in 1949 and 1955. Their "common cause" in NATO was a shared, seething hatred of communism, both at home and abroad. NATO embraced these fascists and Nazis, and their collaborators from Eastern Europe, because they all wanted to continue fighting the USSR.

Hahn, a German nationalist, converted from Judaism after WWII. "I am of the firm opinion," he said, "that you can fight Communism only on a Christian basis."<sup>6</sup>

The second factor that "laid the foundation of the UWC movement" was the "rapidly developing relationship" between Hahn and Darwall. One of their goals was to bring together promising young men in a milieu of proNATO/antiSoviet ideologies and to groom them for leadership roles. This "led directly to the concept of Atlantic College."<sup>7</sup>

Atlantic College, the UWC's flagship, is housed in a 12th-century Welsh castle that was owned by US media mogul, William R. Hearst, in the 1930s. There he had such guests as Frank Sinatra, Clark Gable, Winston Churchill, Joseph P. Kennedy, his wife and their teen John F. Kennedy. Hahn and Darwall's dream turned Hearst's palace into an "international boarding school with boys in their formative years."<sup>8</sup> Thus began an "international education system with the NATO Defense College at the apex," said US Col. Richard Stillman, "to prepare students for their role in NATO affairs."<sup>9</sup>

The UWC's global presidents have included such royal, military luminaries as Lord Mountbatten (1968-77).<sup>10</sup> This followed his stint as chair of NATO's Military Committee, and his role as the longest-serving chief of Britain's "Defence Staff."

## Pearson UWC Praises Trudeau

Formed in 1974, with groundwork laid by NATO co-founder, Lester B. Pearson, the "UWC of the Pacific," Pearson College, is a significant part of the UWC movement. In March 2016, Pearson UWC president McGraw addressed the Canadian Interna-



tional Council<sup>11</sup> in Victoria. She began by saying it was "an honour" to be there on:

such an auspicious day with the announcement by our Prime Minister [Justin Trudeau] that Canada is making a bid to take a seat on the UN Security Council beginning in 2021!

McGraw then praised Trudeau for his "often repeated declaration that **Canada is back.**" This she said was "music to the ears"

of all of us who care about Canada's role on the world stage—a role which has been severely diminished by successive governments since the glory days of the last half of the 20th century.<sup>12</sup>

During those "glory days" of "Pearsonian Internationalism," Liberal governments distinguished themselves as loyal Cold Warriors, and provided as much support as they could to US-led wars and coups while still billing themselves as global guardians of peace and justice. Liberal governments of the 21st century continue this noble tradition of hypocrisy and duplicity.

## References and Notes

1. Chrystia Freeland statement on the 60th anniversary of Pearson receiving the Nobel Prize for Peace, Dec. 10, 2017. [bit.ly/Pearson-Icon](https://bit.ly/Pearson-Icon)
2. MacGraw, a former senior advisor to PM Paul Martin, was designated a "Young Global Leader" by the World Economic Forum along with John Baird and Chrystia Freeland.
3. Désirée McGraw, Celebrating a Canadian Icon & Raising Awareness, Dec. 15, 2017. [bit.ly/PearsonMcGraw](https://bit.ly/PearsonMcGraw)
4. UWC Adriatic, Alumni Profiles [bit.ly/UWCAD](https://bit.ly/UWCAD)
5. UWC History & Founding Ideas [bit.ly/UWCHist](https://bit.ly/UWCHist)
6. *Ibid.*
7. Carl Flesch, *Who's Not Who and Other Matters*, 2006, p.107. [bit.ly/onHahn](https://bit.ly/onHahn)
8. John Hodder, Atlantic College, cited by US Col. Richard Stillman, "NATO Defense College," *Military Review*, Professional Journal of the US Army, Jan. 1964. [bit.ly/NATO-UWC](https://bit.ly/NATO-UWC)
9. Stillman, *ibid.*
10. UWC History... [op.cit.](https://bit.ly/UWCHist)
11. McGraw is a former advisor of CIC Mtl. CIC, which calls itself "Canada's premier forum for global affairs," is a propaganda mill created by elite politicians, businessmen and media moguls. Tory PM Sir Robert Borden (1911-20) became its first president in 1928.
12. Désirée McGraw, "The role of education in international cooperation—how Canada plays its part," Mar. 16, 2016. [bit.ly/PearsonUWC](https://bit.ly/PearsonUWC)

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- Tory Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden (1911-20), who became its first president in 1928.
46. Pearson 1970, *op. cit.*, p.75.
47. *Ibid.*
48. Pearson, April 10, 1951, *op. cit.*
49. "The power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both.... To tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, to forget any fact that has become inconvenient." George Orwell, 1984, 1949, p.220. [bit.ly/1984-DT](https://bit.ly/1984-DT)
50. Author's collection of news articles, Jul. 31-Aug.3, 1967 [bit.ly/freeQuebec](https://bit.ly/freeQuebec)
51. Aya Fujiwara, *Ethnic Elites and Canadian Identity: Japanese, Ukrainians, and Scots, 1919-1971*, 2012. [bit.ly/UCC1967](https://bit.ly/UCC1967)
52. Gordon Pape, "Full Acceptance of French a Requirement says Pearson," *Montreal Gazette*, Aug.1, 1967, p.2. [bit.ly/Aug1-1967](https://bit.ly/Aug1-1967)
53. "PM Stresses Political Unity to Ukrainians," *Calgary Herald*, Jul.31, 1967, p.9. [bit.ly/ch-67](https://bit.ly/ch-67)
54. Pearson, Apr. 10, 1951, *op. cit.*
55. Pearson 1970, *op.cit.*, p.112.
56. "Pearson Hits Prog. Cons.," *Winnipeg Free Press*, Feb. 5, 1949, p.6. [bit.ly/Christ-vs-Reds](https://bit.ly/Christ-vs-Reds)
57. John English, "Pearson, Lester Bowles," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, 2003-[bit.ly/EdwinP](https://bit.ly/EdwinP)
58. Pearson 1970, *op.cit.*, p.113.
59. Lester Pearson, cited by B.T.R., "Need we Fight the Russians?" *Ottawa Citizen*, Nov. 16, 1949, p.30. [bit.ly/OC11-16-49](https://bit.ly/OC11-16-49)