

A photograph of two naval ships sailing on the ocean. On the left is a large destroyer with a prominent superstructure and an American flag flying from its mast. On the right is a smaller ship, possibly a frigate or a supply vessel, with a Canadian flag flying from its mast. The water is slightly choppy, and the sky is overcast.

# Multinational Cooperative Naval Procurement: EU and Canada

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# Overview

- What makes warships special?
- How are warships procured?
- European collaborative procurement examples
- Regional Security Complex Theory—An explanation for gap?
- Opportunity for Canada-EU collaboration: An Arctic RSC
- Conclusion and Thanks

# What makes warships special?

- Expensive
- Small quantities
- Flagships—National Identity
- Named—National Myths
- Connection to Homeport
- Synecdoche



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“Leader on A Warship” is a frequent trope, because of  
the multiple *meanings* of warships.



...particularly in times of war.



# Historical resonance, national myths.



# Synecdoche



# Patterns of procurement

## Big Navies/Big Egos

- Domestic design and build
- Continuous build
- Regional economic benefits
- Expensive
- Inefficient
- Large, powerful defence industry

## Small Navies/Small egos

- Military Off the Shelf (MOTS)
- Licensing of design
- Assembly at home
- Buying used
- Being gifted by allies
- Branch plants/ subsidiaries



Canada does it badly: partly ego, partly circumstance;  
Can't buy US, can't partner with European allies

# Europe does it better (sometimes)

- Post WWII: Development of independent defence industries
- Encouragement of standardization, commonality: NATO
- Post Cold-War: European autonomy
- Cooperation framework via EU, but with defence good caveats
- Patterns of power/prestige still at play

# ...but which “Europe?”

## CDSP yay!

- Smaller “post-modern” powers have embraced European defence cooperation, CDSP
- Alternative to USA
- France, Finland, Sweden
- New security threats

## CDSP nay!

- Larger, transatlantic powers still uncertain about CDSP
- Closer ties to NATO/USA
- UK, Germany, “New EU”
- Conventional security threats



- Late 1980s NATO common frigate project: USA/Canada/UK/France/Germany/Italy/Netherlands/Spain
- Project founders immediately, under big navy/small navy disagreement
- UK, France , Germany: Common New Generation Frigate/Horizon project
- UK pulls out, CNGF becomes binational FREMM
- Germany/Spain/Netherlands have own F100 frigate project
- Canada building its own frigates; design to be announced soon.

# *Buzan/Waever (2003)*

## Regional Security Complex Theory

- Post- Cold War, new security landscape: regional threats, regional actors, regional securitization.
- Power still matters, but few *global* powers, and only one superpower.
- RSCs require *regionality* , but also shared threat perception, response construction, prioritization: SECURITIZATION
- More than a security community, because not just military threats: economic, prestige, sovereignty, threat dynamism.
- Socially constructed, ideas *and* security practices, historically/geographically informed, but mutable.

# One transatlantic security community, two (or more) RSCs

## North American RSC

- “Centered” RSC, because of USA;
- Canada’s conflicted identity;
- Some regional, but not mutual threat perception
- Coercive

## EU-Europe RSC

- Encouraged by EU regulatory framework;
- Some great power chaffing: UK, France;
- EU is increasingly lead agency for security, securitization responses;
- Imperfect fit—microregions?  
Mediterranean, Nordic



## If successful cooperation requires an RSC, what about Canada?

No true RSC in North America; can't just buy from USA; can't access European RSC...

# Developing ARTCIC RSC



The Arctic Council

- members
- observers
- ad-hoc observers
- pursuing observer status

Source: Geocurrents.info

A large white Canadian icebreaker ship, likely the CCGS Louis St. Laurent, is shown sailing through a field of sea ice. The ship has a red stripe along its hull and a yellow lifeboat on the side. The background consists of a vast expanse of broken sea ice under a clear sky.

An Arctic RSC gives Canada access to many potential procurement partners

Notably Nordic countries

Ability to sidestep sovereignty issues with USA, engage “appropriate” allies

Latest Canadian ship procurement: Denmark, German design licensing  
next step: cooperative procurement?



Thank you!  
Fair winds and  
following seas...

*...or, a willing foe and sea room!*