

REVIEWS AND ENDORSEMENTS OF WILL THIS BE CANADA’S CENTURY?

D. Paul Schafer is a determined and enthusiastic advocate for Canada. He has dedicated his professional life to the study of culture, and once again wades into, no, dives into, the deep waters of culture undeterred by its complexity. In the process he informs and reminds us what culture *is*, and in particular, Canadian culture.

Drawing on the historical base for Canadian culture, Schafer emphasizes how the past contributions by individuals, inventions, and events were informed by creativity and diversity, and by people with vision. These attributes are essential elements for a future livable, sustainable world. A common occurrence while reading the book is, “Oh, I have forgotten about that,” or “I didn’t know that.”

Culture and society are examined through various lenses, for example: diversity; sustainability; community; governance; globalization; economics; income disparity; gender equality; lifestyle; public and private sectors; education; the arts; entertainment; sports and recreation; science and technology; the environment and climate change; the military; materialism and spirituality; Indigenous peoples; multiculturalism; immigration; individual and collective needs.

The underlying theme that provides direction for Schafer is equity and justice. He questions and takes clear pointed opposition to policies and practices that are counterproductive to this end, while describing and promoting the alternatives that do.

In the presence of current geopolitical dysfunction, the inclination to dystopian thought, and of seemingly intractable challenges, Schafer offers an analysis that generates optimism based on Canada's accomplishments to date. Canada has done well, but there is work to be done. His lengthy wish list charts a course for humanity with Canada playing an exemplary role. In so doing, Canada can enhance the lives of its citizens and continue to be a leader helping to make the world a better place for all.

William Thachuk

Schafer asks a good question: "Will This Be Canada's Century?" and lays out a compelling argument why it can and should be. I support his proposal that for Canada to play an exemplary role in the world, it will require "developing Canadian culture as a whole, making the transition from wealth to well-being, and placing a high priority on the development of the public sector and public-sector institutions, services, and programs." I also agree with his statement that Canada should "lead rather than follow" with an addition: that Canada be a great leader by tapping into our collective imagination and opening us up to creating and realizing what we never would have imagined was possible. "Will This Be Canada's Century" is a great read. I found myself placing the book down often after reading a section to reflect on the rich and diverse references and links he offers, as well as the depth of his observations and arguments. It's accessible, educational, inspiring, and very motivating. Thanks for another fine book, Paul!

Sheila Jans, Founder and Director, Cultureworth

Paul Schafer's new book explores the rapidly evolving sense of confidence in the future of Canada. It is based on the belief that even though Canada is not generally considered as a "major power," its unique history of overcoming the hardships of climate,

vast geography, accommodating linguistic and cultural diversity, as well as encouraging creativity, has given it the advantage of being equipped to point the way towards a new course for humanity.

Over 150 years of struggle and compromise, Canadians have managed to create a strong, independent and sovereign country with a high standard of living, broadly-based educational opportunities, and better than average health and longevity. The result, as the author points out, is a quiet sense of optimism that has been nurtured by the many accomplishments achieved by Canada's artists, writers, scientists, athletes, and by remarkable Canadians from so many different backgrounds, who have worked together to build a better country.

This book provides many examples of how this highly diverse population has seized opportunities, reached reasonable accommodation on many issues - and is gaining the respect of many countries for its growing influence. A must-read for Canadians of all ages - and an uplifting book that they should encourage their friends around the world to read and become aware of the "New Canada" and its potential.

John Hobday, Former Director, Canada Council for the Arts

Canadians continue to be indebted to Paul Schafer as an author and astute observer of the Canadian scene. Through his prolific writings, Paul continues as the consummate observer of the Canadian cultural context, helping us all to understand ourselves better as individuals, communities, and as a nation.

In *Will This Be Canada's Century?* he reminds us as a people of our unique national cultural identity – one not borne out of revolution and armed conflict so much as by the sense of needing one another. And that sense of need has been uniquely reflected in our drive as Canadians for cooperation, co-ordination, and collaboration of effort – even though not always smoothly. It is that commitment, forged through practical experience, that is surely Canada's unique contribution to the global community.

We have learned, as few others have in quite the same way, that the essential prerequisites for living together lie in the rule of law, respect for human and individual rights, and in the strength that comes from sharing and diversity. But as we glean from the international news, these are not among the cluster of core concepts, principles, and ideas that are widely recognized on the international stage.

It is here, then, that Canada's potential for true international leadership rests, for these are among the core insights that come with our Western, post-industrial experience. As lessons hard earned, they are learning experiences and opportunities to be shared with others in the same spirit of cooperation, co-ordination, and collaboration.

Schafer makes a tightly-argued case for Canada's principled leadership on the world stage, citing the supporting evidence which comes with 21st century insights into what has worked well for Canada and Canadians.

Dr. Leslie Oliver, President, Oliver Associates, Material Culture of Technology

The title of the book is a semi-rhetorical question: Will it indeed be Canada's century? Clearly the author thinks so and devotes an entire book to examining the argument in a global context.

Do not take lightly the profound cultural/economic musings of D. Paul Schafer! He has been researching and writing about cultural policy and related topics for some fifty years -- and he has turned out to be prophetic. Does broadly-defined "cultural policy," as he has been predicting, actually rule some nations for better or worse? Obviously yes. Taking one negative extreme example - Mao's bloodbath cultural revolution. Another, the struggles of some muslim nations and the whole church/state dilemma they face – some groups openly state it's a cultural war ongoing and abhor the evils of western cultural values and mores. Meanwhile those values and mores are spreading and are proving not just culturally but also economically victorious. Paul Schafer's cultural policy is in fact at work daily worldwide, just under a different name in some parts.

How does this apply to the culture and economics of Canada in the 21st century? For one thing, we're both mid-Atlantic and mid-Pacific. Our wise immigration policy of recent decades has brought about a fabulous cultural 'melting pot'. For another, we have the enormous physical resources as well as access to key markets and few enemies.

After that, it's up to we Canadians to pull it off. Clearly Mr. Schafer thinks we can – and we just might. Read this book to learn and understand his well-researched reasoning on our biggest topics. The man is wise, prophetic, and often entertaining to read. There is no Canadian cheerleader of superior research; no greater heartfelt vision; nor a writer of more profound truth.

Peter Sever

Paul Schafer's thoughtful reflections on the fit between Canada and our contemporary world have led to the publication of *Will this be Canada's Century?*, which is his latest book. Drawing on a wealth of insights into the historical and cultural fabric of this land, Schafer skillfully weaves an image in which Canada is positioned to act as an 'exemplar' for the world of how to tackle humanity's most pressing issues, such as climate change, growing social inequality, and a broken economic system. Referencing both progressive and regressive moments in politics, economics, science, and culture over recent centuries, Schafer asserts that Canada does have a chance to help shape a global future.

Doug Worts, Culture and Sustainability Specialist, WorldViews Consulting

Schafer explains that at this crucial stage in human history, Canada is offering a different model of development than that of the USA. Unlike American's ideals of "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness," Canadians emphasize "Peace, Order, and Good Government."

This difference in values is extremely important, considering the precarious state of our present world and prospects for the future of planet Earth. Paul's book identifies three major shifts in what we value that will make this century Canada's – from economics to culture, from wealth to well-being, and a shift from private to public goods. Canada is all good for this century!

Frank Pasquill