



## World feels heat in Copenhagen

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In April 1940, Germany invaded Denmark.

For a couple of hours the Danish army fiercely resisted but was quickly subdued.

King Christian X led the nation's passive resistance against the Nazis.

Every morning, he mounted his horse and rode unarmed and unaccompanied through Copenhagen to emphasize his claims for national sovereignty. He always recognized the greetings of his citizens while ignoring the salutes of the German army.

This fall, another invasion will happen in Denmark and Christian's great-grandson, Crown Prince Frederik, will preside over it. The Danes hope it results in an environmental agreement signed by the countries of the world.

On Dec. 7, more than 190 nations will descend on Copenhagen to sign a new global climate treaty.

It is designed to replace the fatally flawed Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997 and ratified by 184 countries.

In 1997, former PM Jean Chretien called a snap election, defeated Reform's Preston Manning that June, then signed the Kyoto agreement in December.

Canada was obliged to reduce its emissions to 6% below 1990 levels by 2012.

Not only was this unrealistic, but the federal bureaucracy had done little analysis of the potential economic impact this would have on the country's then red-hot economy.

Worse still, they failed to consult with the energy-producing provinces.

Fast forward to 2009. Federal Environment Minister Jim Prentice and Michael Martin, chief negotiator and ambassador for climate change, will lead the Canadian delegation to Copenhagen.

The team is committed to an overall reduction in Canada's GHG emissions and is prepared to support a sustainable energy future. They have sought input from the provinces and territories in an attempt to reach consensus.

Canada's position is to:

- Acknowledge GHG reduction is a long-term challenge and must be done gradually to reduce costs for consumers.
- Balance environmental protection and economic prosperity with the need for low-cost energy security.



- Reduce GHGs at the source through technology development.
- Reach agreement with major economies and trading partners to avoid international competitiveness issues.
- Recognize that Canada is a growing exporter of energy intensive commodities and should not be put at a competitive disadvantage.
- Allow regional flexibility to avoid pitting areas of the country against each other.
- Avoid wealth transfers internationally.

Opponents argue the Copenhagen signatories will sign away portions of their national sovereignty for global climate change.

Others say the recession has already dampened the economy and lowered emissions by 2.6%. The International Energy Agency calls it "unprecedented and the steepest drop in 40 years." The Danes have a long track record of doing what's right for humanity. In 2008, Forbes ranked Denmark as the best business climate in the world.

The Global Peace Index said the country is the happiest place to live (based on health, welfare and education) and among the most peaceful. Obviously, Danes have practised this ethos for many years.

In September 1943, the Nazis decided to deport Denmark's Jews to German death camps. The Danes collectively smuggled their Jewish friends and neighbours to neutral Sweden, which offered asylum to all who reached its shores. Almost 8,000 lives were saved.

After the war, returning Jews elsewhere in Europe discovered their homes and valuables had been ransacked. When the Danish Jews went back, their fellow citizens had cared for their homes, possessions, pets and gardens.