

## [Regulated Banks and The Current Canada](#)

Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 6:08pm

I guess I'm either fortunate or ignorant, but I do not feel a recession at all. The local paper says that Moncton is handling it well because of a diversified economy and that over \$100 million in construction permits have been handed out since September. Meanwhile, we're hearing of massive layoffs south of the border and elsewhere in Canada as well.

Reuters reported a while back that the World Economic Forum [rated Canada's banking system](#) as the soundest in the world. I have a friend, who is an adviser for National Bank, tell me (way back before I even left for Costa Rica) that the bank's lending policies were really, really strict. He's had to deny loans to couples where each of the partners were employed full time. *The Economist*, a conservative magazine of course, [credits](#) Stephen Harper for Canada's "solid" and "well regulated banks".

Yet I still see lots of Cash Stores, Money Marts, whatever you want to call them, take advantage of the less privileged. I constantly hear ads on the radio that say stuff like "No credit? No problem! Get more stuff with money you don't have NOW!". Ugh. Louis CK [put it well](#) when he said:

[...] and then if you wanted money you had to go *in* the bank, when it was open for three hours [...] and when you ran out of money you just go 'well I can't do any more things now'.

I still don't know what to make of the US bailout package, but from what I've been reading it seems like it's just money for banks to buy out other banks. Either way, it's something that'll be talked a lot about in 10-15 years.

Nor for another issue that's important to Canadians, the war in Afghanistan. I've been getting hints of "a resurging Taliban", calls for an end to the war, and others saying we need to stay. I can see why someone would ask why we're trying to help a country that promotes [heinous criminal charges](#). I have also heard from soldiers who have been there tell me their stories of trying to rebuild the country and to create economic alternatives to the drug trade for Afghans. Some say we owe them that for barging in on their country and turning it upside down.

I think that we should stay for another while yet, and here's why: First of all, the United States will be bringing in more soldiers and resources after the Iraq withdrawal, helping out all of NATO forces in Afghanistan, and reducing the dangerous load Canadians are carrying in Kandahar. Second, I think that it really is our duty to help out this country, now that we're there. I expect that for things to go fully well it will take a long time, but I think the results will be similar to the success in Bosnia. Yes, Canada could use the money spent on the military for education (trust me, I'm passionate about ending ignorance) or health care, but we're in a lot less hurt than these people, and I think it's a pretty Canadian thing to do.

So if we cared about others' welfare, why aren't we in Darfur? That's a good question. This is coming from someone who has very little clue about the cost of military operations, but I think the best economic/helping out another country balance is by staying in Afganistan. Imagine relocating all of our infrastructure to another country to fight a war most Canadians do not even understand. Any traveller knows that most of the cost of globetrotting is in plane tickets. We're in Afghanistan now and, I sincerely apologize for the choice of this cliché, let's finish the job .

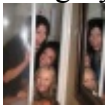
Let's hear thoughts!

Cheers,  
-Andrew



[Valerie Arseneau](#) at 10:30pm October 28

you are really becoming a better writer! It's like the choice of topic is still in the same category but your writting style has highly improved!! I still enjoy your rants. carry on



[Déborah Nadeau](#) at 9:15pm October 29

So, from the point of view of an amator in what's going on in the world: thanks for the updates. I understand your writting much better then most articles I find on the internet. :)



[Michael Leukert](#) at 6:26pm October 30

if we went into darfur, chinese goods would get much more expensive. we have too much to gain in that genocide, we simply wont go in. as we type, chinese antiaircraft guns mounted on trucks are used against entire villages, as well as chinese fighter-bombers and chinese transports rigged to drop giant bombs out the back. china has invested into ... Read Morethis genocide, and protects darfur in the security council as long as it keeps getting cheap oil from there. and with their nukes. you dont push a nuclear armed nation into a corner too much. i hear the americans made it hard for the chinese to get oil, not sure if thats true, but if it is, that would help explain darfur. anyways, today even our apples come from china. going into darfur would hurt our spoiled way of life.

plus, it is a hard logistical location, sort of like afghanistan.

regime change begins at home.

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my one year of computer science in pei, i remember the profs holding our hands. can ou

imagine, they taught us everything we need to know to do the assignments and pass the exam!?! this is really dumb.

thats a huge expense right there, and it breeds dumb professionals who cant think on their own. here in germany they go over it real quick and detailed at the same time. only the best can follow in class, the rest have to learn it themselves or with their friends. less can be more :)

german text books also dont have any answers to the practice questions. doing so would be considered a sin. you wont find any textbooks with answers, only questions. frustrating as hell, but better when you make it through.

canadian education might rise if they spent LESS money on education in canada. you just gotta cut the right bad habits...the american ones.



[Michael Leukert](#) at 6:28pm October 30

and its really really really only the best who can follow it all in class here. completely different philosophy as in canada.