

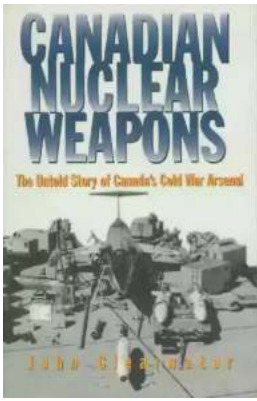
# **The Untold Story of Canada's Cold War Arsenal: Unveiling its Secrets!**

When we think of the Cold War, often our minds are drawn to the superpowers, like the United States and the Soviet Union, who dominated the global stage. However, there is one country whose role in the Cold War has remained largely untold - Canada. In this article, we delve deep into the hidden secrets of Canada's Cold War arsenal, exposing its fascinating history and uncovering the untold tales of its military capabilities.

## **From RCAF Station Falconbridge to Underground Bases: Canada's Secret Facilities**

Unknown to many, Canada had several secret facilities during the Cold War, designed to protect the country from potential threats. One such location was the RCAF Station Falconbridge, situated deep beneath the northern Ontario wilderness. Built in the 1950s, this underground complex spanned several miles and housed an impressive arsenal of weapons, including fighter jets, missiles, and advanced radar systems. It served as an essential defense outpost, ready to respond to any aggression from the Soviet Union.

Additionally, Canada operated a network of secret underground bases known as the Diefenbunkers, named after then-Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. These facilities were constructed to withstand a nuclear attack and establish continuity of government. Located in multiple provinces, these massive complexes were equipped with living quarters, communication systems, and even provisions to sustain a population for an extended period. The Diefenbunkers exemplified Canada's commitment to protecting its sovereignty and ensuring its survival in the face of potential nuclear warfare.



## Canadian Nuclear Weapons: The Untold Story of Canada's Cold War Arsenal

by John Clearwater (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 7359 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 310 pages

X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



### **The Highly Classified Project "Maple Syrup": The Birth of Canada's Nuclear Arsenal**

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Canada embarked on a highly classified project codenamed "Maple Syrup" that aimed to develop its nuclear arsenal. Collaborating with the United States and the United Kingdom, Canada sought to acquire and produce nuclear weapons as a deterrent against any potential Soviet aggression.

Despite scarce documentation and public acknowledgment, Canada managed to develop a significant nuclear arsenal during the Cold War era. The country housed nuclear-armed aircraft, deployed missiles, and even conducted secret nuclear tests. The existence and scale of Canada's nuclear program remained hidden until recently, alarming many Canadians who were unaware of their country's past involvement in the nuclear arms race.

### **The "Crazy Canuck" Strategic Bombers: Canada's Hidden Air Power**

Underneath its peaceful exterior, Canada possessed a formidable air force during the Cold War. The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) operated strategic bombers that were ready to deliver devastating blows if needed. Known as the "Crazy Canuck" bombers, these aircraft were equipped with nuclear capabilities and formed a crucial component of Canada's defense strategy.

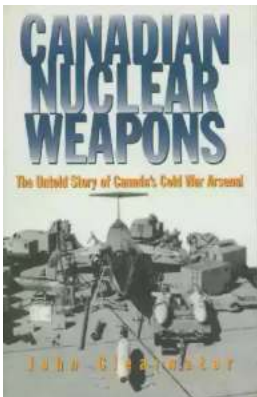
While much of Canada's air power was composed of American-made bombers, the country also had its own indigenous aircraft manufacturing industry. One of the remarkable examples was the CF-105 Avro Arrow, a supersonic interceptor designed to intercept potential Soviet nuclear bombers. Unfortunately, the cancellation of the Arrow project in 1959 marked the end of Canada's ambitious attempt to build a world-class indigenous fighter aircraft.

## **Beyond Geopolitics: Canada's Secretive Espionage Operations**

Espionage played a critical role during the Cold War, and Canada's intelligence agencies were actively involved in covert operations. The Communications Security Establishment (CSE) tirelessly monitored international communications and intercepted classified messages. Through its covert programs, Canada managed to gather valuable intelligence on enemy activities and provide vital support to its allies.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) focused on counterintelligence and domestic security. Its operatives kept a close eye on potential threats within Canadian borders, gathering intelligence on foreign operatives and preventing espionage attempts on Canadian soil. The scope and effectiveness of these secretive operations were largely kept hidden from the public eye until recently revealed through declassified documents.

The untold story of Canada's Cold War arsenal unveils a remarkable history of hidden facilities, nuclear capabilities, powerful air force, and covert operations. While overshadowed by the superpowers, Canada played a significant role in the defensive strategies of the Western world during this tumultuous era. It is crucial for Canadians and the world to acknowledge and remember this hidden chapter, ensuring that the sacrifices and efforts made by Canada during the Cold War do not fade into obscurity.



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"We are thus not only the first country in the world with the capability to produce nuclear weapons that chose not to do so, we are also the first nuclear armed country to have chosen to divest itself of nuclear weapons."

Pierre Trudeau United Nations, 26 May 1978

From 1963 to 1984, US nuclear warheads armed Canadian weapons systems in both Canada and West Germany. It is likely that during the early part of this period, the Canadian military was putting more effort, money, and manpower into

the nuclear commitment than any other single activity. This important book is an operational-technical history and exposÉ of this period.

Its purpose is to bring together until-recently secret information about the nature of the nuclear arsenal in Canada, and combine it with known information about the systems in the US nuclear arsenal. The work begins with an account of the efforts of the Pearson government to sign the agreement with the US necessary to bring nuclear weapons to Canada. Subsequent chapters provide a detailed discussion of the four nuclear weapons systems deployed by Canada: the BOMARC surface-to-air guided interceptor missile; the Honest John short range battlefield rocket; the Starfighter tactical thermonuclear bomber; the VooDoo-Genie air defence system. Each chapter also includes a section on the accidents and incidents which occurred while the weapons were at Canadian sites. The final chapter covers the ultimately futile efforts of the Maritime Air Command and the Royal Canadian Navy to acquire nuclear weapons. An appendix includes the text of the until-now secret agreements Canada signed with the USA for the provision of nuclear weapons.

Illustrated throughout with photographs and diagrams, and supported by extensive transcriptions of original documents, Canadian Nuclear Weapons will be of great value both to scholars and interested laypersons in its presentation of what has been a deeply hidden secret of Canadian political and military history.



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