

Harper Snubs UN General Assembly--Why?

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Friday, September 02, 2011

<http://politicsrespun.org/2011/09/harper-snubs-un-general-assembly-why/>



What kind of Canada has a prime minister who does not speak at the UN General Assembly?

Stephen Harper's Canada.

But why?

CBC journalist David Common tweeted yesterday about Harper skipping the UN this year:

#UN schedule says #Canada PM Harper not speaking at this year's General Assembly

via [Twitter / @davidcommon](https://twitter.com/davidcommon): #UN schedule says #Canada ...

Possible reasons why he did this:

1. The world community judged Canada as unworthy as a rotating seat on the Security Council, so Harper is sulking.
2. He doesn't like to cooperate.
3. The UN is often useless so it is better to ignore it instead of trying to enhance its legitimacy, [like this](#): "Stephen Harper's choice for Canada's representative at the United Nations is a public servant many Canadians have never heard of."
4. [The last time he spoke there](#), most of the assembly left the room before he spoke, which may not have been personal, but honestly, if they cared what he had to say, more than about 27 people would have stayed. So why should Harper expose himself to this kind of embarrassment again this year.
5. He likes bilateral relationships with weaker countries or countries he wants to suck up to so he

avoids multilateral venues like the UN.

6. He wants to make Canada's reputation more bold and decisive...and rogue.

7. He's a closet imperialist, with one foot out the door.

In my opinion, these are all correct.

And our job now is to work on ways to improve our standing in the world community after May 2, 2016 [or sooner] when we can rebuilt a post-Harper Canada.