Ian McKay and Jamie Swift, "Warrior Nation: Rebranding Canada in an Age of Anxiety"
Between the Lines Books, Canada. 2012.

Recommended by Manfred Bienefeld July 22, 2012

This book shows that Canada’s current militarization is no accident but part of a systematic plan to reshape this country’s role and image in the world, and within its own borders. Given that these issues were never explicitly raised in the election campaigns, it is clear that the government has no democratic mandate to take the country in this preposterous direction. Ridiculous and counter-productive as George W. Bush’s delusions of military grandeur look in retrospect, the Canadian version is surely part of a Monty Python sketch, albeit a very, very costly one in terms of resources, lives and principles. To my mind this book can lend additional weight to the discussions that we will be having in September if its existence serves to remind us all that our Afghanistan adventure was no isolated “mistake” based on overly optimistic assessments of what could be achieved, but part of a much deeper and more serious malaise that threatens lives and ultimate even our liberty once it is aligned with the ever more paranoid and punitive security state mentality that is evident in so many recent government initiatives.