



The Politics of Diamonds

The Kimberley Process

In a cruel twist of fate, a number of the areas in which diamonds are prevalent have also been sites of civil war and other forms of violence. In order to ensure the sale of diamonds will not fund nefarious causes, the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme was developed. Certification by the Kimberley Process verifies that a rough diamond's origin was one free of conflict. Now consumers have a way to ensure that their diamond purchases are not financing war and human rights abuses.

One of the world's largest suppliers of conflict-free diamonds is Canada. Our country's reputation for diamond production is a fairly new phenomenon, however. Due to the types of rocks found in Canada, for years many suspected Canada had the potential to be a rich diamond source. In a relatively short time, Canada has gone from having almost no production to being the third-largest diamond source (in value) on the planet!