

Chapter 1

Tools and Functions of Diplomacy in the Modern Period

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ABSTRACT

Diplomacy is the official activities of heads of state, government, and special bodies of external relations to implement the goals and objectives of the foreign policy of states, as well as to protect the interests of the state abroad. In the literature, it is often customary to define Diplomacy as “the science of foreign relations”, “the art of negotiations”, etc. Main forms of diplomatic activity: diplomatic congresses, conferences, and meetings; diplomatic correspondence through statements, letters, notes, memoranda, etc.; preparation and conclusion of international treaties and agreements; day-to-day representation of the state abroad, carried out by its embassies and missions; participation of state representatives in the activities of international organizations; coverage in the press of the government's position on certain international issues. International law prohibits interference by diplomatic representatives in the internal affairs of the host country.

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INTRODUCTION: THE MEANING AND ESSENCE OF DIPLOMACY

Historically, diplomacy has referred to the practice of establishing formal (traditionally, bilateral) peaceful relations between sovereign states.

In other words, diplomacy is the universally recognized practice of influencing the decisions and behavior of foreign governments through dialogue and negotiation, which in turn precludes the use of force or war. Diplomacy, in its original form, was the art of negotiating between two or more parties and thereby achieving the desired agreement.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the diplomatic practice reigned in Europe and was accepted and shared by the rest of the world. At the same time, diplomacy has expanded in its meaning to include multilateral relations, including the practice of summits and other international multilateral conferences and congresses.

The term “diplomacy” derives via French from the ancient Greek “diploma” (“diplōma”), consisting of “diplo” meaning “folded in half” and the suffix “ma” meaning object or subject (Britannica,2020). Thus, an inscribed bifold tablet/plate or folded document (which was sealed and signed respectively) represented a great privilege for its bearer.

Often it was a permit for free movement and travel, and such a “pass” was usually issued by the rulers of countries to persons sent on special missions. Later, diplomacy was established as the practice of conducting international relations, and the term lost its direct connection with documents. In the 18th century, the French term diplomate (“diplomat”) was given to an authorized person who represented his country in the international arena and conducted negotiations with the other party on behalf of the state (or ruler).

The terms diplomacy and foreign policy are often confused. Of course, there is a significant difference between these two terms. Diplomacy is the main, but not the only, tool for the practical implementation of foreign policy. Foreign policy is formed by political leaders and relevant state institutions (government, parliament, president), and the foreign political agency and public diplomatic service (except for the military and intelligence services) are the main implementers of this policy, which also has the function of preparing and presenting advice, analytical and expertise (Rondeli, 2003).

The country's foreign policy includes the state's foreign political interests and priorities, defines strategies, and develops broad tactics aimed at solving foreign political tasks. Governments use intelligence services, covert actions, and operations, wage wars, or use threats and other forms of force to achieve these goals. Diplomacy also serves these purposes, but unlike the tools listed above, this particular branch uses only peaceful ways and methods.

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