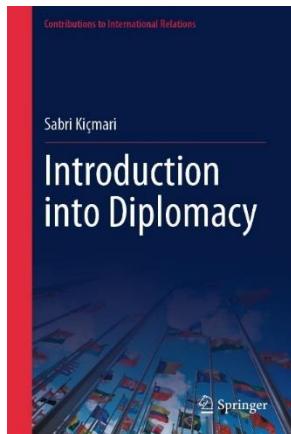


BOOK REVIEW



INTRODUCTION INTO DIPLOMACY

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About the Author

His Excellency Professor Dr. Sabri Kiçmari is the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Japan and has been a prominent public intellectual in his country for many years. Before this role, he had the distinction of being the first Kosovo Ambassador to Austria (2008-2013) and Australia (2013-2018). Notably, Kiçmari is an accomplished author, having published six books, including his latest work, "History Continues – Three Models of the Continuation of History," released by Palgrave Macmillan in 2022. He holds a Ph.D. in political science and sociology from the Institute of Political Science and Sociology and graduated from the Rheinische-Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität in Bonn, Germany.

About the Book

This book, "Introduction into Diplomacy," by Kiçmari, is part of the "Contributions to International Relations" series. It's designed as an introductory text for students, diplomats, and anyone interested in the field. The author blends theoretical knowledge with practical experience gained over thirty years in foreign policy and diplomacy, including significant roles as an ambassador.

The book is structured into eleven chapters:

Chapter 1: of Kiçmari's "Introduction into Diplomacy" tackles the challenge of defining diplomacy, highlighting the lack of a universally agreed-upon definition. It explores interpretations from critical thinkers like Grotius, Nicolson, and Schubert, revealing the multifaceted nature of diplomacy and the differing emphasis placed on aspects such as negotiation, communication, and national interest representation. The chapter avoids a singular, rigid definition, recognizing diplomacy's adaptability to changing geopolitical contexts. Kiçmari's analysis reveals the evolution of understanding concerning diplomacy and the limitations of previous attempts at precise definition. Instead, he proposes a functional definition: diplomacy as a communicative activity focused on representing and protecting the interests of a state, nation, or its citizens. This involves extensive communication and negotiation within the international system to influence actors and achieve beneficial outcomes. The chapter underscores the dynamic and context-dependent character of diplomacy, setting the stage for a nuanced exploration throughout the rest of the book. It emphasizes the complexities of defining a practice deeply influenced by evolving global realities.

Chapter 2: "A Brief History of Diplomacy," in Kiçmari's book, argues that diplomacy's roots extend far beyond formally recorded history, emerging from early human societies' need for conflict resolution and community building. The chapter traces the evolution of diplomatic practices, highlighting the gradual development from informal mediation to formalized systems of representation and negotiation. Kiçmari notes the emergence of embassies in the 13th century and the increased importance of diplomatic envoys during the medieval period. He emphasizes the Vienna Congress of 1815 as a pivotal moment, formalizing diplomacy as a profession and establishing a system of rules and ranks for diplomats. This period saw the emergence of codified diplomatic norms and practices. The chapter culminates with a discussion of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963), which provide the contemporary framework for international diplomatic interactions. These conventions comprehensively codify diplomatic functions, immunities, privileges, and ranks. Chapter 2 presents a narrative of diplomacy's development, highlighting its transformation from rudimentary conflict resolution mechanisms to the sophisticated and formalized system present in modern international relations. It emphasizes the continuous evolution of diplomatic practice within a changing global landscape.

Chapter 3: "Classics of Diplomacy," profiles six influential figures who have significantly shaped the theory and practice of diplomacy. Kiçmari presents concise biographies alongside analyses of their critical contributions to the field. The chapter aims to provide a historical context for understanding contemporary diplomatic approaches. Niccolò Machiavelli's pragmatic approach, emphasizing the use of power and deception to achieve state interests, is contrasted with Hugo Grotius' emphasis on international law and the importance of ethical considerations in diplomacy. Ernest Satow's focus on practical skills and etiquette for diplomats is highlighted, while Harold Nicolson's insightful analysis of diplomatic communication and negotiation is explored. Henry Kissinger's realpolitik perspective and Geoff Berridge's emphasis on the evolving role of diplomacy in the modern era are also discussed. The chapter doesn't present these figures as representing a unified school of thought but as offering diverse and sometimes contrasting perspectives on diplomacy's core principles and methods. By examining their ideas, Kiçmari gives readers a rich understanding of the historical evolution of diplomatic theory and practice and how these past perspectives continue to inform modern approaches. The chapter serves as a foundation for further exploration of the complexities and challenges inherent in international relations.

Chapter 4: "Theories of International Relations," provides an overview of major theoretical perspectives that inform the understanding of diplomacy. Kiçmari focuses on four critical paradigms: realism, liberalism, neoliberal institutionalism, and constructivism. While acknowledging the existence of other approaches, the chapter prioritizes these four due to their significant influence on the study of international affairs and, consequently, on diplomacy. The chapter summarizes the core tenets of each theory, highlighting key differences and similarities. Realism, emphasizing state power and self-interest, is contrasted with liberalism's focus on cooperation, international institutions, and the promotion of shared values. Neoliberal institutionalism builds upon liberal ideas, emphasizing the role of international institutions in mitigating conflict and facilitating cooperation. Constructivism, in contrast, emphasizes the role of ideas, norms, and identities in shaping state behavior and international relations. The chapter does not delve into a detailed analysis of each theory but briefly introduces its fundamental concepts and critical proponents. This overview provides a background for understanding how differing theoretical lenses shape interpretations of diplomatic actions and outcomes. It underscores the importance of theoretical frameworks in analyzing the complexities of international politics and diplomacy's role within that framework. The author strategically avoids deep diving into these complex theories to maintain focus on the core topic of diplomacy.

Chapter 5: "Functions of Diplomacy," outlines diplomatic actors' key roles and responsibilities, primarily drawing on the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961). Kiçmari presents a practical perspective on diplomatic activity, moving beyond theoretical frameworks to illustrate how diplomacy operates in the real world. The chapter identifies several core functions: representing the sending state in the receiving state; protecting the interests of

the sending state and its citizens within the bounds of international law; negotiating with the receiving state's government; gathering information and reporting back to the sending state; and fostering positive relations between the two states. This includes cultivating economic, cultural, and scientific ties. Kiçmari emphasizes the importance of these functions in maintaining international order and facilitating peaceful cooperation. He highlights the multifaceted nature of diplomatic work, requiring diplomats to balance various interests and priorities. The chapter underscores the practical application of diplomatic principles, showing how these roles are vital for achieving a state's foreign policy objectives and managing international relations effectively. The focus remains on the practical aspects of diplomacy, grounded in the existing legal and conventional frameworks that govern international interactions.

Chapter 6: "Diplomatic Protocol," explores the rules and customs governing the conduct and interactions of diplomats. Kiçmari emphasizes protocol's role in facilitating smooth and respectful diplomatic relations, highlighting its importance in international interactions. The chapter details the precedence system among diplomatic representatives, emphasizing that protocol reflects the principle of equal respect among states regardless of size, history, or political system. The author explains how protocol dictates the order of precedence based on the chronology of accreditation, detailing the ranking system for ambassadors and other diplomatic personnel. Beyond the formal order of precedence, the chapter also delves into the etiquette expected of diplomats in various settings, from formal meetings to social events. It examines the importance of appropriate behavior, respectful communication, and avoiding actions that could damage relations. Kiçmari further discusses situations requiring protocol intervention, such as scandals involving diplomatic personnel or the declaration of persona non grata. The chapter uses examples from various countries, including the USA, UK, Japan, Germany, Australia, France, China, and Kosovo, to illustrate the practical application of protocol in diverse diplomatic contexts. The aim is to demonstrate the role of protocol in maintaining decorum, facilitating effective diplomatic communication, preventing misunderstandings, and fostering mutual respect in international interactions.

Chapter 7: "Diplomacy and Language," examines the crucial role of language in diplomatic interactions. Kiçmari highlights language's importance as a tool for communication and negotiation in international relations, tracing its historical evolution in diplomacy. He notes the dominance of the French in diplomacy during the 17th and 18th centuries, followed by the rise of the English alongside the French, and eventually, the English's near-universal dominance in the latter half of the 20th century. The chapter discusses the impact of language rivalry, particularly the competition between French and English during the 20th century. This competition highlights the power dynamics inherent in language selection and its influence on diplomatic discourse. Kiçmari acknowledges the importance of multilingualism in modern diplomacy, recognizing that many international organizations utilize multiple languages. However, he underscores the persistent dominance of English in many international settings, particularly within international organizations and negotiations. The chapter argues that despite increasing multilingualism, English's widespread use significantly influences the dynamics of international communication, potentially creating challenges for non-native English speakers. It emphasizes the importance for diplomats to master multiple languages but also acknowledges the continuing significance of English in shaping the landscape of international communication and negotiation.

Chapter 8: "Public Diplomacy," explores the evolving role of public communication in international relations. Kiçmari highlights the significant impact of media developments over the past two decades, particularly the rise of the internet and 24-hour news cycles, on how governments conduct diplomacy. He argues that the increased accessibility of information makes it nearly impossible to conceal foreign policy actions or significant international events from the public. The chapter emphasizes that the media's pervasive reach demands a new approach to diplomacy, urging governments and diplomats to engage in public diplomacy actively. This involves crafting and disseminating messages to foreign publics to shape perceptions and influence opinions about a state's policies and actions. Kiçmari discusses the challenges and opportunities this shift presents, including the need for transparency and responsiveness to public opinion, alongside the risks of miscommunication and manipulation. The increased power

of media organizations such as CNN, BBC, and DW, as well as the spread of social media, is highlighted as a critical factor driving the necessity of public diplomacy. The chapter underscores that effective public diplomacy requires a strategic approach to communication, aligning public messaging with diplomatic actions to maintain credibility and foster international understanding. It effectively argues that public diplomacy is no longer optional but a crucial element of modern international relations.

Chapter 9: "Sociology of Diplomacy," advocates establishing a distinct sociological subfield dedicated to studying diplomacy. Kiçmari argues that while diplomacy is often addressed within the broader context of political sociology, it deserves specialized sociological analysis. He emphasizes the need for a more focused examination of diplomacy's social aspects. The chapter highlights the lack of a dedicated "sociology of diplomacy," suggesting that this omission hinders a complete understanding of diplomatic practice's social processes and dynamics. Kiçmari asserts that a distinct sociological approach would allow for more detailed and nuanced research into diplomatic behavior, interactions, and the social construction of international relations. He proposes that this new field employ various research methods, including empirical studies, to analyze diplomatic practices, communication patterns, and the social influences shaping diplomatic actions. According to Kiçmari, the ultimate aim is to provide a more comprehensive and robust theoretical framework for understanding diplomacy's role in shaping global affairs. The chapter calls for a more interdisciplinary and sociological lens to be applied to the study of diplomacy, ultimately enriching its research and practical understanding.

Chapter 10: "Diplomacy and Ethics," explores the complex interplay between diplomatic practices and ethical considerations. Kiçmari argues that while states naturally pursue their self-interest in international relations, ethical principles remain essential for effective and sustainable diplomacy. He stresses that a complete disregard for ethical norms could lead to unchecked actions and potentially destabilize international order. The chapter examines the tension between a state's pursuit of its interests and the need to uphold ethical standards in its dealings with other nations. Kiçmari highlights the frequent incorporation of moral arguments and considerations into diplomatic discourse, demonstrating that ethical concerns are often integrated into diplomatic strategies and actions. He further explores the challenges of balancing national interests with the protection of human rights and promoting global peace and stability. The chapter acknowledges the potential conflicts arising from these competing priorities and emphasizes the importance of responsible decision-making in international diplomacy. It concludes by asserting that ethical considerations, while often challenging to implement, are ultimately indispensable for long-term success in international relations and maintaining peaceful global coexistence.

Chapter 11: "Characteristics of the Modern Diplomat," discusses the qualities and skills required for success in contemporary diplomacy. Kiçmari challenges prevailing negative stereotypes of diplomats, arguing that successful diplomats are more than just skilled negotiators; they require diverse capabilities. He emphasizes the need for trust and confidence, both from their state and the receiving state. The chapter highlights the importance of solid communication skills, tact, and building rapport and trust with diverse individuals. Influential diplomats are described as possessing strong analytical skills, the ability to adapt to changing circumstances, and the capacity to navigate complex political and social landscapes. Beyond these essential skills, Kiçmari underlines the need for ethical conduct and the ability to represent one's state's interests while fostering positive relationships. Referencing Satow, the author emphasizes the necessary combination of intellectual prowess and interpersonal skills. He underscores the crucial role of cultural sensitivity and understanding in navigating international relations effectively. Ultimately, the chapter advocates for a modern understanding of the diplomat as a highly skilled and adaptable individual with a solid moral compass capable of representing their state's interests while fostering cooperation and learning in a complex and ever-changing global environment.

Review

"Introduction into Diplomacy" offers a valuable contribution to the field, successfully bridging the gap between theoretical understanding and practical application. Its strength lies in

its accessible style and the author's unique perspective, combining academic rigor with firsthand experience as a seasoned diplomat.

Academic Significance: The book provides a comprehensive overview of major theories in international relations, placing them within the context of diplomatic practice. This integrated approach is valuable for students seeking a deeper understanding of how theoretical frameworks translate into real-world diplomatic actions. The exploration of diverse perspectives on defining diplomacy highlights the subject's complexity and avoids oversimplification. Including historical context and biographical sketches of key figures enriches the academic value of the work, providing a broader perspective on the evolution of diplomatic thought and practice.

Professional Relevance: Kiçmari's extensive diplomatic experience shines through, providing valuable insights into the practical realities of the profession. The discussions of diplomatic protocol, public diplomacy, and the ethical dimensions of diplomacy are particularly relevant for aspiring and practicing diplomats. The book offers a pragmatic understanding of the challenges and rewards of a diplomacy career, illuminating the work's multifaceted nature beyond the stereotypical image. The detailed analysis of the functions of diplomacy offers practical guidance and context for those navigating the complexities of international relations.

Strengths:

- 1) Accessible Style: The book is written clearly and engaging, making it accessible to a wide audience, not just specialists.
- 2) Integrated Approach: It integrates theoretical and practical perspectives, providing a nuanced understanding of diplomacy.
- 3) Unique Perspective: The author's personal experiences bring authenticity and real-world relevance to the discussion.
- 4) Comprehensive Coverage: The book covers a wide range of topics related to diplomacy, providing a holistic understanding of the subject.

Potential Limitations:

- 1) Limited Depth: While comprehensive in its coverage, some areas may benefit from more in-depth analysis. The brevity of certain sections might leave some readers wanting more detailed explanations of complex theories or historical events.
- 2) Eurocentric Bias: While the book touches upon diverse contexts, a more explicitly global perspective might enhance its reach and impact.

In summary, "Introduction into Diplomacy" is essential for those studying international relations and future diplomats. The book's clear style, holistic perspective, and personal reflections make it a must-read for anyone wanting a thorough and captivating introduction to the diverse realm of diplomacy. It is a superb launchpad for deeper investigation into this intricate and intriguing area.