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**COURSE TITLE : DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN POLICY**

**Assignment: Diplomacy is the process of negotiation and representation by which States customarity deal with one another in times of peace. Access modern Diplomacy.**

**Diplomacy is often confused with foreign policy, but the terms are not synonymous. Diplomacy is the chief, but not the only, instrument of foreign policy, which is set by political leaders, though diplomats (in addition to military and intelligence officers) may advise them. Foreign policy establishes goals, prescribes strategies, and sets the broad tactics to be used in their accomplishment. It may employ secret agents, subversion, war, or other forms of violence as well as diplomacy to achieve its objectives. Diplomacy is the principal substitute for the use of force or underhanded means in statecraft; it is how comprehensive national power is applied to the peaceful adjustment of differences between states. It may be coercive (i.e., backed by the threat to apply punitive measures or to use force) but is overtly nonviolent. Its primary tools are international dialogue and negotiation, primarily conducted by accredited envoys (a term derived from the French envoyé, meaning “one who is sent”) and other political leaders. Unlike foreign policy, which generally is enunciated publicly, most diplomacy is conducted in confidence, though both the fact that it is in progress and its results are almost always made public in contemporary international relations.**

**The purpose of diplomacy is to strengthen the state, nation, or organization it serves in relation to others by advancing the interests in its charge. To this end, diplomatic activity endeavours to maximize a group’s advantages without the risk and expense of using force and preferably without causing resentment. It habitually, but not invariably, strives to preserve peace; diplomacy is strongly inclined toward negotiation to achieve agreements and resolve issues between states. Even in times of peace, diplomacy may involve coercive threats of economic or other punitive measures or demonstrations of the capability to impose unilateral solutions to disputes by the application of military power. However, diplomacy normally seeks to develop goodwill toward the state it represents, nurturing relations with foreign states and peoples that will ensure their cooperation or—failing that—their neutrality.**

**One result of the breakdown of old premises, mainly in new states, was that diplomatic immunity was breached, and diplomacy became a hazardous career. Disease was no longer the chief killer of diplomats, nor was overindulgence at court; the new hazards were murder, maiming, and kidnapping. Diplomats were a target because they represented states and symbolized privileged elites. Security precautions at embassies were doubled and redoubled but were never sufficient if host governments turned a blind eye to breaches of extraterritoriality. As the 20th century drew to a close, attacks on diplomatic missions and diplomats grew in scale and frequency. Terrorists succeeded in taking the staffs of some diplomatic missions hostage and in blowing up others, with great loss of life. Some embassies came to resemble fortresses.**

**Some new states also adopted the Soviet tactic of offensive behaviour as a tool of policy. The newest “new diplomacy” appealed, as the Soviets had done during the interwar period, over the heads of government to people in the opponent’s camp; it tried to discredit governments by attributing ugly motives; and it sometimes trumpeted maximum demands in calculatedly offensive language as conditions for negotiation. Public diplomacy of this ilk was often noisy, bellicose, and self-righteous. The elaborate courtesy of sharply understated, unpublished notes wherein a government “viewed with concern” to convey strong objection was employed by only part of the diplomatic community. The use of derogatory terms such as war criminal, imperialist, neocolonialist, hegemon, racist, and mass murderer not surprisingly proved more likely to enrage than to conciliate those to whom these terms were applied.**

**As diplomacy raised its voice in public, propaganda, abetted by technology, became a key tool. Radio Free Europe and the Voice of America broadcast one message to the communist bloc; proselytizing Christian churches and so-called “national liberation movements” capitalized upon transistor radios to spread their messages to other areas. In cities, television became crucial, as images provided an immediacy that words alone could not convey. Statesmen lost no opportunity to be filmed, and ambassadors emerged from the shadows to appear on news programs or before legislative committees to expound their country’s policy. Mass demonstrations were staged for the benefit of television and featured banners in English, which had become the most important international language. When the United States invaded Panama in 1989, the Soviet Union protested on the American-owned television company Cable News Network, which was watched by most foreign ministries and world leaders.**

**The disagreement on how to conduct diplomacy applied also to who should practice it. In the 1970s the United States, Australia, and some other industrialized democracies (as well as South Africa) broadened recruitment beyond the old elites and emphasized the development of foreign services representative of their populations’ ethnic diversity. Others, such as Brazil, France, India, and Japan, continued to recruit self-consciously elite services. China and the Soviet Union continued to emphasize political criteria as well as intellectual skills. Overall, however, embassy positions, from the ambassadorial level down, increasingly were filled by professional diplomats. Only the United States and a handful of other countries continued the practice of appointing wealthy amateurs as ambassadors, treating the most senior diplomatic positions as political spoils to be conferred on financial contributors after each election.**

**Famous female political leaders such as Cleopatra VII, Isabella I, and Elizabeth I were enormously influential in the history of diplomatic relations, but historically women largely played a secondary—but substantial—role as the wives of diplomats. Without large fortunes or many servants, diplomatic wives were forced to shoulder greater burdens as they coped with a nomadic lifestyle, housewifery, hectic social schedules, and endless cooking for obligatory entertaining. The strain became so severe that many ambassadors retired early. In response, Japan adopted the practice of paying diplomatic wives a salary to compensate them for the time they spent entertaining. In 1972 the United States stopped evaluating wives in rating their spouses; entertaining and attending functions were no longer required, though they were still expected. Diplomatic wives also increasingly wished to pursue their own careers. Some of these were portable; if not, efforts were made with host countries to permit employment.**

**In 1923 the Soviet Union became the first country to name a woman as head of a diplomatic mission. The United States, which began admitting women into the newly established American career service only in 1925, followed a decade later by appointing a woman as minister to Denmark. France permitted a woman to enter its diplomatic service by examination in 1930, though at the time it still did not appoint women as heads of missions.**

**After World War II, increasing numbers of women were making a career of diplomacy, and more women became ambassadors, both by political appointment and by career progression. Despite these changes, some countries, particularly in the developing world, continued not to hire women as diplomats, and sending women envoys to them was deemed unwise. In 1970, for example, the Vatican rejected a proposed minister from West Germany because she was female. With these exceptions, however, women became an accepted and rapidly growing minority in the diplomatic, including the ambassadorial, ranks. As the 20th century closed, a number of American women, some accompanied by dependent spouses, were serving as ambassadors in Arab and Islamic countries long considered inhospitable to women.**

**Before this trend began, women seemed to face almost insuperable difficulties in combining marriage with the nomadic career of diplomacy. After 1971 the U.S. Foreign Service no longer required women to resign upon marriage, but if the husband’s profession was not easily movable, problems arose. These problems were particularly pronounced for “tandem couples,” in which both husband and wife were in the Foreign Service. Since postings together to large embassies or to a department headquarters could not always be arranged, husband and wife often would alternate in taking leave when not posted in adjacent countries. Despite these problems, at the end of the 20th century, the U.S. Foreign Service employed more than 500 tandem couples, including more than one pair serving simultaneously as ambassadors.**

**Proclaiming the end of history proved a tad premature. Over the course of human history, human beings have organized themselves into a great variety of political communities. From ancient times through the present to the distant future, independent political actors will engage in interactions with one another that shift and turn in volume, intensity, rituals, etiquette, and conventions. But the fact of contact and interaction is a constant feature of history. Hence therefore the need for institutions, protocols, and codes of behaviour to provide order, stability, and predictability to international political intercourse. That is the essence of diplomacy. The antecedents and lineage of some diplomatic practices and forms can be traced back several millennia; others are of very recent vintage. Thus there are significant elements of continuity alongside major elements of adaptation and innovation. While some traditional forms of diplomacy retain relevance, newer forms are also gaining prominence.**