

# HISTORY OF DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

Module Instructor | Alla Rafiq

MA | Diplomacy

Dept| IRs and Diplomacy

2<sup>nd</sup> Year | 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

2020 - 2021

# 5<sup>TH</sup> LECTURE

## History of DIPLOMACY

In the Medieval Ages;

Byzantium Empire

# KEY WORD

External Threats | Hegemonic empire | Licensed spies | Compensation |  
Host states | Survival | Reputation of diplomats | Chaos & Conflict |  
psychological aspect | Permanent Diplomatic representation |

## **DIPLOMACY IN MEDIEVAL AGES**

- When the Western Empire disintegrated in the 5th century CE, most of its diplomatic traditions disappeared. However, even as monarchs negotiated directly with nearby rulers or at a distance through envoys from the 5th through the 9th century, the papacy continued to use legati.

- Both forms of diplomacy intensified in the next three centuries. Moreover, the eastern half of the Roman Empire continued for nearly 1,000 years as the Byzantine Empire. Its court at Constantinople, to which the papacy sent envoys from the mid-5th century, had a department of foreign affairs and a bureau to deal with foreign envoys.

## DIPLOMACY IN BYZANTIUM

- The Roman Empire collapsed in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. and divided into two empires:
  - Byzantium empire – east as well as to Rome empire in west.
  - Due to internal factors (instability) the Byzantium empire were not able to establish strong military force to provide security and protect its borders from external threats.

- Therefore, Byzantium used Diplomacy as a means to survive and as a hegemonic empire.
- Diplomats had been used as licensed spies and its employment of the information they gathered to devise skillful and subtle policies to compensate for a lack of real power inspired neighboring peoples;
- e.g., Arabs, Persians, and Turks) as well as others far away in Rome and the Italian city-states

- From the 12th century their role as gatherers of information about conditions in their host states became increasingly vital to the survival of the Byzantine state.
- As its strength waned, timely intelligence from Byzantine diplomats enabled the emperors to play foreign nations off against each other.

- Byzantium produced the first professional diplomats. As they were issued written instructions.
- Diplomats were enjoined to be polite, to entertain as lavishly as funds permitted.
- Diplomats were allowed to sell wares to lower their costs and encourage trade.

▪ **They functioned against their enemies in 3 ways:**

1. weakening its enemies through creating conflict and Chaos among them.

2. Obtaining trust and maintaining friendly relationships with surrounded tribe and nations by presenting gifts and rewards and bribe.

3. Spreading Christian religion among irreligious.

- To invade the nations and other powers they needed professional, skillful and trained figures for dialogue and negotiations.
- They established a department and bureau for external affairs to collect information on the host country with the aim to draft their policy up on it. Beside their key role as representing and negotiation.

- Diplomats and ambassadors sent regular reports, after analyzing and studying the report policies designed accordingly.
- Then, written instruction delivered to the ambassadors to adopt it.

## Key Features of Byzantine Diplomacy

1. They invented new methods to the practice of Diplomacy such as gossips, lying, fake, underhand, false info.
2. they used these methods due to lack of military power. That eventually effected the reputation of diplomats and diplomatic function negatively.
3. Main role of Diplomats were to avoid peace and instead spreading chaos and conflicts among other nations.

4. Diplomats were also worked in trade to finance their embassy.

5. Foreign envoys were put under observations as they were seen as spies.

6. Focusing on the psychological aspect to influence on the other diplomats from other states to scare them.

7. They forbidden contact and relations between their people with foreign ambassadors.

8. During Byzantium empire permanent diplomatic representation and embassy esbalished.

9. Diplomats were appointed from those who had skills in preparing accurate reports, analyzing events.

10. Appointing Specialized and professional diplomats.

THANK YOU

Q & A

## **Bibliography:**

- Thierry Balzacq & Frédéric Charillon, Global Diplomacy ‘An Introduction to Theory and Practice, Translated: William Snow, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.
- Sally Marks Chas. W. Freeman, Diplomacy, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/diplomacy>
- Dr. Dana Barzinji, An Introduction to Contemporary Diplomatic and Consular Relations, Zahawi Center, No. 56. 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2017.