



DIPLOMACY

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Introduction:

- Diplomacy is a very old profession and it is as old as human civilization itself.
- It is one of the instrument of FP to achieve the national interest of a nation.
- It is the technique or method through which the peaceful relationship between nations are established.
- Diplomacy is very essential for the peaceful coexistence of the sovereign states in the international environment dominated by power.

Meaning:

- The word diplomacy has been derived from the Latin term 'diploma' which means a double document.
- During the Roman period of history all passports, imperial letters, etc. were stamped on double metal plates, folded and seen together and called as diplomas.
- The term diplomacy was used for the first time by Burke to mean the skill in the conduct of international relations and negotiations.

Definitions:

- Some important definitions of diplomacy are-
- The Oxford English Dictionary defines diplomacy as “the management of international relations by negotiations, or the method by which these relations are adjusted and managed.”
- “Diplomacy is the management of international relations by means of negotiation; the method by which these relations are adjusted and managed by ambassadors and envoys; the business or art of the diplomat.” – Nicholson
- “Diplomacy is the business of communicating between governments.” – George F. Kennan.
- Thus, diplomacy implies the process of representation and negotiation between states in order to maintain peaceful co-existence of nations.

Functions of Diplomacy:

- A diplomat constitutes the eyes and ears of his government abroad.
- He performs a wide range of functions.
- The functions of diplomats may be broadly classified in to the following heads –
 1. Representation,
 2. Negotiation,
 3. Observation and Reporting,
 4. Protection of the interests of the nationals abroad &
 5. Other Functions.

I. Representation:


- It is the first and foremost function of a diplomat.
- It is of three kinds – legal, symbolic and political.
- On all ceremonial and social functions the diplomat gives representation to his country.
- As a legal agent of his government he may sign treaties or ratification of documents.
- He may also represent his government in International conferences according to the instructions of his home government.
- In his living style also he represent his mother country.

2. Negotiation:

- It is the most important function of a diplomat.
- Diplomats by profession are negotiators.
- He has to carry on negotiations with the foreign government on any matter of mutual interest.
- Negotiation is the pursuit of agreement by direct personal contact and by compromise.
- As a negotiator he has to draft a wide variety of bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements, protocols and other documents of social, political and economic nature.

3. Observation and Reporting:

- Diplomats are the 'ears & eyes' of his home government in a foreign country.
- They should be good observers of men and movements.
- He has to gather the vital information & data by some or other means besides his bargaining activities.
- The reports of the diplomats constitute the basic tools of a Foreign Policy.
- These reports should be concise and accurate.



4. Protection of the interest of Nationals abroad:

- He has to protect the interest of his nationals in the land in which he is stationed.
- He has to protect the interest of businessmen, visitors or travelers from his country against any sort of discriminations and injustices.
- This is done through representation and negotiation.
- Nationals have to be protected or evacuated, if necessary they must be represented by legal counsel if jailed and their property or other interest abroad must be protected if the local government does not provide such service.

5. Other functions:

- These include registration of marriage, birth and deaths of subjects of his home state, issuing pass-ports to them, etc.
- Besides, they provide advice to makers of foreign policy.

Types/Kinds of Diplomacy:

- Diplomacy may be categorized into different forms on the basis of time, techniques, practices of diplomats, diplomatic dealings, etc.
- Some of the major kinds of diplomacy prevalent today are as follows –
 1. Old diplomacy,
 2. New diplomacy,
 3. Democratic diplomacy,
 4. Personal & Summit diplomacy,
 5. Multilateral & Institutional diplomacy,
 6. Economic/Commercial diplomacy, etc.

I. Old (Traditional) Diplomacy:

- Diplomacy in the real sense emerged with the formation of the Nation-State system especially after Treaty of Westphalia, 1648.
- Till the end of the 19th century the Old diplomacy continued.
- There were three methods on which the old diplomatic practice was based – the Italian, French and German.
- But it was the French method which is usually known as the traditional method of diplomacy.
- The theory & practice originated by Richelieu, analyzed by Colliers & adopted by all European States since the 17th Century is popularly known as the old diplomacy.

Features of Old Diplomacy:

- Some important features of old diplomacy are as given below –
 1. European diplomacy,
 2. Secrecy
 3. Big power affair
 4. Small powers had insignificant position,
 5. Aristocratic affair,
 6. Flexible,
 7. Foul means, etc.

I. European diplomacy:

- the area of operation of this diplomacy was confined to Europe only.
- England, France, Prussia, Austria & Spain were the five big & main powers on the world scene.
- Asia, Africa, Latin America were regarded as the areas of colonization. USA was also isolated up to 1897.
- Since this diplomacy operated among the European powers it was regarded as European diplomacy.

2. Secrecy:

- Old diplomacy was based on the assumption that negotiation must always be a process rather than an episode and that at every stage it must remain confidential.
- Strict secrecy was observed while conveying the issue & conducting the negotiations & the general public was not informed about the decisions taken.
- Secrecy was considered essential for resolving differences. Secret pacts & agreements were prevailed.

3. Big power affair:

- The old diplomacy was operated on the assumption that the responsibility for maintaining world peace rests on the great powers.
- As most of the non-European countries were colonies were excluded from the main theatre of international politics, even the small countries of Europe had no role in old diplomacy.
- Thus, it was mainly a big power affair of European countries.

4. Small powers had insignificant position:

- In traditional diplomacy, small powers were insignificant as they did not play any significant role in the world politics as they were weak.
- They acted like the satellites of big powers.

5. Aristocratic affair:

- Under old diplomacy, diplomats were not selected on the basis of merit/competitive exams but selected & appointed by the monarch from the nobles & aristocrats.
- The diplomatic officials of different countries thus belonged to the same aristocratic class worked together for years & possessed similar experience, similar taste & similar culture.

6. Flexible:

- Due to the lack of fast means of transport and communication it was extremely difficult for the monarchs to keep constant touch with their diplomats in various states, they had to allow them considerable freedom in matters of negotiations.
- The pressure of public opinion that makes flexibility impossible was non-existent.

7. Foul means:

- For serving national interests, diplomats often resorted to foul means and practices such as bribing and murder.

2. NEW DIPLOMACY:

- In the early 20th century, the traditional diplomacy was replaced by a new type of diplomacy which is popularly known as New or Open diplomacy.
- The new diplomacy differed from the old diplomacy at last in three respects –
 1. Greater openness,
 2. Extensive use of multilateral diplomacy in various forms in addition to the traditional bilateralism, &
 3. Personal or summit diplomacy
- The new diplomacy greatly differed from the traditional diplomacy in methods if not in purpose.

Factors in developing New diplomacy:

- The New diplomacy is the result of many new developments.
- The three important factors which were responsible for the emergence of new diplomacy were as follows –
 1. The growing sense of community of nations,
 2. An increasing appreciation of the importance of public opinion, and
 3. The rapid increase in communications,
 4. Another factor which influences New diplomacy are the development of alliance system – which led to the coalition diplomacy,
 5. Another factor is the application of the principle of liberal democracy to the conduct of foreign relations led to open diplomacy which brightened the prospects for peace

Features of New Diplomacy:

- The characteristics of new diplomacy are-
 1. A complex diplomacy,
 2. Importance of diplomacy reduced,
 3. The idea of National Rights has been replaced by the idea of international interests,
 4. Precedence to Public opinion,
 5. Multi-lateral diplomacy,
 6. Open diplomacy, etc.

I. A Complex Diplomacy:

- Modern diplomacy has turned out to be extremely complex due to the changes that have occurred in recent times in the world scene.
- It is truly an international affair.
- The composition of international society has greatly altered, number of states have increased and the centre of gravity has shifted away from Europe.



2.Importance of diplomacy has been reduced:

- Rapid means of communication has reduced his importance.
- Diplomat today does not enjoy the ancient glory and is often by-passed by the head of the state.
- As the ambassador is a generalist he may not do justice to a subject of technical nature.
- Due to functional specialization, different persons in different types diplomatic negotiations are involved.

3. The idea of national right was replaced by the idea of international interests:

- The idea of national rights was replaced by the idea of international interests in the New Diplomacy.

4. Precedence to Public Opinion:

- New diplomacy is subjected to democratic control.
- The broad framework of diplomacy containing the vital objectives and not the process of negotiation are democratically determined and subjected to democratic scrutiny and control.
- It gives more importance to public opinion and aims at satisfying the wishes of the people.

5. Multilateral diplomacy:

- Modern diplomacy is mainly multilateral in nature.
- A large part of international dealings is conducted through the medium of international conferences and the periodic meetings of regional and international organizations.
- UN is one of the agencies conducting multilateral diplomacy.
- Multilateral diplomacy is supplementary and complimentary to the bilateral diplomacy.

6. Open Diplomacy:

- New diplomacy is open in character.
- Open diplomacy is necessary for peace settlement.
- There is no room for any secret or private dealings of any kind.
- The Charter of League of Nations and the UNO were also based on open treaties and agreements which formed the very basis of New diplomacy.

Distinction Between Old & New Diplomacy:

OLD DIPLOMACY	NEW DIPLOMACY
1. Mainly confined to Europe	1. Is all pervasive, world-wide & truly international in nature.
2. Dominated by big powers	2. Not dominated by big powers, today the world peace is the equal concern of all powers.
3. It was Aristocratic , as they were drawn from aristocratic class	3. It is democratic, mostly practiced by professionals who are recruited on the basis of merit.
4. Negotiations were conducted more secretly.	4. There is no place for secret treaties or agreements.
5. There was no scope for Summit or Personal diplomacy	5. New diplomacy is more frequently conducted through summit/personal diplomacy.
6. In the Old diplomacy, the diplomats enjoyed a lot of discretion. The home government had to accept the views	6. The new diplomacy virtually reduced the diplomats to the status of dignified clerks who are expected to

3. DEMOCRATIC DIPLOMACY

- It means the increasing participation of people in the affairs of the government which led to the decline of conventional diplomacy.
- “Democratic diplomacy is the execution of Foreign policy either by politicians themselves or through the medium of untrained negotiators whom they have selected from among their own supporters or personal friends.” –Nicholson.

Democratic diplomacy

- The rapid increase in the medium of communication & the growing importance of public opinion among the community of nations led to the growth of democratic diplomacy.
- The basic principle of this diplomacy is that the diplomat is a civil servant who is subordinate to the Foreign Secretary who is subordinate to the Parliament, and the parliament in turn is subordinate to the sovereign people.
- And thus, in international relations all treaties concluded are subject to the approval of the legislature.

Defects of D. diplomacy:

- There are certain defects of the democratic diplomacy like –
 1. It **causes undue delay** in reaching a decision which is not conducive to effective management of international relations.
 2. It **leads to ambiguity in policy decisions** due to massive deliberations.
 3. In a democratic diplomacy, there is also a **tendency to disown the decisions** taken by the electorate through their representatives, if there is a wide spread criticism of the same.

Defects

4. It may also happen that the facts of **the problem may be suppressed and unnecessary importance will be laid on emotional and moral aspects of the issue** in order to get the approval of masses of people.
5. The ordinary **mass of people lack full knowledge of foreign affairs and may completely ignore many facts** in pursuing a effective foreign policy.

Defects....

6. Undue publicity is also dangerous as **negotiations may breakdown in the name of prestige of a nation** and it may end up in war.
- Due to these defects, it is necessary that the electorate should be concerned with only the broad policy and the details may be worked out in secret negotiations.

4. MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

- **Need for Multilateral Diplomacy:**
- Modern diplomacy has attached greater importance to multilateral diplomacy.
- It is **supplementary** to bilateral diplomacy.
- The present day problems and issues in international relations has a world-wide impact.
- It is therefore imperative that these problems should be tackled through the cooperation of all the states.
- As there is no international legislative body where these states may send their representatives, naturally they have to hold multilateral diplomatic conferences.

History of M. diplomacy:

- These multilateral conferences are held to conclude treaties and agreements of general nature as well as to hold formal consultations.
- Though these multilateral conferences were held in the past centuries, but by and large, multilateral diplomacy gained currency in the present century only.
- For example, the Congress of Westphalia of 1648, the Congress of Vienna of 1815, Panama Conference of 1826, the Hague Conference of 1899 & 1907, etc. in the past.
- But it was only after the I World War this type of diplomacy grew more popular.

Multilateral diplomacy

- It has been said that since 1920s there about six to ten thousand sessions/international conferences are held every year.
- Most of these conferences are held under the aegis of UN & its agencies.
- Under the multilateral diplomacy the Foreign Office of a nation plays only a secondary role but the UN plays a very effective part in it.

Multilateral diplomacy

- A special division has been created within the Secretariat of the UN for the conduct of various such conferences.
- There are two varieties of multilateral diplomacy – they are –
 1. Temporary I.N. Conferences, &
 2. Creation of permanent I.N. Organizations

Criticisms:

- The Conference diplomacy has been severely criticized.
- Harold Nicholson describes it as perhaps the most unfortunate diplomatic method ever conceived.
 1. This method of diplomacy suffers from a number of defects like – **members may take rigid position** and thus greatly hampers successful negotiations.
 2. **As no man to man negotiations** are not possible and therefore, it is not helpful in solving fundamental problems.

Criticisms

3. As in these conferences, political(not professional) negotiators(statesman) take part in them, they are not competent to handle diplomatic negotiations – hence, it may suffer from imprecision.
- Despite these criticisms, multilateral diplomacy is gaining popularity day by day.
- It also possess certain advantages like elasticity of procedure, informality, mutual acquaintance, personal friendship, etc.

6. Summit/Personal Diplomacy:

- Diplomacy at the highest level is known as summit diplomacy.
- The credit goes to sir Winston Churchill for coining this phrase in 1953 for the first time when he proposed a conference between the Western and the Soviet Heads of governments.
- It means the direct participation of the foreign ministers/Prime ministers/Heads of States in diplomatic negotiations.

Summit diplomacy

- During the World War II period the leaders of the big three countries like UK, USA, & USSR held frequent meetings like the Yalta Conference of 1945, the Cairo Conference 1941, the Tehran Conference 1943, etc. where the heads of the three States participated.
- The main features of this kind of diplomacy are as follows -

Features

1. Under this diplomacy the heads of the states tries to establish direct contacts with their counterparts in other countries.
2. Secondly, the heads of states engaged their personal agents to establish contact with the leaders of other countries, e.g. President Nixon relied on Henry Kissinger as his agent.

Summit diplomacy....

- Summit diplomacy is very useful for the leaders of the world in order to meet their counterparts in other countries since the world is increasingly interdependent in many fields.
- It allows the leaders to exchange their views on many burning issues of the world for a better understanding.
- But sometimes, the leaders may not be in a position to represent their interests effectively as they are preoccupied with many problems & responsibilities.

Summit diplomacy ...

- To avoid these limitations it is suggested that extensive preparation at the lower levels of diplomats before holding the meetings at the summit level.
- Meetings at the summit level should be held only if the earlier negotiations indicate that there is a possibility of an agreement.
- Once the necessary ground has been created the summit diplomacy can be resorted to and can evoke considerable public interest.