




Diplomatic protocol

Course prepared under
Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership Programme
Nr 2020-1-RO01-KA226-HE-095411
„Implementation of Digitalization in Defence Higher Education-DDHE”.



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A large number of national flags are flying on tall, silver poles against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The flags are of various colors and designs, including the Union Jack, the German flag, the Polish flag, the United States flag, and many others. The text 'Lecture 1. Introduction to diplomatic protocol' is overlaid in white, serif font in the center of the image.

Lecture 1. Introduction to diplomatic protocol

*The protocol is not an end in itself
but a means to an end.*

Sir Ivor Roberts



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Content of Lecture 1.

- Diplomatic protocol in international relations
- Fundamental concepts
- Congress of Vienna and foundation of diplomatic protocol



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Diplomatic protocol in international relations



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- Diplomatic protocol is a technique of the foreign service's work and is intended to create atmosphere of respect due to them in relations between countries, which is an expression of recognition of their sovereignty and equality, and to harmonize the contacts of official representatives, i.e. the diplomatic corps.



- Fulfilling this task allows for better achievement of the goals set by the foreign policy of each country.



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- All peoples of the world have recognized the status of a diplomatic agent (*Fr. agent diplomatique*) from the earliest times.
- Tasks set by states to their diplomatic agents are consistent with the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter (*Fr. Charte des Nations Unies*), as they assume the sovereign equality of states, support the development of friendly relations between them and preserve international peace and security.



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- Diplomatic privileges and immunities should benefit not so much diplomatic agents - they are not given to them - but rather the sending country, in order to ensure the effective functioning of its mission.



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Fundamental concepts



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Protocol - origins

- mid-15c., *prothogol*, "prologue;" 1540s, *prothogall*, "draft of a document, minutes of a transaction or negotiation, original of any writing" (senses now obsolete), from French *prothocolle* (c. 1200, Modern French *protocole*), from Medieval Latin *protocollum* "draft," literally "the first sheet of a volume" (on which contents and errata were written), from Greek *prōtokollon* "first sheet glued onto a manuscript," from *prōtos* "first" + *kolla* "glue," a word of uncertain origin.
- The sense developed in Medieval Latin and French from "rough draft; original copy of a treaty, etc." to "official record of a transaction," to "diplomatic document" (especially one signed by friendly powers to secure certain ends by peaceful means), and finally, in French, to "formula of diplomatic etiquette." That final sense is attested in English by 1896.
- The general sense of "conventional proper conduct" is recorded from 1952. "Protocols of the (Learned) Elders of Zion," Russian anti-Semitic forgery purporting to reveal Jewish plan for world domination, first was published in English 1920 under title "The Jewish Peril."

See: Harper, Douglas, *Online Etymology Dictionary*.



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- In the modern world, the diplomatic protocol is as an instrument of the state's foreign policy, it is the carrier of actual content conveyed by means of a formalized language and ritual. Might be be hermetic and incomprehensible.
- It happens that polite and sophisticated forms express an extremely different or hostile position.

- The protocol can often be used for political demonstration.
- Example of Ottoman court, which throughout the 19th century - manifesting Turkish-Russian hostility - awaited an envoy from Poland (that time Poland was errased from political map of Europe, due to patritions). When he was read at court ceremonies, the chamberlain's answer was invariably:

Empêché! - "He couldn't come!" ;)

- Using the language of the protocol, if this is the will of the state, use a carefully prepared and conscious **diplomatic insult** (*Fr. insulte diplomatique*) to signal a crisis in relations with another state.
- Traditionally, it was often used by French diplomacy - from Napoleon insulting the ambassadors of countries he intended to declare war on, through General de Gaulle, who excelled in the art of refusing to shake the interlocutor's hand, to the famous sentence of President Chirac: They have lost a good opportunity to keep quiet. " (*ils ont manqué une bonne occasion de se taire*).



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- President Bush in 2003 manifestation of reluctance to meet Chancellor Schröder, reinforced by the unexpected reception of a second-rate opposition politician in the White House. German press considered it as a manifestation of a “diplomat's war”.
- President Obama in 2015 refused to accept the allied prime minister of Israel, recognizing that his visit was taking place during the election campaign, and that Netanyahu himself was using it to criticize the US Middle East policy.

Such intentional action is not a blunder, it has no personal qualities, and it never results from inability to control one's emotions; it is a precise message expressed in the language of the diplomatic protocol.

Diplomatic blunder

(Fr. gaffe diplomatique)

- Committing a faux pas, which may be the result of laziness, awkwardness, error or inappropriate inappropriateness.
- In relations between foreign countries, it often results from ignorance of the country and its culture, which may be regarded as disinterest or disregard. Small and recently established countries are particularly sensitive in this regard. Also sensitive to the blunders of world leaders are the media, which like to ridicule their shortcomings in the knowledge of the protocol, create an atmosphere of scandal around an often minor incident and announce its dire consequences for international relations.

Examples

- Speech of George W. Bush, strongly criticized by the British press, welcoming the British Queen in 2007, whom he thanked for her presence in 1776, recalling her participation at the United States bicentenary celebrations.

The Queen tactfully replied during the official dinner:

"I was wondering whether to start my toast with the words that I was here in 1776, but I will not."

During a visit to London in 2003, Bush mistook the Queen for her mother (died in 2002, at the age of 103), and complimented her on not looking her age.



Examples

- Vice President Dick Cheney, flanked by his wife Lynne, right, and Israel's President Moshe Katsav, center left, when leaders from 30 countries gather to remember the victims of the Holocaust on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazis' Auschwitz death camp, southern Poland on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2005.

- „The vice president, however, was dressed in the kind of attire one typically wears to operate a snowblower.”

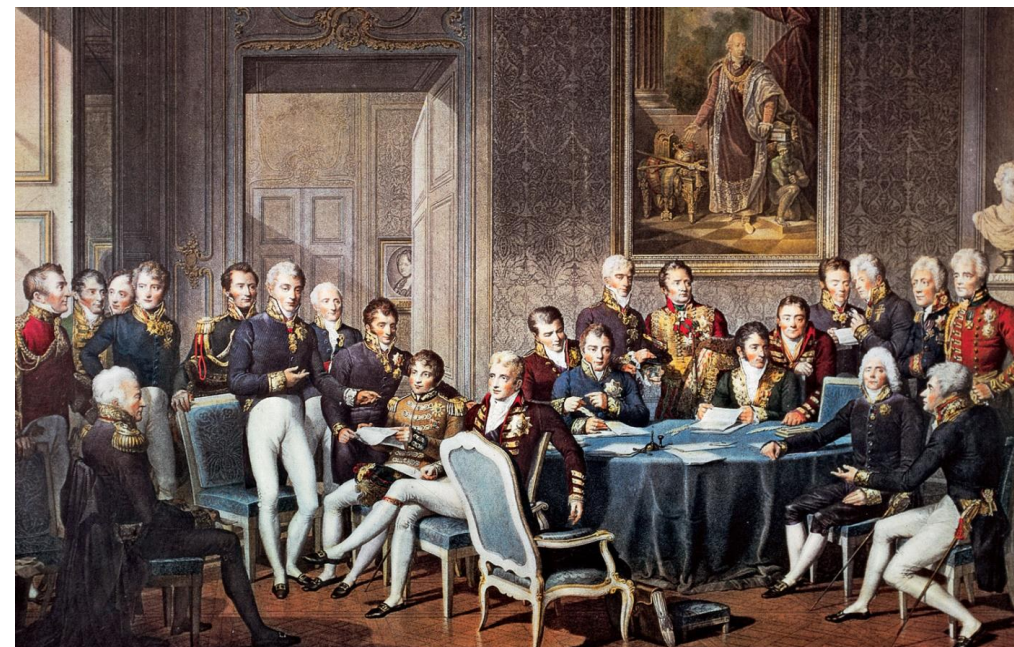
Washington post



- The diplomatic protocol makes it easier to express respect, (precedence, ceremonial) and arranging harmonious relations between their representatives (etiquette, good manners).
- Nowadays, the term "protocol" means a code of courtesy that combines diplomatic forms, ceremony and etiquette.



Congress of Vienna and foundation of diplomatic protocol



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HABILLEMENT,
Du Grand Maître des Cérémonies.

- Each state established its own court ceremonial and appointed officials responsible for it.
- In France it was initially a grand chamberlain (grand chambellan), later - when this office became titular - *grand maître des cérémonies*.
- The Lord Chamberlain performs a similar function at the British court to this day.
- In Polish custom, these duties are performed by the Grand Marshal of the Crown himself, having to assist - as a deputy - the court marshal.





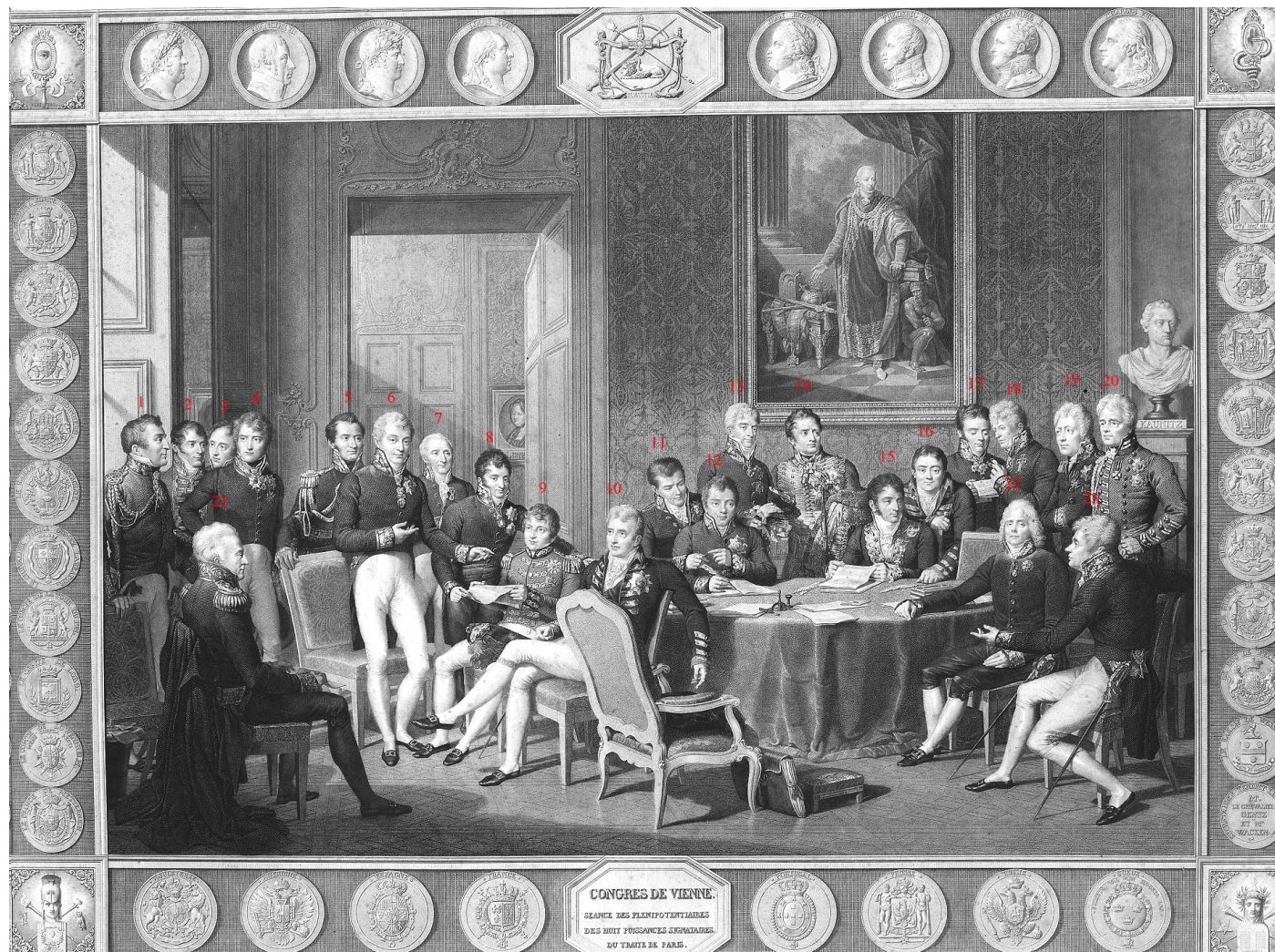
- The turning point in the history of the diplomatic protocol is considered to be January 1, 1585, when the king of France, Henry III - Henryk Walezy - issued an ordinance establishing the office of *introducateur des ambassadeurs et princes étrangers*, "introducing ambassadors and foreign rulers".
- Goal: better prepare the court to receive foreign envoys, with a clear preference for the political aspect over the ceremonial one.



Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)



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- Development of foreign policy required international regulations.
- An important role in this respect was played by the Congress of Vienna, which in 1815 - after the Napoleonic Wars - established a new political order in Europe based on the concept of equality of sovereign states, and created the foundations of an international system with joint elaboration of decisions through permanent diplomatic negotiations (congress system) .





- Annex XVII to the Final Act of the Congress unified diplomatic ranks to allow for a clear appointment of seniority among diplomats and equalized them in privileges, made the manner of their reception independent of the strength of dynastic ties and regulated the rules for the preparation and signing of contracts.
- Kongres decided that the ambassador, who, after all, represents the person and dignity of the ruler, is entitled to royal etiquette forms, such as: the right to the title of excellency, the right to a canopy in the audience hall, the right to headgear in the presence of the monarch, the right to ride a carriage drawn by six horses, the right to receive military honors, the right of priority in accepting visits from deputies and ministers, which made them lower-level diplomats; the stool's right to the ambassador's wife (to sit next to the queen when she is seated).
- All these rules were called the diplomatic protocol, as they codified mandatory behavior and etiquette applied to representatives of foreign countries.



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON DIPLOMATIC INTERCOURSE AND IMMUNITIES

VIENNA CONVENTION
ON
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS



UNITED NATIONS
1961

- Practise written down in the form of a memorandum of understanding, gave its name to the whole field of knowledge - the diplomatic protocol. All the arrangements adopted on that occasion laid the foundations for the diplomatic relations and unchanged were confirmed by the UN Vienna Convention of 1961.



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Sources

- Diplomatic Protocol, Tomasz Orłowski, Warsaw
- *Online Etymology Dictionary, Harper, Douglas,*



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Thank you for attention

Dziękuję za uwagę

Vă mulțumesc pentru atenția

Благодаря Ви за вниманието

Σας ευχαριστώ για την προσοχή



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