



Comparing Traditional Diplomacy with Digital Diplomacy: From the Treaty of Westphalia to the Post-COVID Era

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Abstract

This study examines the history, functionalities, and effectiveness of traditional and digital diplomacy in today's global arena. Traditional diplomacy emphasizes formal protocols and physical missions, while digital diplomacy uses digital innovations and social media platforms to expand diplomatic reach and influence. The research methodology uses historical insights and scholarly literature to trace the evolution of diplomacy and identify pivotal moments and transformative shifts. Data collection involved archival research, content analysis, and case studies of significant diplomatic events. The study reveals patterns, parallels, and distinctions between traditional and digital diplomatic practices, providing insights into the transformative influence of technological advancements on diplomatic processes and outcomes. This research offers a nuanced understanding of diplomacy's adaptation and evolution in response to the digital age.

Keywords: *Diplomacy, Traditional Diplomacy, Digital Diplomacy, International Relations, Contemporary Social Media Platforms, Virtual Summits, Cyber Security, Artificial Intelligence, Vaccine Diplomacy*

Introduction

International relations and diplomacy have seen major changes in recent years due to the widespread use of digital technology. This study compares and contrasts traditional diplomacy and digital diplomacy, their strengths, weaknesses, and interactions with each other in the modern international environment. In this comparative analysis, study explores the essential distinctions between traditional diplomacy and digital diplomacy in the context of contemporary International Relations. Traditional diplomacy, characterized by in-person negotiations, confidential interactions, and a commitment to well-established diplomatic conventions, is juxtaposed with the evolving concept of digital diplomacy. Digital diplomacy relies on technology-driven communication, embraces transparency, and fosters real-time diplomatic engagement through digital platforms. This analysis thoroughly explores the unique attributes of both forms, covering facets such as their pace, openness, public involvement, cyber security aspects, cultural dimensions, and methods for managing crises. The outcomes underscore the advantages and challenges tied to each diplomatic method, underscoring the importance of a coordinated approach in the swiftly evolving diplomatic arena. Ultimately, this study offers insight into how the fusion of traditional and digital elements can mold the course of international diplomacy in the future,



underscoring the vital need for diplomats to skillfully adopt emerging technologies while preserving the fundamental principles of diplomacy.

A comparative study between traditional diplomacy and digital diplomacy reveals a paradigm shift in diplomatic practices while traditional diplomacy emphasizes face-to-face interactions and formal protocols. Digital diplomacy leverages technology to engage diverse audiences through social media platforms and virtual channels (Nye, 2019). Digital diplomacy encompasses the use of digital technologies and social media platforms by governments, diplomats, and non-state actors to conduct diplomatic activities, engage with foreign publics, and influence international affairs" (Bjola & Holmes, 2015).

The use of diplomacy gives us the sense of formal recommendation that is given to individuals who came to the Roman empire and brought with them to allow them to pass, and to be the subject of special care (Chattu, Pooransingh, & Allahverdipour, 2021). The term diplomacy can also be used to describe when someone deals with a person or difficult situation with skill, in a way that creates a peaceful solution without offending or upsetting them. The strategic use of tact and intelligence in the management of formal relations between governments of sovereign states is considered diplomacy. Similarly, it is essential in resolving international disputes, acting as a tool to accomplish the ultimate objective of averting war rather than as a goal in and of itself (Drinkwater, 2005). Similarly, "diplomacy is not an end in itself, but a means to an end - the end of war (Schulzinger, 1989).

Liberal thinkers regard digital diplomacy as a democratizing force in international relations, empowering individuals and civil society organizations to participate in global discourse, advocate for human rights, and hold governments and international institutions accountable for their actions. These definitions reflect the diverse perspectives on diplomacy, ranging from its role as a tool for maintaining peace and resolving conflicts to its function as a means for advancing national interests and conducting international relations through communication and negotiation. Diplomacy is a central component of statecraft and plays a crucial role in the management of international affairs (Guilhot, 2013).

Research Objective

1. To compare and contrast traditional diplomacy and digital diplomacy in the context of contemporary international relations.
2. To identify the strengths and weaknesses of traditional diplomacy and digital diplomacy
3. To explore the interactions between traditional and digital diplomacy in the modern international environment
4. To investigate the implications of the fusion of traditional and digital elements on the future course of international diplomacy

Research Questions

1. How do traditional diplomacy's principles of personal interaction and confidentiality compare to the inclusivity and real-time engagement of digital diplomacy?
2. What are the key factors driving the evolution from traditional to digital diplomacy?
3. How can diplomats effectively integrate traditional and digital methods to address contemporary challenges in international relations?



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4. What are the cultural and ethical implications of digital diplomacy, and how can they be addressed to ensure effective global engagement?

Scope of Study

The scope of this study encompasses a comparative analysis of traditional and digital diplomacy, focusing on their evolution, strengths, weaknesses, and interplay in shaping modern international relations. It examines the enduring principles of personal interaction and confidentiality in traditional diplomacy alongside the global reach, inclusivity, and real-time engagement of digital platforms. The study also explores the hybrid landscape where these approaches intersect, highlighting opportunities and challenges, such as cyber risks and ethical dilemmas. By drawing on key scholarly works, it aims to address gaps in empirical evidence, cultural dimensions, and methodological transparency. This research ultimately seeks to provide insights into the complexities and future trajectory of diplomacy in a digitally interconnected world.

Problem Statement

There is relatively little focus on moral issues raised by digital diplomacy, such as ensuring transparency while upholding the values of democracy and human rights. The credibility of research and the outcomes have been called into question by an array of investigations with poor methodological openness, especially when it comes to disclosing their research techniques, data gathering, and methodology for analysis. Though the combination of online as well as conventional methods is looked at, very little thought is devoted to the specific obstacles diplomats undertake while entering these hybrid surroundings, particularly striking an equilibrium between transparency and confidentiality. Although the risks have been recognized, cybersecurity flaws and the dangers of false information and information overload are not being thoroughly examined. Despite the historical evolution of diplomacy from ancient Rome to modern times, the emergence of digital diplomacy in the contemporary era presents both opportunities and challenges influenced by technological advancements and shifting global dynamics. While the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the critical role of digital diplomacy in facilitating international cooperation and crisis management, gaps remain in understanding its full impact and potential implications for the future trajectory of diplomatic practices. Therefore, further research is needed to explore the evolving nature of diplomacy in the digital age and its implications for international relations, governance, and conflict resolution.

Literature Review

The paper "Diplomacy in the Digital Age" compares conventional and digital diplomacy in detail, emphasizing its advantages, disadvantages, and effects on contemporary international relations (Smith, 2005). By offering a comparative study between traditional diplomacy and digital diplomacy, the author prompts readers to contemplate the future trajectory of diplomatic endeavors in an increasingly interconnected world. He delves into the historical evolution of diplomacy, tracing its roots from the Peace of Westphalia to the present era of digital globalization. By drawing parallels between past diplomatic milestones and contemporary digital innovations, the author provides readers with a nuanced understanding of the continuity and change within diplomatic practices. Similarly, the author delves into the democratizing potential and global reach of digital diplomacy, while cautioning against the risks of information overload and cyber vulnerabilities.



Incorporating more empirical evidence and firsthand accounts from diplomats engaged in digital initiatives would enrich the analysis and provide readers with a more comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. The investigations could delve deeper into the challenges and opportunities presented by their coexistence. For instance, how do diplomats navigate the tensions between the personal touch of traditional diplomacy and the global reach of digital platforms? How do they reconcile the need for confidentiality in diplomatic negotiations with the imperative of transparency in the digital age? The book provides insightful information on the intricacies of contemporary diplomatic engagement by thoroughly examining these complicated processes. It is an invaluable tool for international relations academics, practitioners, and students due to its well-defined and thoroughly researched methodology, which is backed by empirical data (P. Smith, 2000).

Through a comparative lens, the interactions of traditional diplomacy and digital diplomacy provide readers with valuable insights into the dynamics of contemporary international relations. From ancient times to the current era of digital globalization, this essay offers a comprehensive look at the historical development of diplomacy. The analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of digital and conventional diplomacy is perceptive and balanced. Although it struggles to engage a variety of audiences and act quickly in times of crisis, traditional diplomacy is known for emphasizing personal interaction and secrecy. Digital diplomacy, on the other hand, is renowned for its worldwide reach and democratizing impact, but it also carries hazards including cyber vulnerabilities and information overload.

Most of the literature lacks focus on cultural dimensions and ethical dilemmas. A deeper exploration of these factors and their impact on democratic values, human rights, and international norms would enhance the discussion. Thorough examination of the relationship between digital and conventional diplomacy, the researchers endeavoured to examine how these strategies both support and contradict one another in modern international relations. It looks at how diplomatic procedures have changed over time, stressing the benefits and drawbacks of using modern technologies with traditional techniques. The study provides important insights into the evolving dynamics of contemporary diplomacy by evaluating the effect of digitalization on diplomatic interaction (Miller & Reill, 2011).

These works offer invaluable insights into the evolving landscape of diplomacy, both traditional and digital, in the contemporary era. They skillfully navigate the complexities of diplomatic practices, shedding light on their strengths, weaknesses, and implications for international relations. While each book provides a comprehensive analysis, there is room for further exploration, particularly in integrating more evidence that is empirical and addressing methodological transparency. Nonetheless, they collectively enrich our understanding of modern diplomatic engagement and prompt us to contemplate the future trajectory of diplomacy in an increasingly interconnected world.

Research Methodology

As this piece of study analyzed the historical development of traditional and digital diplomacy through a comparative lens, the research methodology followed a structured approach. It began with a comprehensive review of historical sources and scholarly literature on the evolution of diplomacy, tracing key milestones and shifts in practice. Utilizing a comparative framework, the



methodology juxtaposed the characteristics, processes, and outcomes of traditional and digital diplomacy over time. Data collection involved archival research, content analysis of diplomatic documents, and case studies of significant diplomatic events. Qualitative methods were employed to identify patterns, similarities, and differences between traditional and digital diplomatic practices. Finally, the research methodology employed systematic analysis to draw insights into the impact of technological advancements on diplomatic processes and outcomes.

Treaty of Westphalia 1648:

Both the Thirty Years' War throughout the Holy Roman Empire and the Eighty Years' War (between Spain and the Dutch Republic ended up coming to a close with the agreement of the Treaty of Westphalia. Its significance as an important turning point in the growth of the contemporary state system explains its diplomatic worth. The treaty set the groundwork for Westphalia's sovereignty by establishing the ideas of national sovereignty and non-intervention. Through conventions and treaties, the Westphalia system's priority for coexisting sovereign states established current diplomacy.

In the wake of the Napoleonic Wars, the Congress of Vienna (1814-1815) reshaped the political scene to restore stability to Europe. Negotiations featuring prominent diplomats like Metternich, Castlereagh, and Talleyrand were steered by the notions of sovereignty and imbalance of power. The Congress developed a new European system that prioritized postponing the resurgence of a hegemonic state, forming an example of diplomacy in the 19th century. France had an enormous effect on European negotiations, which generated disputes and questioned established political structures (Cavendish, 1998).

Arguments over religious freedom in the Holy Land and geopolitical tensions between Russia and the West were the catalysts for it. The War highlighted the drawbacks of traditional diplomacy in resolving warfare and was marked by the collapse of the Concert of Europe. This marked a turning point in diplomatic history, emphasizing the importance of proactive diplomacy in preventing and resolving conflicts.

German and Italian Unification (1861-1871)

This unification reshaped old power structures through diplomacy by consolidating fragmented states into unified nations, led by diplomatic negotiations and alliances. These processes, marked by the leadership of figures like Otto von Bismarck and Count Cavour, redefined European politics, shifting the balance of power and alliances while fostering the emergence of new nation-states. The processes of unification reshaped centuries-old power structures and alliances, triggering a political reforming of Europe. The onset of World War I revealed the limitations of traditional diplomacy in mitigating extended crises (Lissi, 2020).

The League of Nations (1920)

This league came into being in the aftermath of World War I to advance collective security and eliminate conflicts in the future. Nevertheless, impediments like a lack of enforcement tools and member states' unwillingness to engage in active conflicts hindered the initiative's effectiveness; it was primarily ineffective in preventing World War II from commencing. The League of Nations found it difficult to uphold its mandate and was unable to stop great nations like Germany in the Rhineland (1936), Italy in Ethiopia (1935), and Japan in Manchuria (1931) from committing acts



of aggression. Its efficacy was diminished by the United States' absence and the need for majority decisions, which made taking decisive action all but impossible{Bell, 2014 #2}.

Notwithstanding its flaws, the League has shown promise in peaceful conflict resolution by mediating small disputes as the Greece-Bulgaria war (1925) and the Aaland Islands dispute (1921). Its incapacity to maintain collective security and adjust to the emergence of militarism, however, made it ineffectual and finally caused its demise before the start of World War II{Bell, 2014 #2}.

Second World War (1939–1945)

During the world war, diplomacy was crucial to coordinating and avoiding disagreement, though it was frequently insufficient. Ultimately, diplomatic efforts to manage convoluted alliances and rivalries were unsuccessful in preventing the massive destruction caused by war. The difficulties about conciliation and the limitations of diplomatic solutions in the context of forceful aggression were revealed by measures including the Munich Agreement and the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. However, the foundation for post-war reconstruction and the creation of the United Nations was built by diplomatic initiatives like the Atlantic Charter and conferences like Yalta and Potsdam, highlighting the ongoing significance of diplomacy in influencing international affairs. Although the League of Nations was in existence, World War II sprang up, which caused the formation of the United Nations as a stronger international entity

The United Nations UNO (1945)

UNO was set up to safeguard global security and peace, and has served an essential part in post-World War II diplomacy by resolving treaties and overseeing peacekeeping missions. In 1950, the UN Security Council passed a resolution denouncing North Korea's invasion of South Korea and allowing member nations to offer military support to the country.

Rather than promoting tensions in the surrounding region, this multilateral effort had the goal of preventing communism from developing. Resolutions criticizing Iraq's aggression and calling for its withdrawal from Kuwait were passed by the UN Security Council in 1990. The aftermath of wars like the Gulf War and the Iraq War (2003–2011) has exacerbated sectarian violence and insurgencies in Iraq, wreaking havoc on the country's infrastructure and economy, which had already been badly undermined by UN-imposed sanctions. This is the dark side of the peace process.

The Cold War,1947-1991

International relations were characterized throughout the Cold War by the ideological and geopolitical rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. Diplomacy in this era frequently revolved around proxy conflicts and the strategy of nuclear deterrence. The US and the USSR performed an extensive amount of geopolitical maneuvering throughout the Cold War, frequently employing proxy wars to expand their respective spheres of influence.

For example, the major powers participated in indirect warfare throughout both the Korean Conflict (1950–1953) and the Vietnam Conflict (1955–1975). Furthermore, the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis exposed the extreme brinkmanship and negotiation strategies used by both sides to avert a nuclear war. In the meanwhile, attempts to control the nuclear arms race and ease hostilities between the two superpowers have been rendered feasible by programmers like the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT).



The culmination of the Cold War, 1991-Present, marked by the demolition of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the Soviet Union's parted ways in 1991, drastically changed diplomatic relations worldwide. From 1991 to the present, traditional diplomacy has attempted to negotiate intricate geographical environments, frequently concentrating on diplomatically resolving Middle East crises and wars like the Ukraine War. For example, the Oslo Accords in the 1990s sought to mediate peace between Israel and Palestine through US-mediated talks.

Furthermore, diplomatic efforts resulted in the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal, a multinational deal designed to reduce Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of sanctions. In addition, the Minsk Agreements of 2014 and 2015 established a framework for political talks between Ukraine, Russia, and separatist forces to address the crisis in that country.

Traditional diplomatic instruments including negotiation, mediation, and multilateral diplomacy have been crucial in these diplomatic efforts. This overview delineates pivotal junctures and advancements in conventional diplomacy, spanning from the Peace of Westphalia to the present era. It is imperative to acknowledge that political perspectives, technological strides, and global events exert a profound influence on the contemporary landscape of diplomatic practices.

Introduction of Digital Diplomacy

(Bjola & Holmes, 2015) Utilizing social media as a tool to accomplish foreign policy objectives and shape the national image is a strategy employed by states. Digital diplomacy involves incorporating novel subjects into diplomatic discussions and adapting to shifts in the geopolitical or geo-economic landscape. Leveraging social media, the internet, and other electronic channels, this current approach to diplomacy enhances communication, public diplomacy, and information sharing on a global level. It covers initiatives such as social media campaigns, online communication, digital summits, and the utilization of online tools for encouraging collaborative communication in the digital era.

Origin of Digital Diplomacy:

The chronicle of digital diplomacy is a comparatively recent narrative that has unfolded in tandem with progress in technology and the ubiquitous incorporation of the internet. Below is a concise delineation of pivotal junctures in the historical trajectory of digital diplomacy:

Emergence of the Internet and Email Integration:

The widespread adoption of the Internet begins in the early 1990s. Simultaneously, diplomats and government officials increasingly use email for official communication, facilitating faster and more efficient exchange of information. Governments and diplomatic missions have started to establish an online presence through basic websites (Bjola & Holmes, 2015). The online presence of the nation's State Department was developed in 1991, enabling communication between nations outside of conventional channels. Email's ability to facilitate quick communication and coordination in situations of political conflict is further shown by the oversight of the war in the Gulf politics in 1990 to 1991.

Early to Mid-2000s - Integration of Digital Platforms:

Governments worldwide initiate the launch of official websites, disseminating information on policies, services, and diplomatic activities. Concurrently, the rise of social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, reshapes communication dynamics. Recognizing the potential of social media, governments, and diplomats actively engage in public diplomacy through these platforms.



The use of Twitter by diplomats for public diplomacy initiatives and in-the-moment involvement, was demonstrated during the Arab Spring revolutions. The Nations, worldwide, utilize internet-based venues for global gatherings and meetings. The development of discussion boards and digital summits opened up channels for diplomatic communication and cooperation. In the 2000s, digital diplomacy transformed diplomatic operations by increasing outreach, promoting transparency, and facilitating face-to-face communication between diplomats and civilians throughout the world.

2010s - Digital Dynamics in Diplomacy:

Social media platforms emerge as critical tools for crisis communication, offering governments a direct avenue to rapidly disseminate real-time information during crises. The widespread utilization of social media platforms by governments to interact in genuine time using foreign audiences in the 2010s contributed to a boom in the digital dynamics of diplomacy.

Leaders like President Donald Trump and diplomats like former Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, for example, have taken diplomatic discussions into the public eye through their use of Twitter diplomacy (Hedling & Bremberg, 2021). Digital technology fundamentally changed diplomatic procedures throughout the 2010s, putting a focus on openness, and reach. Since cyber-attacks represent a serious risk to confidential data and political interactions, cyber security has grown into a crucial diplomatic concern in this day and age.

For instance, the 2010 diplomatic cable released by WikiLeaks exposed confidential diplomatic correspondence, eroding international confidence and jeopardizing diplomatic efforts. Furthermore, worries regarding data security and espionage were raised by state-sponsored cyber espionage, such as the 2014 hack of the US Office of Personnel Management, which demonstrated the susceptibility of diplomatic networks to cyber threats. Simultaneously, the escalating menace of cyber-attacks prompts a concerted focus on cyber security diplomacy. Nations actively participate in discussions and negotiations to formulate international norms and agreements concerning cyberspace. In tandem, diplomats pivot toward visual platforms like Instagram and Snapchat, leveraging multimedia content to provide a more personal and engaging perspective on diplomatic activities.

2020s - Transformations in Diplomacy:

The COVID-19 pandemic expedites the embrace of virtual diplomacy, with virtual summits and conferences becoming prevalent as leaders navigate the constraints imposed by travel restrictions. Concurrently, the 2020s witnessed the integration of emerging technologies into diplomacy. Artificial intelligence, blockchain, and other cutting-edge technologies shape diplomatic strategies and practices, while the importance of data analytics grows in influencing decision-making processes. Furthermore, the COVID-19 epidemic has demonstrated the crucial role of technological politics in an array of areas.

COVID-19 provides a case study of the mission of internet diplomacy in a couple of methods: China, the US, as well as the United Kingdom have all used vaccination diplomacy techniques. With a bid to build up international relations while globally influenced, the UK has donated doses of its excess vaccine stock to underdeveloped nations. China has strengthened its ties with countries that receive them and cemented itself as a major factor in international health diplomacy by exporting its vaccinations to several countries.



The US, Britain, and China have all employed vaccination diplomacy strategies. To strengthen ties with other countries and increase its reach worldwide, the UK has sent amounts of its excess vaccine stock to developing countries. China exports its vaccines to other nations, solidifying its position as a significant player in international health diplomacy and fortifying its ties with those states.

The US-China rivalry has extended into tech diplomacy, with disputes over issues like 5G networks, artificial intelligence, and digital trade agreements shaping diplomatic relations between the two superpowers. Artificial intelligence (AI) tools and 5G networks are transforming diplomacy by revolutionizing communication, data analysis, and decision-making processes among nations. AI-powered algorithms analyze diplomatic data streams, providing insights that inform strategic decisions and negotiation tactics (Hussain, 2024). For example, AI chatbots assist diplomats in handling routine inquiries, while 5G-enabled video conferencing platforms allow for seamless virtual summits and international meetings. These technological advancements are reshaping diplomatic practices, promoting efficiency, transparency, and global connectivity in international relations. The significance of digital diplomacy has been notably highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic across various dimensions.

Governments globally utilize digital platforms for timely communication on the pandemic, preventive measures, and health guidelines, relying on social media, official websites, and other channels for effective crisis communication. The pandemic prompted a shift to virtual summits, showcasing the adaptability of digital diplomacy in maintaining international collaboration. Digital platforms facilitated global cooperation by exchanging information, research findings, and best practices, contributing to a unified global response. Efforts related to COVID-19 vaccine distribution involved diplomatic initiatives, with digital platforms playing a key role in disseminating information about vaccine development, and distribution plans, and addressing concerns. Public health diplomacy employed digital channels to reassure and inform populations, emphasizing international collaboration through digital means to manage the health crisis.

Digital platforms served as conduits for global campaigns, using hashtags and online events to foster solidarity, express empathy, and promote collective action, conveying shared messages of resilience and unity. Digital platforms play a crucial role in fostering international scientific collaboration and Scientists and researchers across diverse countries have the opportunity to collaborate virtually, enabling the sharing of data and insights to collectively tackle global challenges.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis of digital and traditional diplomacy sheds light on how international relations are changing in the digital era. Digital diplomacy offers unmatched possibilities for quick communication and worldwide reach, yet traditional diplomacy is still essential for its personalized touch and subtle negotiations.

Since the Westphalia system, the Napoleonic Wars, and the World Wars, diplomacy has changed to adapt to the dynamics of evolving international relations. Organizations such as the United Nations and the League of Nations were established to foster collective security and avert international hostilities. Negotiation, mediation, and multilateral cooperation—like the Oslo Accords and the Iran Nuclear Deal—have been the main focuses of traditional diplomacy. Looking



ahead, diplomatic engagement will continue to be crucial in addressing global issues such as terrorism and climate change and promoting a more connected, peaceful, and prosperous world. With the introduction of social media and email communication in the early 1990s, digital diplomacy completely changed international relations.

The decade of the 2010s witnessed an explosion of digital dynamics, with social media platforms playing a vital role in crisis communication. Digital diplomacy as the process by which nations use social media platforms to control their worldwide reputation and accomplish foreign policy objectives. By interacting with foreign publics and other countries through social media, this contemporary method of diplomacy seeks to change perceptions, convey information, and strengthen diplomatic ties.

However, a somewhat different viewpoint characterizes digital diplomacy as the use of digital communication tools for diplomatic communication. In this approach, the emphasis is on internal communication within diplomatic networks, where digital tools help with information sharing, activity coordination, and negotiation procedures among diplomats. When combined, these definitions emphasize the two facets of digital diplomacy: the use of digital tools for internal communication among diplomatic players and the exterior engagement of social media with audiences throughout the world. In the modern practice of diplomacy, when digital communication's speed and reach can have a major impact on international relations, both elements are vital. By using digital platforms and tools to improve diplomatic efforts, a strategy known as "digital diplomacy" is implemented. Social media, websites, blogs, and other internet resources are used by governments and diplomats to further their national objectives, engage in discourse, and interact with audiences around the world. Public diplomacy, crisis communication, cultural diplomacy, and even virtual discussions are just examples of the many activities that might be included in this contemporary approach to diplomacy. Engaging more quickly and directly with foreign governments as well as the international public is made possible by digital diplomacy.

Dialogue, negotiation, and the appointment of qualified ambassadors to represent a country are the methods used in traditional diplomacy to manage international relations. Envoys and ambassadors were dispatched to foreign courts in ancient civilizations to make treaties, form alliances, and settle disputes. This is where it all began. The Renaissance and the founding of permanent embassies were two significant changes to this tradition over centuries. Significant Turning Points in Conventional Diplomacy.

The modern state system, together with the ideas of sovereignty and non-intervention, was established with the signing of the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648. Vienna Congress of 1815: create a foundation for post-Napoleonic War diplomatic relations in Europe. The United Nations was established in 1945, providing a worldwide forum for diplomacy and the settlement of disputes. Modern diplomacy has evolved to meet current issues and the changing global environment, even though the core ideas of old diplomacy are still applicable:

Technological Advancements: Transparency and public participation have increased as a result of the digital communication and social media revolution, which has completely changed the way diplomatic signals are sent and received. **Non-State Actors:** International organizations, multinational enterprises, and NGOs now actively participate in diplomacy and have an impact on how decisions are made and policies are implemented. Complementing typical state-to-state



exchanges, public diplomacy involves directly engaging foreign publics to shape public opinion and establish long-term ties. Multilateralism: The idea that global challenges may be resolved via collective action by multilateral organizations such as the UN, WTO, and regional associations. Crisis diplomacy is the immediate and well-coordinated diplomatic reaction to global emergencies, such as wars, pandemics, and natural catastrophes.

Contemporary Diplomatic Procedures. Summit diplomacy is the practice of high-level talks to discuss and settle important issues between heads of state or government. Informal and unofficial discussions among non-governmental actors to enhance formal discussions and foster understanding. Using digital platforms and tools for outreach, information gathering, and communication is known as "digital diplomacy."

To sum up, an important component of international relations is still traditional diplomacy, which has a long history and set procedures. Globalization, technology, and the involvement of non-state actors have created new challenges and opportunities, though, which have made adaptations necessary in the modern era.

Diplomacy continues to be a vital tool for fostering world peace, cooperation, and stability by fusing traditional approaches with modern innovations. On the other hand, concerns about cyber security have brought attention to global standards. Virtual summits and conferences are increasingly common as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic's acceleration of virtual diplomacy. Emerging technologies such as blockchain and artificial intelligence are altering diplomatic methods, and the nexus of technology and geopolitics is highlighted by themes like tech competition and vaccine diplomacy. To meet the problems of the twenty-first century, digital technology integration is still crucial.

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