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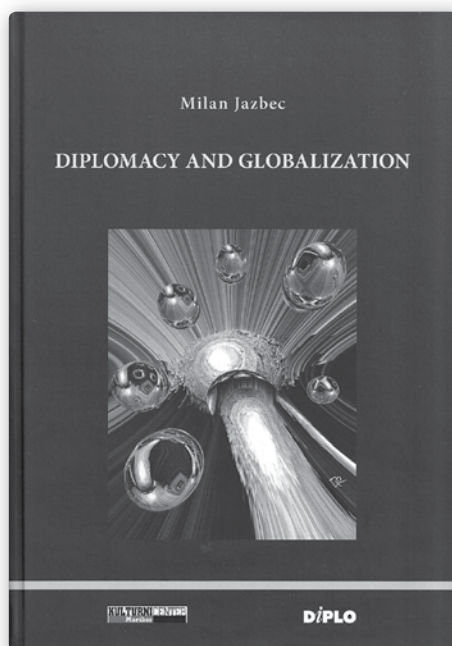
Milan Jazbec
**DIPLOMACY AND GLOBALIZATION:
THEORIZING, CASES, AND SYNERGIES**

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The book *Diplomacy and Globalization: Theorizing, Cases, and Synergies*, by Milan Jazbec, is the sublimation of the author's works published in his fruitful academic and diplomatic career. The book is assembled around the author's works in the last 15 years, giving his contribution in theory and practice. The author has a long diplomatic practice in the period of postmodern diplomacy or diplomacy after the period of the Cold War, and he transforms his knowledge into a work that envisages the theory and practice of diplomacy.

The main aspects of his research are structured in three pillars. The first takes into account mainly theoretical implications and developments in the diplomacy, the second one covers the cases analyzed through the author's professional eye and within the grounded scholarship of diplomacy, and the third, the most creative part, puts the diplomacy in the other viewpoint, mainly it explores the presentation and outreach of diplomacy in literature.



The first part puts an effort in deepening the theorizing of diplomacy and gives a historical overview of the development of diplomacy through four big periods of its evolution: early diplomacy, classical, modern and postmodern. It reveals how the ground-breaking historical and structural changes in the global world affected the periodization of the diplomatic evolution that rests

on this process. The texts are covering the period of major work of the authors that in two millennia contributed towards the development of what we know as of today's understanding of diplomacy. The contribution takes into account the processes and their characteristics through the eyes of history; analyses the key topics, which correlate and complement as well as challenges the questions related to action and reaction between rigid structures and loose networks.

The author examines the relationship between diplomacy and globalization and considers that although in the postmodern world of diplomacy, the efficiency of loose structures, i.e. networks is in an increase, traditional rigid structures still dominate, but face increasingly complex challenges to which they respond with decreasing efficiency. The field of author interests is the intersection of diplomacy as a traditional and conservative phenomenon and globalization as a dynamic and changing one. The author examines how diplomacy is performed, the new topics that are appearing on the diplomatic agenda (apart from war and peace), the changes in the way of operations and the functions of diplomatic missions, as well as the importance of influencing the diplomatic work.

In the second part, the author focuses strictly on the postmodern period of diplomacy, covering the main aspects of the most important

instruments that regulate this field, such as the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. The author analyses the European integration processes, after the fall of the Iron Curtain, where other actors, except the traditional ones (the states), such as EU, NATO, Council of Europe, etc. are becoming more visible and even in some aspects predominant in the international scene. Due to the changes that the end of the Cold War brought to the international community and social affairs in general, the author points out that in this period European integration process witnessed its strongest push up so far throughout its history. It has expanded, strengthened, and synergized its outreach, results, and influence. But, to the author's comment, it brought along difficulties as well. The Lisbon Treaty gave the EU a legal subjectivity. The European External Action Service developed its way of diplomacy, but two major global crises challenged the efficiency of the structure and pointed toward the need for an improvement. Such structures, the author considers that are depending on the leadership capabilities, and in many aspects, the society's whiteness, (with some exemptions), was not in place.

Apart from introducing new players on a global scene, diplomacy shifted towards focusing on the individual and enhancing ethical aspects in the current diplomatic practice. The need is presented as a need for security in the world we are living,

covering the aspects of the economy, health, food supply, political security, environmental security, individual security, etc. Hence, the author points out that the principles of democracy are shifted towards enhancing human security; promoting human rights; strengthening humanitarian law; preventing conflict; fostering democracy and good governance, what he proves through empirical examples. That resulted in a change of the diplomatic functions that are different after the end of the Cold War and evolved as far as their outer appearance, substance, and mode of implementation are concerned. Nevertheless, the globalization played the role, but diplomats continue to implement the interests of their sending states at the receiving states or international organizations, transforming the practice of diplomacy in an institution of the international community, which helps to create and maintain the same mission in a time of tremendous structural changes. In addition to that, and intending to prove his standings, the author examines the case of Slovenia after its establishment as a state it developed its diplomacy within a few years. The Slovenian case is an example of engaged, dynamic, and open diplomacy in the globalized world facing modern challenges for example the challenges related to the access to equal opportunities, or gender equality within the diplomatic profession.

The third part differs from the two ones in the approach. While the first

two are moving between theory and practice, the third one gives a creative interpretation of the diplomacy and puts the diplomacy in another social context – the popular literature. Here, the author moves aside from the fixed borders of the analysis and presents diplomacy through literature. He finds out the diplomatic points in some of the prominent literary works and using the methods of diplomatic analysis, based on his professional and theoretical experience, he reveals the possibilities of learning about diplomacy through the literature. The author explores the other authors that are using diplomacy as a frame; driver and tool in their literature narratives.

In this part, six literature work are analyzed to prove that not only the diplomacy affects the global and political world but as well the literature is affected by diplomacy. That speaks clearly about the position of diplomacy in general society and everyday life. This aspect is presented through the science fiction novels of Isaac Asimov's work *The Foundation Trilogy*; Arthur C. Clarke's *Childhood's End*; Ursula K. Le Guin's novel *The Left Hand of Darkness*; Alek Popov's *Mission London*, that put diplomacy between reality and expectation; the internationally acclaimed novel *American Visa* by Juan de Recacoechea that speaks in details about the social reality; and Fran Levstik's *Martin Krpan*, a Slovene national hero understood as a metaphor for a diplomat, envisaging protagonists diplomatic char-

acteristics and virtues. The interesting point is that the author uses the diplomatic analysis of the classic texts of fiction. He discovered their aspects and elements, which were either not recognized or remained in the background of scientific, cultural, and political attention with great creativeness. It also points to the practical usefulness of the texts and the messages they are transmitting.

In the end, the author sublimates his journey in wrapping up the intersection in the post cold war era, between diplomacy and globalization, revealing about the changes in the way diplomats operate; the new topics that now are existing on the diplomatic agenda; changes in the way of representation and functions of diplomatic mission; and the enhanced importance of influencing in diplomatic work through literature and *vice versa*. Despite the modifications and the influences, diplomacy remains to be an indispensable tool, method, and process in achieving goals, continuously and with a historically proven record. The author considers that apart from the most dominant topic in diplomacy (war and peace) in the period to come, will be the aspects related to the climate changes; production and distribution of food and water supplies; energy dependency and

decarbonizations; population trends and migration flows, etc. However, although the methods and the ways for operating are in transformation, the author concludes that diplomacy will continue to serve the common good.

As a final remark, this book is a compilation of works expressed and shaped by the diplomatic point of view that spreads towards the events and protagonists, moving confidently through the symbolism and representation, pointing towards the lessons that can be learned. It contributes to the social sciences in general but in particular to the not so much explored field of the sociology of diplomacy as an effort to theorize and understand diplomacy within the sociological context. In that frame, the author is focusing on the social context, development, and operation of diplomacy and contributes greatly to the development of this aspect of diplomacy. In that sense, he generalizes the findings and articulates them into a new understanding. The findings are put systematically and structurally, and that makes the book useful learning curricula for graduate and postgraduate students, or anyone who wants to get inside of diplomacy, international law, and international relations.