

## PREFACE



Like many of our colleagues, we found that when preparing our undergraduate and graduate courses on diplomacy we could not find sufficient sources that fully captured the evolutionary and contemporary nature of diplomacy. Despite many fine scholarly works, something was still missing. We needed a book that was contemporary, comprehensive, comparative, cutting-edge, and written by a diverse group of scholars from around the world. Oxford University Press in New York, and particularly Jennifer Carpenter, the Executive Editor, believed our book proposal identified that gap in the existing literature. So too did the academic reviewers of both the proposal and the first draft of the book, who enthusiastically endorsed the project and gave sage advice: Dave Benjamin, University of Bridgeport; Renato Corbetta, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Bruce Cronin, City College of New York; Bruce Gregory, George Washington University, Georgetown University, and U.S. Naval War College; Paul Webster Hare, Boston University; Vladimir Matic, Clemson University; Agnes Simon, University of Missouri; Brent Strathman, Dartmouth College; and Timothy Wedig, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The result, some two years later, is *Diplomacy in a Globalizing World: Theories and Practices*.

We think we have largely fulfilled our vision. We were fortunate. Invitations to very busy scholars were accepted in quick time, although the onerous intellectual and pedagogical tasks and the limited word length were commented upon! We asked our authors to write on their area of expertise in a way that was contemporary, comprehensive, comparative, and based on the latest research. The questions we sought their answers to were “how is diplomacy changing, why, and with what implications for future theories and practices?” They tackled the questions throughout the four parts of the book: in part I on diplomacy’s historical evolution; in part II on contemporary concepts and theories; in part III on contemporary diplomacy’s structures, processes, and instruments; and in part IV on today’s national, regional, and international practices.

We consider that the analyses in the book’s four parts, combined with the pedagogical tools, in each chapter and particularly in the extensive companion websites for students and instructors, contribute in a unique way to students’ understanding

the debates about the nature of diplomacy in our globalizing and electronically mediated world. Finally, the book confirms our normative belief that diplomacy should be, as Martin Wight (1979: 113) observed, “the master-institution of international relations” if our children are to live in sustainable peace and prosperity.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Producing a book like this one can only succeed with a team of dedicated people working together over a long period. We had that privilege.

Jennifer Carpenter and Maegan Sherlock at Oxford University Press were unfailingly professional and engaging colleagues from start to finish. Mary-Louise Hickey, Publications Editor at The Australian National University (ANU), patiently guided us through a maze of editorial issues and prepared the manuscript for publication with splendid efficiency. The authors of each chapter inspired us with their zest for the project, their wisdom, and insights on their respective areas of research. The reviewers of both the original proposal and the first draft of the book were equally enthusiastic and also extraordinarily generous with their ideas for making the book the best available for students. The Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy (APCD) at the ANU provided financial support for the book’s production. Scot MacDonald was of great assistance in preparing the companion website, and Landry Doyle in providing research assistance. Andrea Haese from APCD was consistently supportive, as was Linda Cole at the University of Southern California’s School of International Relations. Last but certainly not least, our families tolerated weekends without company and responded to our pleas for time with something akin to sainthood.

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