“Everybody’s business”: A brief history of diplomacy
Fall 2018, Week 1
δίπλωμα

Lord Strang:
“In a world where war is everybody’s tragedy and everybody’s nightmare, diplomacy is everybody’s business.”

- the peaceful conduct of relations amongst political entities, their principals and accredited agents
- the art of negotiation
Diplomacy

- “…the application of intelligence, tact and sound judgment to the conduct of official relations between the governments of independent states…..”
  (Sir Ernest Satow)

- “the peaceful management of international relations”

- diplomat/ambassador for (country, family, etc.)

- representation, information-gathering, negotiation

- dollar, economic, goodwill, gunboat, etc.
To Eat or Not to Eat?

“the dawn of history”

better to hear a message than to eat a messenger

messenger

immunity

rules, sanctions
Amarna Diplomacy (The Ancient Near East)

Letters from Early Mesopotamia (17th cent BC)

Amarna Letters (14th cent BC)

clay tablets

gestures, rituals, letters

brotherhood, faith-based

Letter from Tushratta of Mitanni to Amenhotep III negotiating a royal marriage. Photo (c) Paris Franz
Time and place

Akhenaten, Pharaoh of Egypt for seventeen years from around 1350 BCE, has a place in the history of ideas. He introduced a religious cult that recognized only one god (the power of the sun, the Aten) whilst at the same time not preventing the population of Egypt from continuing to honour gods and goddesses of the home and of the locality. In our own age of intolerance his attitude is unexpected. But the way of thinking of the times did not see the need to apply ideas consistently across the board.

Amarna, the ‘Horizon of the Aten’, was the place in Middle Egypt where he tried out his experiment. It drew in a population of several tens of thousands of people. They built a city, occupied it busily until shortly after his death, and then went away again. They left a record of their presence that is unique in its scale for ancient Egypt.

The Amarna Project seeks to document all that is at Amarna and to understand primarily through archaeology the intentions of its founder and the life of his people.

Horizon is the newsletter of the Amarna Trust that supports the work of the Project.
Abum-ekin to Zimri-Lim, the king of Mari:

“I arrived in Babylon and laid the whole matter before Hammurabi. Concerning the touching of the throat I apprised him of the matter but he made difficulties about the town of Hît. He based me in the matter, but I was not in agreement with him. I had the affair conducted in a proper manner. I made him reduce (?) his demands (?). Only the town of Hît is still in dispute. On the 25th day he had not touched his throat.”
The Ancient China and India

The Warring States era (CHN) (656-221 BC)

The Qin dynasty, “coercive universal empire”

The Vedic period (IND) 18th-12th cent BC

Kautilya, Chandragupta (317-293 BC) war, realist

Asoka (268-232 BC) Buddhisms, non-violence
Greece

Words (διπλωμα)

Homer

ad hoc embassies

“elders”, credentials

a garland of wild olive, “incompetent diplomacy”
“that ancient malady of the Greeks, the love of discord”

diplomatic negotiations

*Proxenos*

elaborate apparatus

the City, the Hellenic community, all mankind

mess (discord, temperament, efficiency)
The *Pax Romana*

impose their will, not negotiate

document of imperialism

the *ius gentium*

ceremonial form (war, peace)

*pacta sunt servanda*
the *maiestas populi romani*

*nuntii, oratores, auctoritas*

“Graecostasis”

“*speculatores*”

hostages

ultimatum
The Byzantium (330-1453)

threat of invasion

forerunner of modern diplomacy

department, trained negotiators, “instructions”

divine and secular, the *oikumene*

Constantinople, “non-conventional” weapons
The “Scrinion Barbarôn”

“there is a law that orders the Emperor to lie and to violate his oath if it is necessary for the wellbeing of the empire.”

Anastasios (515)

the centre of the universe

patient, unmoved, gain time, avoid war

bribery, flattery, marriages, relics, division
- *Legatus est vir bonus peregre missus ad mentiendum Republicae causa.*

Sir Henry Wotton (1604)

- “An ambassador is an honest man sent to lie abroad for the good of his country.”