2018: An Entangled World

History: The History of Diplomacy

Introductory Questions

- What is the purpose of diplomacy?
- How is diplomacy different than discussion?
- Does a diplomat always represent one party's interests to another party?
- How did modern diplomatic protocols come about?
- Does diplomacy need to look different in the 21st century?
- If you were a diplomat working on behalf of your school, where would you be sent and what would you be asked to do?

Origins of Diplomacy

Questions to Explore

- What was the purpose of diplomacy in Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, and Renaissance Italy?
- What departments of institutes of diplomacy existed in the ancient world?
- Who are famous ancient diplomats?

Terms to research:

- Zhang Qian | Niccolai Machiavelli | Duke of Milan |
- Chanakya (Kautilya) | *Arthashastra* | Lifan Yuan |
- Byzantine Office of Barbarian Affairs (Bureau of Barbarians)

You Scratch My Back | The Institutions of Diplomacy

Questions to Explore

- When two countries sign a treaty, what guarantees it will be upheld?
- Should diplomats be granted special privileges when they are representing their nations abroad?
- What are the different types of diplomatic institutions?
- What is the difference between an ambassador and a diplomat?

Terms to Research

- embassy | consulate | mission | asylum
- diplomatic immunity | diplomatic bags
- ambassador | appeasement | peacemaker
- gunboat | nuclear | dollar | cyber
- embargo | sanctions
- self-determination | realpolitik | ultimatum

Pen to Paper | The Outcomes of Diplomacy

Questions to Explore:

- What problems has international diplomacy helped to solve in recent years – and what problems has it helped to create?
- How do countries come to diplomatic agreements—and what happens when two nations cannot reach a diplomatic agreement?

Terms to Research

- Treaty of Versailles
- Paris Peace Accords | Antarctic Treaty
- Paris Climate Agreement | Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
- United Nations | OPEC European Union

Off in Paris For So Long | The Role of Diplomats

Questions to explore

- How were specific diplomats involved in specific diplomatic crises?
- Has the role of diplomats changed over time?
- How important are individuals in determining the fate of nations?

Terms to research:

- Thomas Jefferson | Kim Dae-jung | Oscar Arias | Zhou Enlai
- Mikhail Gorbachev | Ban Ki-Moon | António Guterres
- Cuban Missile Crisis | Partition of India | One China Policy

Additional Cases & Questions

- In his first inaugural address, American president Thomas Jefferson called for "honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none" – a doctrine that guided the foreign policy of the United States for many years. Discuss with your team: what are entangling alliances, and is it good for nations to avoid them? To what degree does the United States follow this doctrine today? How about your own country?
- Explore the difference between "hard power" and "soft power". Under what circumstances would you recommend a nation employ one or the other, or are they always best used together? Discuss with your team: do we have the equivalents of hard and soft power in our everyday interactions and entanglements?
- Amidst all of the bloodshed of World War I, there was one Christmas day when thousands of soldiers on either side temporarily banded together for the sake of festivity. Are there any lessons we can take from this brief moment of harmony to apply in diplomatic efforts today— and if so, are they also applicable to interpersonal situations?
- Sometimes, the little ball moves the big ball. Explore how "ping pong" may have paved the way to improved relations (and, arguably, economic interdependence) between the United States and China. Discuss with your team: are there lessons to be learned from this case for other difficult international relationships in the world today?
- Consider the practice of "panda diplomacy" by the People's Republic of China. Discuss with your team: what makes panda diplomacy so effective, and do other countries use similar tactics? Is it fair to the pandas?