

The Practice and Impact of Diplomacy

Outline of course topics:

I. 1. Diplomacy:

- Resolve disputes among nations peacefully
- Set international rules of behavior
- Avoid a military conflict
- Settle a military conflict
- Art, tactics and strategy

2. The Melian Dialogue

The first recorded diplomatic negotiation.

II. 1. 1555. The Peace of Augsburg:

- Holy Roman Empire and the Schmalkaldic League
- .cuius regio eius religio
- Can diplomacy resolve religious conflicts?

2. 1648. The Treaty of Westphalia.

- The Thirty Years War, religious conflict
- The Eighty Years' War, war of independence
- Concept of national sovereignty

III. 1. 1815 The Congress of Vienna

- The European balance of power
- Metternich and Talleyrand
- One hundred years of peace?

2. 1919 The Treaty of Versailles

- Wilson's 14 Points
- Lloyd George and Georges Clemenceau
- Rewriting the map of Europe
- The League of Nations

IV. 1. 1938 Munich Agreement

- The Aryan Nation and the Sudetenland
- Adolf Hitler and Neville Chamberlain
- Peace in our time.

2. 1945 The UN Conference on International Organization

- The Atlantic Charter
- The United Nations

The Security Council and World Peace
The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
The International Monetary Fund

- V. 1. 1961 The Alliance for Progress
 - The political vulnerability of colonial social patterns
 - Restructuring to prevent violent revolution
 - An American response to the Cuban Revolution
- 2. 1995 The Dayton Peace Agreement
 - Regional conflict resolution
 - End of the fighting without resolving the peace
- VI. 1. 2015. The Iran Nuclear Agreement
 - The great powers negotiate an agreement
 - US withdraws from the agreement
- 2. Final Thoughts
 - Diplomacy, morality and human rights
 - Diplomacy: ceasefire or peace?
 - Diplomacy and changing realities

The course leader will introduce each case study at the outset of the hour leading to a broader class discussion, including the historical background, the major issues in dispute, the key personalities, diplomatic strategies and the long-term impact.

Reading assignments: Participants should read an online summary of each agreement on Wikipedia prior to class.

Leader: Robert Ross was educated in Europe over five years, mainly in France. He spent his entire professional life working on international issues related to the Cold War and the economic development of the Third World.

Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, 8 weeks: February 26 through April 16

Location: The Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville