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Redefining Diplomacy

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Inaugural Issue

Redefining Diplomacy

by Clay Constantinou

In recent years, we have witnessed a remarkable evolution in the world of diplomacy. This evolution reflects the many new possibilities for cooperation that have arisen since the end of the cold war. It also reflects the increasing interdependence of a world linked by the growth of trade and the revolution in information technology.

The new paradigm consists of changes in the form of diplomacy, the scope of issues it addresses, and the identity of its participants. Increasingly, multilateral diplomacy is supplanting the traditional bilateral approach. Issues such as security, trade, human rights, and the environment are now routinely addressed by the world community in a collective fashion.

Equally remarkable is the expanding role of intergovernmental organizations in the diplomatic arena. The United Nations, for example, has in recent years exercised its peacekeeping and enforcement powers with greater frequency to restrain armed conflicts and to achieve humanitarian ends. At the same time, the European Union has taken historic steps to deepen its institutions and widen its membership.

Nonstate actors are also playing significant roles in this new era. Nongovernmental organizations are participating in multilateral negotiations and in the operation of international agencies. In the private sector, international business actively helps develop international product standards and codes of conduct.

While these developments have opened a whole new era of diplomatic opportunity and promise, new challenges and complications have also arisen. The period immediately after the end of the cold war was one of optimism and great expectations. Some problems, however, proved to be more intractable than earlier anticipated. Adding to the complexity are the many new constituencies seeking participation at the international bargaining table.

To address the opportunities of the new diplomacy and the challenges it presents, we are pleased to introduce the *Seton Hall Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations*. In the *Journal* we shall present the views and insights of international leaders, policymakers, and scholars. We shall also seek views of those who are active in nontraditional approaches, including nongovernmental organizations and business. We trust that the *Journal* will contribute to a better understanding of today's global environment, at the same time suggesting solutions to the common problems the world faces.



Amb. Clay Constantinou (Ret.) is dean of the School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University.