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Impact Analysis of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on Diplomacy

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Abstract: Science and Technology (S&T) were aggressively used for more than two decades during the Cold Conflict between the United States and the former Soviet Union to avert war and maintain diplomatic equilibrium in the conduct of 'International Relations' (I.R.). The prevalence of soft power in digital age politics and the empowerment of non-state actors in international relations are both aided by access to information and control over it. Aside from increased roles, requests for expanded outreach and accountability, and dwindling resources, the modern diplomatic service is particularly challenged by the multistakeholder and interdisciplinary international arena. The well-planned and well-organized use of ICT may empower diplomatic services, particularly in small and developing nations, and assist them in dealing with rising difficulties and delivering their full potential. The study goes into great detail regarding how science and technology affect diplomacy.

Keywords: Technology, Information, Diplomacy, Review etc.

1. INTRODUCTION

Diplomacy's methods, formats, and content have all changed as a result of the rapid advancements in information and communication technology. There is a lot of information that diplomats and the Foreign Service deal with. ICT has revolutionised information gathering and processing over the past few decades. Diplomatic information processing has gotten more analytical in recent years. Diplomatic practise has shown that the internet and social media can work together, despite their initial incompatibility. A foreign ministry's use of ICT is a means and/or communication instrument, not an aim in itself. Future diplomacy will be shaped by new ICT and diplomatic creativity. The economic upheaval brought on by liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation has also changed diplomacy. The desire for knowledge, openness, and open democratic processes has intensified as a result of this transformation. This shift has increased the number of global actors while also altering the nature of diplomacy.

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In modern civilization, the rapid development of ICT has altered social, economic, and political interactions. In digital politics, information access and control contribute to soft power and strengthen non-state actors in international relations. Expanded roles, requests for expanded outreach and responsibility, limited resources and a multi-stakeholder, interdisciplinary international arena all beset modern diplomatic service.

2. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To analyze and explain about the impact of science and technology on diplomacy.

3. METHODOLOGY

When it comes to supporting its claims, the article is both descriptive and analytical in nature. It makes extensive use of secondary sources to do so, including newspaper articles, magazine articles, and investigation reports, among other things.

4. DISCUSSION

Diplomacy necessitates knowledge. Information is crucial in diplomacy. Diplomats deal with sensitive and confidential information. Diplomats must conduct sensitive and discreet negotiations. ICT gives you the tools you need to run your business effectively. Diplomats are required to report to headquarters on economic, political, and social conditions. This has altered because of technology. Foreign missions used to get newspapers from diplomats. For example, diplomats might use social media tools to analyse material from the media, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), as well as the general public. It's never been easier to verify information. Google Scholar, Wikipedia, the CIA WORLD FACT Book, and other online tools provide diplomats with demographic data. The conventional "diplomatic bag" has been replaced by the "intranet," which may be tailored to satisfy the high confidentiality standards of diplomatic communications while also allowing for varying levels of access. Using the internet to gather data and disseminate it via a structured intranet has saved time and money for diplomatic information management and will continue to do so. When data is obtained in this manner, it is no longer timely or relevant. New information technologies and equipment have threatened its once unique position among diplomatic missions' information and communication activities in recent decades. Reading between the lines in a new location might be difficult, but speed isn't always a good indicator of thoroughness. The lines or knowing the larger context in which diplomatic missions are still active.

When face-to-face contact is not possible, ICT can save time, money, and lives. Computer-assisted communication can make group discussions more secure and less tense. The USIP mediated an ICT-led peace effort in Liberia to resolve the country's 14-year civil war. Bryant, the chairman of Liberia's National Transitional Government, held a virtual town hall meeting with Liberians in the Diaspora to explore peace prospects (Radunovic, 2010).

The time, space, and cost compressions provided by ICT have improved bilateral and multilateral discussions. ICT has and will be advantageous in talks in the post-recession environment, when ministerial overheads are fallen and budgets have been e-focused on militarism. By creating new internal and external information channels, ICT can aid in pre-negotiation and preparedness. ICT has improved the efficiency of each stage of the pre-

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negotiation process. Another significant difference between current and pre-information era diplomacy is the death of secrecy. Discerning diplomats knew "off the record" and "between we" were useless platitudes long before Edward Snowden and Julian Assange. Diplomatic cadets are instructed not to write a diplomatic cable that they wouldn't want to be in the news the next day. This has a significant impact on how professionals approach their work. It entails refraining from actions and words that you would be embarrassed to make in public, which aligns with the shift toward public diplomacy.

Conflict resolution, reconciliation, and preventive diplomacy all require information exchange. Through traditional and new media, ICT can assist diplomats in conflict resolution, reconciliation, and prevention. ICT can be used to raise awareness and publicise policy actions tailored to address specific challenges, to foster open dialogue, and to collect non-state actors' feedback on 'state thinking.' ICT can be used as a cyber-power booster to achieve desired outcomes in cyberspace or other domains (Nye, J, and S. 2012). Many individuals rely on information and communication technology. External and internal counterparts are no longer the diplomat's only audience. He must deal with bloggers who provide terrorists with graphic death tapes (Grant, R. 2004).

In the following scenarios, ICT can be used to manage public diplomacy interactions among relevant players: Diplomats aren't necessarily exclusive. Diplomacy is no longer conducted in closed, private circles. Diplomats are no longer limited to influencing citizens. (Granter. 2004). Diplomats should embrace democratisation and broaden their horizons in order to manage both old and new actors. Virtual desks and networks connecting major players like academics, NGOs, corporations, citizens, and the Diaspora, as well as active participation/interactions in the "blogosphere" and social media, can help new players like NGOs and citizens gain confidence, trust, and credibility. The sheer volume of data has led to a rise in medical and marketing specialisation and professionalization. Diplomacy prevails. Diplomats were once thought to be "well-rounded gentlemen" who lacked proper professional training.

4.1 Science and Technology's Impact on Diplomacy

Diplomacy is influenced by science. Diplomats are still catching up, but citizens have embraced the new digital world. The internet, the web, and digital photographs have transformed the diplomatic environment. The diplomatic climate was revolutionised by falling prices, increasing capacity, and faster application times. Smaller countries that collaborate with developing country partners are emerging as leaders in using science and technology to address global issues. When diplomacy operates in a multicolour world, diplomats are continually adapting their diplomatic approach to accommodate the fast-rising media and non-state actors. People-to-people diplomacy is the first movement in diplomacy.

Public diplomacy was previously commonplace, and diplomatic proxy communication is still vitally relevant. In the last century, the importance of governments and nation states has waned. A government job no longer confers advantages; rather, it raises suspicion about the person who holds the position. The world we live in today is shaped by corporations, civil society organisations, cultural movements, and, most crucially, ideas. More people are influenced by online platforms like Facebook and Twitter than by most governments. Evidence is received and shared in a variety of ways, with foreign ministries at the centre of statecraft. In this digital age, the amount, diversity, and velocity of 'Big Data' are unrivalled for diplomacy. In this globally networked civilization, separating the signal from the noise of

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facts is a matter of science diplomacy. Traditional diplomatic services maintained a strict protocol for transmitting confidential information, directives, and reports. The MFA's evaluation procedure has been revolutionised by the advent of ICTs; ambassadors are now encouraged to offer personal feedback on how to improve their job. Regular meetings between headquarters and missions or diplomats overseas, as well as meetings among MFA central administration leaders for cross-border or regional engagement projects, can be conducted via phone, video, or telepresence.The use of ICTs is essential to the current social order, but this is especially true during the on-going global epidemic caused by COVID-19. This study found that various players, including people, non-profit groups, and governments from around the world are using information and communication technologies (ICTs) to respond to the COVID problem.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have replaced traditional diplomatic methods such as formal correspondence and circulars. Digital, rapid transmission and direct contact between departments or persons via messenger systems all help to increase coordination between the two. Internet messaging and social media can be used by diplomatic missions to transmit less important, informal information. Forum discussions, shared personal and departmental calendars, and task lists can save time and enhance productivity. Document submissions and reporting have been improved through the use of ICT. The state secretariat no longer receives contributions via postal mail; instead, divisions now transmit them electronically to the secretary of state, who then distributes them to the appropriate directorates. In order to send and receive encrypted data over a safe network, email is a common choice. It has become increasingly difficult for international politics to maintain a sense of distance and time. State-to-state transitions are reduced by using ICT. "The word of America's freedom in 1776 took roughly as long to reach Southern America via ship" as the September 2011 attack on the twin towers in New York City.

4.2 Pros and Cons

Solving global problems requires the application of science and technology. Global challenges are at the heart of science and technology diplomacy. Developing nations and Japanese universities can collaborate on research through Japan's ODA (Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development) programme (SATREPS). Global challenges including the environment/energy, bio resources, disaster mitigation and prevention, and infectious disease control are all made better with its help. Researchers from Hokkaido University and the University of Zambia are working together to find out how the Ebola virus spreads and create diagnostic tools for it. STEM has played an important role in strengthening ties between the two countries. Technology cooperation benefits both Japan and its partners, strengthening bilateral connections. For this reason, Japan's assets and the demands of the partner countries have to be addressed separately. It was Japan that sponsored the 2nd Open Forum for STIE Cooperation in July 2014, following the 14th US-Japan JWLC Meeting on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. Scientific knowledge, decision-making, and innovative people resources were all investigated by academic and industrial experts from both countries. Joint research related to ODA helps to strengthen bilateral relations between Japan and developing countries. With a multipolar world system, diplomats must continuously deal with the consequences of ICT and adjust their diplomatic approach to fit in with the burgeoning media and non-state actors. Technological proficiency

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and the ability to converse fluently with a wide range of people are essential for diplomats. Modern diplomacy requires high-performance social media abilities, the capacity to analyse massive data, and the ability to conduct focus groups and polls. An all-purpose diplomat is certain to fail.

The growth of technology has made diplomacy more dynamic, entertaining, and innovative. 'Public diplomacy,' as it has come to be known, is the result of technological advancements in traditional diplomacy. As a commercial tool in the international arena, it connects diplomats not only with their counterparts but also with new activists like citizens, NGOs, journalists and others and directly communicates with them using tools like image development, reputation management and multiparty dialogue.

5. CONCLUSION

The use of ICTs has altered the way traditional diplomacy is conducted. It is quite evident that revolutionary ICT will have an effect on modern diplomats, and that impact will either assist or complement their work. The use of ICT has also facilitated diplomatic efforts in terms of space and time. In the realm of international politics, the tools of communication and the surrounding environment have shrunk both space and time. The development of ICT weakens traditional methods of diplomacy by reducing the need for secrecy, increasing openness and transparency, and levelling the playing field. The use of virtuality in diplomacy and diplomatic relations makes for more efficiency and can be a useful instrument of leverage. The role of information and communications technology in international relations is most beneficial to developing countries and countries emerging from conflict.

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