

FIELDS OF DIPLOMACY STUDIES OF THE ACTIVITIES OF POLAND

Summary

Diplomacy is understood and interpreted today in various ways, and is studied from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Today, too, international intercourse involves more players, more dimensions, and more tools, due to processes such as globalisation, digitalisation, and new means of communication.

The theme of the monograph is fields (or more precisely, subfields or areas) of contemporary diplomacy as broadly understood. Those fields were identified from studying Polish foreign policy documents, in particular the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' *Polish Foreign Policy Strategy 2017–2021*, and a set of examples of activities undertaken by Poland in international relations. Thus, the analysis mainly covers the years 2017–2021, although, where necessary, earlier or later examples are also drawn on. The purpose of the volume is to find answers to the main questions posed, namely: How has diplomacy evolved, and how is the concept best understood nowadays? What is field theory, and how can it be applied when studying diplomacy? What fields (subfields) of diplomacy can be identified when examining Poland's activities in foreign relations? The answers, arrived at using field theory, are given in the subsequent chapters. The main argument is that diplomacy is evolving, covers the various areas (fields) analysed in the book, and is now being practised by many actors.

The book consists of an Introduction, six chapters, and a Conclusion. Chapter 1 explains the field theory developed by the American political scientist Quincy Wright, and expands the context to include other field theories, including that of sociologist Pierre Bourdieu. The aim is to bring Wright's approach back into use and apply it to Diplomatic Studies, as well as to place diplomacy in a wider social context. Wright's approach, which he originally applied in order to extract the discipline of International Relations, is particularly valuable because it makes it possible to distinguish the

fields of diplomacy analysed in the volume. Chapter 1 goes on to cover the content of Diplomatic Studies, that is, achievements by both international and Polish scholars, and concludes by analysing diplomacy as a structure, as a profession (the foreign service), and as a status. Chapters 2 to 6 identify fields of diplomacy: cultural diplomacy, public diplomacy, economic diplomacy, science diplomacy, and digital diplomacy. They contain both theoretical and practical considerations, and are illustrated with examples of activities by Poland.

In the course of the research, a variety of both primary and secondary materials were used. These included official documents, reports, and other texts available publicly (mainly online), as well as works by international and Polish authors.

The Conclusion section summarises the discussion and sets out the main lessons learned. The research hypothesis was confirmed, that is, as diplomacy has evolved new fields have emerged, and it is practiced in new ways, with many different actors involved.

The book is addressed to scholars of Diplomatic Studies, International Relations and Political Science, and to practitioners such as diplomats, staff of international organisations, officials of public institutions, and so on. Hopefully, the volume will also inspire other researchers to conduct their own studies on diplomacy using the field theory approach.

Proofread by Anthony Sloan