

legal transactions. Diplomacy as a uniform system based on generally accepted rules and directed by diplomatic hierarchy having a fixed international status is of quite modern growth.

The history of diplomacy dates back to ancient times when tribes, city-states and other communities sought ways of communicating and establishing relations with one another. But the tradition leading to the present world system of international relations originated in ancient Greece. The Greek developed a diplomatic vocabulary, principles of international conduct and elements of international law. In brief, there already existed an international system of multilateral diplomacy. During the **fifteenth** and sixteenth centuries the French system of diplomacy<sup>4</sup> began to emerge and dominate international relations.

Diplomacy was then a game of wits played in a narrow circle, and etiquette took an incredible amount of time. The 'haute diplomatic' appeared as a process of exalted haggling, conducted with an utter disregard of the ordinary standards of morality, but with the exquisite politeness and in accordance with more and more elaborated rules.

At the time in France, England and Spain royal secretaries were appointed, whose responsibilities included the management of foreign affairs. Resident missions in other countries, staffed by secretaries, can be regarded as the forerunners of the modern embassies. France was the first European state to establish a modern foreign ministry in 1626. Russia followed in 1720, when Peter the Great created College of Foreign Affairs and Russia too acquired its own ministry. Britain was **to be a late starter**.

The **French** diplomacy developed several key features of **contemporary** diplomacy - resident ambassadors, the art of conducting secret negotiations, ceremonial duties and protocol

Since then the character of diplomacy itself has undergone a great change. This change is threefold: *firstly*, there has developed a greater sense of community of interests between nations, with a number of international institutions being set up; *secondly*, owing to the rise of democracy diplomacy finds its expression in parliament assemblies and in the press; *thirdly*, the position of the diplomatic agent has changed and the modern means of communication have contributed a great deal to the change.

As a consequence, the tasks of the new multilateral diplomacy have been broadened. Diplomacy now involves not only presenting credentials and participating in the diplomatic circuits and various functions of a national capital but also it requires special art of explaining and defending national policies at a global level in a variety of international organisations. Diplomats working both in foreign offices and international organizations contribute to gathering information, laying the groundwork for new initiatives of their governments, reducing interstate friction, creating and amending international rules.

(from *On History of Diplomacy*)

#### Exercise 4

*Discuss with the class.*

1. What or who are the authorized agents through which international relations are maintained?
2. Why was old diplomacy dominated by the French system?
3. Why was Britain 'a late starter' in establishing resident missions?
4. What are the tasks of a resident ambassador?
5. What international and regional **organizations** were **established in** the twentieth century?
6. What role have they played and continue to play in **international relations**?

#### Exercise 5

*Explain the word combinations from the text in English.*

legal transaction; diplomatic hierarchy; presentation of credentials; protocol; diplomatic circuits; information gathering; laying the groundwork for new initiatives; reducing interstate friction.

#### Exercise 6

*Give the English equivalents from the text to the following.*

искусство ведения переговоров на международном уровне  
поддерживать взаимоотношения