New Release: The Art of Diplomacy

Tobias Bunde/Benedikt Franke (Eds.): The Art of Diplomacy: 75+ Views Behind the Scenes of World Politics, Berlin: Econ, 392 pp., € 78,00, ISBN 9783430210775.
Forthcoming February 2022

Key Information

- The book "The Art of Diplomacy: 75+ Views Behind the Scenes of World Politics" will be published by Econ-Verlag in Berlin to coincide with the Munich Security Conference 2022. The volume will be available in bookstores from February 24, 2022.
- The editors are Tobias Bunde, Director of Research & Policy at the Munich Security Conference (MSC), and Benedikt Franke, CEO of the MSC. They were assisted by MSC staff members Ulrike Strauß and Nardine Luca.
- More than 90 renowned authors from around the world contributed to the book – from sitting presidents and foreign ministers to Nobel Peace Prize laureates and heads of international organizations. All provide their personal views behind the scenes of world politics.
- This unique group of authors decided to reflect on the art of diplomacy on the occasion of Wolfgang Ischinger’s 75th birthday in April 2021, the longtime chairman of the Munich Security Conference and a diplomat of world renown.
- The high-quality coffee-table book is illustrated with many large-format photographs by MSC “court photographer” Michael Kuhlmann.
- A German translation will also be published by Econ in April/May under the title “Die Kunst der Diplomatie: 75+ Blicke hinter die Kulissen der internationalen Politik” (ISBN: 9783430210713).

Main Sections of the Book

- The contributions in the first part of the book discuss the most important elements of diplomacy. These include not only factors such as trust or personal exchange, but also formats such as "back channels" or so-called "track-two" formats with the participation of experts. Readers also learn what tea or jazz have to do with diplomacy.
- The second part deals with fundamental challenges for diplomacy. Topics covered range from how to peacefully contain increasing great power rivalries to the impact of the digital revolution.
- In the third part, the authors highlight specific episodes in diplomacy – from the experiences on the road to German unification to negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program or the Cyprus conflict. The essays focus not only on the successes but also on the failures or remaining challenges of diplomacy.
- In the final section, Jan Eliasson, Catherine Ashton, Jens Stoltenberg, and Wolfgang Ischinger share some personal lessons from their diplomatic experiences.

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