

Introduction

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To cite this article: T.G. Otte (2021) Introduction, *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 32:2, 219-222, DOI: [10.1080/09592296.2021.1913353](https://doi.org/10.1080/09592296.2021.1913353)

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09592296.2021.1913353>



Published online: 04 May 2021.



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Introduction

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Diplomacy is the art of the possible, not of the ideal.

Erik Goldstein.¹

‘*Si monumentum requiris, circumspice.*’ The advice to visitors to Christopher Wren’s most famous creation applies no less to the honorand of this collection of essays. A founder-editor of *Diplomacy & Statecraft* and then for a long time its sole editor, Erik Goldstein established the journal as the pre-eminent periodical in the fields of international history, diplomatic studies, and international relations. That these fields are widely recognised as producing some of the best of current scholarship owes something to his shrewd stewardship of the journal, which under him has become—and has remained since—a fixed point in the academic landscape. Such services to scholarship often go unnoticed and unrecognised. A group of friends and colleagues, drawn from different phases of his career, have come together to pay tribute to Erik’s contribution with this offering on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

No less important, Erik’s contribution to the wider field of international history, diplomacy, and statecraft—both past and present—consists of a significant body of scholarly works. His career bears a transatlantic aspect; his research interests, however, transgress the Atlantic world. The product of Tufts and Cambridge, he taught at both universities before moving to Birmingham (1984–1998), where he helped to create a vibrant graduate programme in international studies, and then to Boston University (1998–present), whose Department of International Relations (now the Pardee School of Global Studies) he served as chair for twelve years.

Erik cut his teeth as a professional historian on the 1919 peace settlement, with which period his name remains closely associated.² Periods of wider systemic change are, in fact, a significant focus of his output.³ It is the hallmark of his writings that they delineate with great lucidity and precision the variegated organisational foreign policy structures and the different networks of people at work within them. What gives them their special flavour is the emphasis on placing foreign policy-making processes in broader contexts. They include domestic matters.⁴ Crucially, they also encompass deeper

intellectual and other currents. Nor do they ignore policy *cul-de-sacs* into which internal deliberations not infrequently led. Appreciating routes not taken invariably makes for a more discerning understanding of past decisions.⁵

Underlying Erik's work is a subtle sense for the intricate realities of international politics and for the significance of contingency in them, especially the role of personalities, their foibles, follies, and failings. His appreciation of these aspects is embedded, however, in a firm grasp of the 'hard' elements of power, particularly—an important consideration in twentieth-century international affairs—of armaments.⁶ Geopolitical constraints also play an important role in his historical analyses—Namier's rule of 'odd and even numbers' is a frequent point of reference in his lectures and talks, themselves models of lucidity, inspiring and entertaining. Geopolitics has often suggested its own particular focus of research.⁷ Here, the varied and complex history of the Levant and the wider Eastern Mediterranean region has exercised a particular and never flagging attraction for Erik's scholarship.⁸

Like any good historian, he appreciates that political history—broadly defined—develops far greater explanatory force if it encompasses cultural and other background influences that shape national and international discourses. Cultural diplomacy and transnational exchanges in the heritage and preservation movements, especially in a transatlantic context, form another area to which his scholarship has made an important contribution.⁹ Foreign policy is not made by politicians and officials alone but throughout history has benefitted from a significant input by historians and other academics. In this area too Erik's work has added enormously to our understanding of such processes, just as he himself has taken a very practical interest in the training of budding diplomats, which began with his participation in the British government's Know How Fund programme for diplomats from former Soviet-bloc countries in the early 1990s.¹⁰

With these concerns, perhaps inevitably, comes a deep appreciation of the tools of international statecraft which is the golden thread that runs through Erik Goldstein's *oeuvre*. This takes two forms. There is the historian's emphasis on the need for historical contextualisation in studying the evolution of modern diplomatic practice; but there is also an abiding interest in the functioning of the present-day international system.¹¹

Erik Goldstein's contribution to the growing field of diplomacy and statecraft as a teacher and mentor, friend and colleague, and scholar and writer has touched the lives of many, and it will continue to do so. The contributors to this collection feel it a privilege to offer these essays in honour of the man and the scholar. Bach's 'Musical Offering' was on a theme by a king. This collection does not aspire to the sublime heights of Bachian counterpoint and fugues, but it does play on major themes that Erik Goldstein developed in his own works.

A global pandemic is perhaps not to the best of times for producing a *festschrift*, and it is with profound regret that we record that two contributions—though fortunately not their authors—became COVID-casualties.

Notes

- 1 *Winning the Peace: British Diplomatic Strategy, Peace Planning, and the Paris Peace Conference, 1916–1920* (Oxford, 1991), 279.
- 2 Most importantly, *Winning the Peace; The First World Wars Peace Settlements: International Relations, 1918–25* (London, 2002) (Italian translation: *Gli accordi di pace dopo la Grande guerra, 1919–25* (Milan, 2005)); ‘The Eastern Question: The Last Phase,’ in M. Dockrill and J. Fisher, eds., *The Paris Peace Conference, 1919* (London, 2001), 141–55.
- 3 *Inter alia*, ed., *The End of the Cold War* (London, 1990); ed., *Wars and Peace Treaties* (London and New York, 1992); (with Igor Lukes), eds., *The Munich Crisis: New Interpretations and the Road to World War II* (co-editor) (London, 1999); ‘Britain and the First Cold War,’ in M. Hopkins et al., eds., *Britain and the Cold War, 1945–1964: New Perspectives* (London, 2003), 7–14, 193–95.
- 4 Here especially, ‘The Peacemakers and the British Homefront,’ in M. Boemke, ed., *Germany and Versailles: A Reassessment after Seventy-Five Years* (Cambridge, 1998), 47–66.
- 5 See for instance, ‘Hertford House: The Naval Intelligence Geographical Section and Peace Conference Planning, 1917–1919,’ *The Mariner’s Mirror*, 72/1 (1986): 85–88; ‘British Peace Aims and the Eastern Question: The Political Intelligence Department and the Eastern Committee, 1918,’ *Middle Eastern Studies*, 23/4 (1987): 419–36; ‘New Diplomacy and the New Europe at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919: The A.W.A. Leeper Papers,’ *East European Quarterly*, 21/4 (1988): 393–400; ‘The Foreign Office and Political Intelligence, 1917–20,’ *Review of International Studies*, 14/4 (1988): 275–88; ‘Neville Chamberlain, The British Official Mind and the Munich Crisis,’ *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 10/2 (1992): 276–92; ‘British Diplomatic Strategy and the Locarno Conference,’ in M. Dockrill and B.J.C. McKercher, eds., *Diplomacy and World Power: Studies in British Foreign Policy, 1890–1951* (Cambridge, 1996), 115–35; ‘The British Official Mind and the United States, 1919–42,’ in T.G. Otte and C.A. Pagedas, eds., *Personalities, War and Diplomacy* (London, 1997), 66–80; ‘The New Europe and the Round Table,’ in A. Bosco and A. May, eds., *The Round Table: The Empire/Commonwealth and British Foreign Policy* (London, 1998), 437–50.
- 6 E.g. (with John H. Maurer), eds., *The Washington Conference, 1921–22: Naval Rivalry, East Asian Stability, and the Road to Pearl Harbour* (London and Portland, OR, 1993); ‘Disarmament, Arms Control, and Arms Reduction,’ in M. Hennessey and B.J.C. McKercher, eds., *War in the Twentieth Century: Reflections at Century’s End* (Westport, CT, 2003), 45–64.
- 7 See, ‘The British Official Mind and Europe,’ *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 8/3 (1997): 165–78; ‘Greece: the Imperatives of Geopolitics,’ *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*, 22/1 (1998): 169–184; and ‘Europe and Interaction with the Non-European World since 1945,’ in Mary Fullbrook, ed., *Europe Since 1945: Short Oxford History of Europe* (Oxford, 2000), 240–74.
- 8 Especially, ‘British Peace Aims and the Eastern Question: The Political Intelligence Department and the Eastern Committee, 1918,’ *Middle Eastern Studies*, 23/4 (1987): 419–36; ‘Great Britain and Greater Greece, 1917–20,’ *Historical Journal*, 32/3 (1989), 339–56; ‘Megale Vrettania kai e Megale Ellas,’ *Eleftheria* (27 November 1989); ‘Holy

Wisdom and British Foreign Policy, 1918–1922: The St. Sophia Redemption Agitation,’ *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*, 15/1 (1991), 36–64; ‘The New Europe and the New Greece,’ in P. Carabott, ed., *Greece and Europe in the Modern Period: Aspects of a Troubled Relationship* (London, 1995), 38–54; ‘The British Official Mind and the Lausanne Conference, 1922–23,’ *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 14/2 (2003): 185–206; ‘Religion and British Policy towards the Ottoman Empire, 1875–1923,’ in Keith Robbins and John Fisher, eds., *Religion and Diplomacy: Religion and British Foreign Policy, 1815 to 1941* (Dordrecht, 2009), 85–102; ‘Redeeming Holy Wisdom: Britain and St. Sophia,’ in Melanie Hall, ed., *Towards World Heritage: International Origins of the Preservation Movement, 1870–1930* (London, 2011), 45–62; and also his forthcoming monograph *The Great Powers and the East Mediterranean World, 1798–Present*.

- 9 See “Quis Separabit”: The Order of St. Patrick and Anglo–Irish Relations, 1922–1934,’ *Historical Research*, 62/147 (1989): 70–80; ‘Origins of the Anglo–American Special Relationship, 1880–1914,’ in Gaynor Johnson, ed., *Peacemaking, Peacemakers and Diplomacy 1880–1939: Essays in Honour of Professor Alan Sharp* (Newcastle, 2010), 3–16; (with Melanie Hall), ‘Writers, the Clergy, and the “Diplomatization” of Culture: The Sub-Structures of Anglo–American Diplomacy, 1820–1914,’ in Antony Best and John Fisher, eds., *On the Fringes of Diplomacy* (London, 2011), 127–54; ‘Diplomacy in the Service of History: Anglo–American Relations and the Return of the Bradford History of Plymouth Colony, 1898,’ *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 25/1 (2014): 26–40; Erik Goldstein, ‘Building the Anglo–American Relationship: The John Robinson Memorial Church, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire,’ *Congregational History*, 9/2 (2019): 67–80.
- 10 See ‘Historians Outside the Academy: The Experience of the Foreign Office Historical Section, 1917–1920,’ *Historical Research*, 63/151 (1990), 195–211; ‘The Round Table and the New Europe,’ *The Round Table*, no. 346 (1998): 177–189; ‘“A Prominent Place Would Have to Be Taken by History”: The Origins of a Foreign Office Historical Section,’ in T.G. Otte, ed., *Diplomacy and Power: Studies in Modern Diplomatic Practice* (London, 2012), 85–102. For the history of the Know How Fund see Keith A. Hamilton, *The Know How Fund: The Early Years* (London, 1997) and id., *Transformational Diplomacy after the Cold War: Britain’s Know How Fund in Post-Communist Europe, 1989–2003* (London and New York, 2013).
- 11 Here especially (with Michael G. Fry and Richard Langhorne), *Guide to International Relations and Diplomacy* (London, 2002); *The Politics of the State Visit* (Leicester, 1997) (= *Diplomatic Studies Programme Discussion Papers*, no. 26); ‘The Origins of Summit Diplomacy,’ in David Dunn, ed., *Diplomacy at the Highest Level: The Evolution of International Summitry* (London, 1996), 23–37; ‘Developments in Protocol,’ in J. Kurbalija, ed., *Modern Diplomacy* (La Valletta, 1998), 49–56; ‘Politics of the State Visit,’ *Hague Journal of Diplomacy*, 3/2 (2008): 153–78.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

Notes on contributor

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