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**Thesis on sociology of
the diplomacy**

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1. Introduction

Contemporary sociological thought is directed, among other things, at the development of so-called special sociology. Sociology has a special facility for the partial study of social systems or certain areas of social institution actions. Political sociology, sociology of science, sociology of sport, sociology of the family, sociology of religion are just some of the specialized fields of contemporary thought of sociology.

Studies of diplomacy have not yet been the object of sociology. Contemporary systems of sociological thinking do not meet the new trend in special sociology - sociology of diplomacy. It is currently treated in the context of Political Sociology and has not yet been the subject of a special scientific research. The aim of this paper precisely is to initiate the establishment of the new discipline of sociology – the sociology of diplomacy.

2. Thesis for a sociology of diplomacy

Through diplomacy, there has been created a unique system of communication and actions allowing states to protect their interests in a competitive interstate and international environment.¹ Diplomatic action goal is to maximise the benefit to the interest of the state, nation or society. However, to maximise the benefit is not an end in itself. It must be carried out in rational basis: by taking into account the interests of another state and respect of international norms.² Only through these principles, is preservation of peace, its realisation (in the event that a conflict has erupted) or avoidance of war, possible.

I use the term thesis to forward a theoretical review of the idea of sociology of diplomacy through a theoretically summarized statement which is to bring the essence of a complex of statements on its application. In the context of analysing the relationship between diplomacy and sociology it can arrive at such scientific conclusions, which would result in the production of a new discipline - sociology of diplomacy.

Diplomacy should be understood in this case as communicative activities for the protection of national interests, in a process of continuous and intensive communication between governments, nations and other international entities, with the aim of representing and protecting the interests of the state, nation and citizens, aiming to influence attitudes and forms of action of actors in favor of citizens, national and social benefits, or in order to solve certain problems.

Sociology of diplomacy is a special discipline of sociology which studies social interaction (eg, actors, structures, processes, systems) in the field of diplomacy. Social interaction in diplomacy is conducted between state actors, coded according to international rules, customs and principles.³ So, the sociology of diplomacy is focused primarily on studying the field of diplomacy, relations between states and functioning international organisations. It entails both theoretical and empirical dimensions.

Sociology of diplomacy is pretty close to the discipline of political sociology. Political sociology deals with the analysis of social policy prerequisites or structures at certain political order or political action,

structure and functions of political institutions, and follows the course of the decision-making processes in politics and the impact of such actions on society.⁴ Dissimilarly, the sociology of diplomacy deals with the analysis of preconditions of interstate actions, structure and function of the diplomatic institutions and analyses the role that diplomatic service plays in determining the foreign policy of a certain country. Therefore the discipline of sociology of diplomacy is not only close to the sociology of politics, but also with state sociology, political philosophy, sociology of culture, sociology of organisation, etc..

The hermeneutic method of description, understanding and explanation of the sociological phenomenon of diplomacy creates a good basis for formulating thesis of a theory of sociology of diplomacy. These thesis can be formulated in following way:

1. There is no area in world politics that “has reflected a greater gap between experience and theory than diplomatic statecraft.”⁵ Sociology of diplomacy will lead to relativism of superficial views and knowledge on the phenomenon of diplomacy (which are full of taboos and prejudices). Sociological research of diplomacy will affect in recognition of scientific sociological mechanisms for negotiation, conflict prevention and inhibition of interstate conflicts.

2. Diplomacy is a social practice, a nested phenomenon. Sociology of diplomacy will enrich sociological theory through examining a specific area of social interaction in contemporary societies that will be create new spaces of scientific knowledge.

3. It has not been proven that the current political sociology is concerned with diplomacy. It is plausible to analyze the sociological phenomenon of diplomacy as part of the field of political sociology. It is useful to emphasize the sociology of diplomacy in this area.

4. Diplomacy is a differentiated activity from other forms of state action with few visible interactions and interpretation processes. Diplomacy is “a timeless, existential phenomenon”⁶ and sociology of diplomacy aims to explore diverse forms of action in which diplomacy is exercised. Basic objects of sociology of diplomacy are representation of the state, protection, information and reporting, negotiation and relationships between the states, types of diplomacy, embassies, consulates and missions as diplomatic institutions, their communication with sending and receiving states, their status in relation to international organizations, immunity and privileges, and the phenomenon of localism.

5. Sociology of diplomacy can offer a large number of other forms of special sociologic cognition and general sociology. The discipline tracks other special directions of diplomacy of sociology that has to do with interstate communication structures, international norms to establish relations between countries, the role and impact that diplomatic relations has on country's foreign policy and political determinations of the host country. A scientific reflection on these segments would be a great help to both the state as an institution and sociology as a science.

3. Concepts of a sociology of diplomacy

Diplomacy is a segment of state actions and the actors are state representatives. Their actions have an organic link with the other segments of the state action. They are determined on the basis of political norms and values as defined by the state.

Diplomacy is an interstate activity (a) voluntary, (b) specific, (c) separated and (d) normative.

a) Establishment of diplomatic relations is a question of will. States can not be forced to act against its will. Diplomatic relations are established only when state representatives come to the conclusion that there is a mutual interest.

b) Diplomatic relations are not guaranteed to sustainable. The risk of cessation of diplomatic relations is present at all times. There are a variety of reasons that may lead to suspension or termination of diplomatic relations.

c) Diplomacy is quite a specific activity. Most diplomatic meetings are not published. They are developed among diplomatic representatives on various topics and the public understands only the final results of a negotiation process.

d) Diplomatic activity is based on internationally accepted normative acts. The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and the Consular Relations (1963), comprise two main acts on the basis of which is regulated system of interstate communication and diplomatic action. The principle of

reciprocity and priority of international acts before national ones in relation between states constitutes a basis for action in diplomacy.

Sociology of diplomacy may include three major areas:

- a) Interstate diplomatic relations,
- b) Negotiation processes, and
- c) Diplomatic representation functions

Interstate diplomatic relations – The creation of diplomacy as an institutional form of interstate communication results in the importance of interdependency in interstate relations. As the relations between states are very complex and highly complicated, sociology of diplomacy pays special attention to analysing reports on mutual recognition, interstate conflict, interstate war, peace, interstate border etc.. Interstate historical and political perspectives can help understand social interaction between actors. For this topic a very rich literature exists, in the form of memories and in analysing social interaction between diplomatic actors. Sociology of diplomacy is examining, besides social interaction, the social structures in interstate relations and analysed interactions between state structures and other subjects of international relations.

Negotiation processes - Sociology of diplomacy can play an important role in the scientific treatment of interstate conflict situations, conflict prevention and peace building in post-conflict environments. Negotiation processes are fundamental mechanisms of action in diplomacy.⁷ Through negotiation states provide, protect and realise their interests. The negotiating action in diplomacy represents the diplomatic behaviour of professional actors oriented by its stakeholders in order to achieve the diplomatic duties. In the process of negotiating, a diplomatic actor should take into consideration the views, beliefs and interests of the other interactive actor (other state representatives).⁸ He must take into account not only the perceptions and actions of the other representatives, but also social norms and values in a predetermined interaction process between two state actors. Therefore, in the context of diplomatic interaction we have to do with social interaction, which is oriented towards other actors, their way of behaviour, forecasting the behaviour of interactive partners and their perception after the occurrence. All these interactions are based on certain international norms without giving up

the basic principle: the protection of state interests that the diplomat represents.

Diplomatic functions - Functions of diplomatic missions are defined in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of the year 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963. These two conventions establish diplomatic representatives in a particular social position within the area they serve through immunity and privileges. Through the analysis of this phenomenon sociology of diplomacy reaches an important theoretical conclusion about what, how much should be the degree of protection of diplomats and to what extent to extend their privileges.

The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations defines five main functions of diplomacy:

- (a) Representing the sending State in the receiving State;
- (b) Protecting in the receiving State the interests of the sending State and of its nationals, within the limits permitted by international law;
- (c) Negotiating with the Government of the receiving State;
- (d) Ascertaining by all lawful means conditions and developments in the receiving State, and reporting there on to the Government of the sending State; and
- (e) Promoting friendly relations between the sending State and the receiving State, and developing their economic, cultural and scientific relations.⁹

Diplomacy should not be taken as a closed and self-acting universe. Moreover, diplomacy constitutes a system based on rules and norms with a political purpose, specified by the country's foreign policy.¹⁰ Even the degree of interaction with the receiving states is determined by the country's foreign policy. This fact makes diplomacy an integral part of the sending state's system, with a specific task and at a specific environment (outside the state).

Diplomacy as an institutional segment includes the operation of norms and values based on a predefined policy by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the sending country.¹¹ Bringing an ambassador in a foreign environment and social state is determined, to a large extent, by the rules, claims and interests of his state, the sending state. At the same time, he is obliged to strictly

adhere to international norms, which clearly define his field of actions and degree of immunity and privileges.

Therefore, when we talk about diplomacy as a social institution, we further consider the existence of forms of individual action based on rules and norms set in advance. These rules and regulations are affecting the balance of relations between states.

However, relations between countries are manifold. Among them occur not only friendships and harmonies, but also competition and conflict. Therefore, they are not only normal, but may also contain risks and drama.

Diplomacy contains, however, a particular structural approach, compared to other institutions of social action. It is also associated with other institutions through intense communication and interaction. Institutions such as politics, economy, culture and sport affect the institution of diplomacy, through their interaction, in their specific fields, with similar actors in the receiving state.¹² However, the degree of influence of these other social actors depends on the degree of interaction with the host country in specific areas and the degree of interstate relations between the sending and the receiving state.

4. Theories of a sociology of diplomacy

The theory of the sociology of diplomacy is based on the following theorists: Niccolo Machiavelli, Hugo Grotius, Ernest Satow, Harold Nicolson, and Henry Kissinger.

Niccolo Machiavelli (1469 - 1527) is a representative of the realism in the theory of a sociology of diplomacy. His concepts are uncompromising realism. He pushes for a strong state which would be able to defend itself. The diplomacy he considers is very important instrument of the state, when the Prince "wishes to do great things even he has acquired large armies."¹³ Machiavelli intricately describes the tasks and functions of an ambassador. He understands that the task of diplomats is to influence princes of the receiving state in the interests of the sending state. He believes that deceit and betrayal are necessary in the negotiations with other states as long as it for the interest of sending states.

Hugo Grotius (1583 - 1645) is another representative of realism in the theory of sociology of diplomacy. In his view, all aspects of relations between the countries have to go through international law. In his theoretical system,

which is presented in his book "De Jure Belli ac Pacis"¹⁴ he depicts diplomacy as a special role. Grotius believes that embassies at all times are helpful, but in wartime more important.¹⁵ He recommends negotiation, arbitration and the lot as three methods for preventing a war.¹⁶ All these three methods can be implemented by ambassadors. Grotius considers that the immunity of the ambassador is essential to effectively exercise his functions.

The British diplomat Ernest Satow (1843 -1929) is a representative of the idealistic concepts of the theory of the sociology of diplomacy. His works are not only simple memoir or historical, cultural and philological studies, but also a sociological analysis of diplomacy. His book "The Guide to Diplomatic Practice"¹⁷ is a classic book of sociology of diplomacy. Satow is among the first theorists who speaks about a "society of civilized nations".¹⁸ Satow notes the elaboration of the virtues of an ideal diplomat. Unlike Machiavelli, he rejects the view that a diplomat's main weapons are secrecy, deception, evasion and forgery. Instead, he prefers a civilized behavior, peaceful nature, a sharp wit and political ingenuity. An ideal diplomat, according to Satow's, should be equipped with virtues of prudence, foresight, penetration and wisdom, as well as "good nature, good health and good appearance."¹⁹

Sir Harold Nicolson (1886 - 1968) is a British theorist who lays his concepts of the ideal diplomat as an important element in the theory of sociology of diplomacy. He is regarded as "one of the few Wilsonian idealists in the British Foreign Office."²⁰ He is openly against the kind of international diplomacy before First World War, which was called as "old diplomacy" or "secret diplomacy", and supports the "new diplomacy" or "democratic diplomacy" based on the concepts of Woodrow Wilson through the expression of his famous "open covenants ..., openly arrived at."²¹ Nicolson does not consider at all crafty diplomat, because he could be "an incredible diplomat is sure it is a dangerous failure."²² Nicolson found that an ideal diplomat has to be fitted with seven basic virtues: boldness, accuracy, composure, character, patience, modesty and loyalty.

Henry Kissinger (* May 27, 1923) - is an American theorist and Former US State-Secretary. Theoretical concepts of Kissinger are three kinds: historical, philosophical and sociological. He represents realist positions in his sociological analysis of diplomacy. His diplomatic actions are based on national interests. Unlike Nicolson, Kissinger favors secret actions in diplomacy. In his political career, he was able to lead successful secret negotiations that led to the end of the Vietnam War, as well as to relax the

relations US with Russia and China. He reminds diplomatic actors that "politics is the art of the possible"²³ and not concentrate on unilateral diplomatic victory. Instead of unilateral diplomatic victory, he prefers a type of quiet diplomacy and step by step diplomatic actions.²⁴ In explaining the importance of quick actions, he finds that bureaucratic inertia can be a serious obstacle in the negotiation process. To avoid such obstacles, he prefers secret diplomacy to overcome state bureaucracy. Confidentiality and trust among the parties, according to him, avoid pressures on them.

5. Methods of a sociology of diplomacy

The hermeneutic method should be a basic method of the sociology of diplomacy. I see this method as a systematic and practical method to understand diplomatic communication in a reflective manner. In the tradition of hermeneutics as a comprehensive understanding method,²⁵ the hermeneutic method asks according to the conditions of understanding the actions and communication of diplomatic state representatives.

To achieve the goal of establishing of a sociology of diplomacy, there is need of a sociological explanation of the phenomena of diplomacy and the necessary scientific research procedures, theoretical and empirical, that are based on the hermeneutic methods of description, understanding and explanation.²⁶

The hermeneutic method of sociological description of diplomacy directs at describing the diplomatic behavior of states, taking into account their political, ideological, economic and cultural frameworks. The conclusions that can be drawn from the described method previously considered the analytical basis of the phenomenon of diplomacy.

The hermeneutic method of sociological understanding of the phenomenon of diplomacy aims to understand the behavior of diplomatic actions, certain acts of state and comparing them with international norms and values. Through this method creates a pattern recognition and interpretation of state actors.

The hermeneutic method of sociological explanation of the phenomenon of diplomacy aims to explain in what way diplomatic state actors work on establishing interstate situations, interstate normative interfaces and development of relations between states. Critical analysis of the behavior of state actors is an important part of the scientific method of sociology of diplomacy.

The goal of the hermeneutic method is to construct the social significance of diplomatic interactions (negotiations, conferences, bilateral meeting) and all kinds of interaction products (agreements, international conventions). This sociological perspective is important to highlight how the diplomatic institutions are operating to advance the interests of the state. The actions of diplomatic actors can be understood if they are analyzed in the relevant context for a specific situation leading to the problem. Research interest is oriented at the diplomatic conduct of states through internationally established diplomatic procedures, standards and rules to advance the interests of the state.

6. Conclusion

Development of a particular discipline of sociology, which is focused on diplomacy, can be based on the following prerequisites: the need for a further expansion of sociology and its disciplines on certain social phenomena such as diplomacy; diplomatic recognition as a scientific research object and the elimination of prejudices; the importance and impact the institution of diplomacy has on nations, states and societies; growing trend of the establishment of the international governmental organisations; and encouragement of the establishment of an analytical school for diplomacy as a phenomenon and institution.

The objects of scientific research of the sociology of diplomacy are diplomatic representations, states and international organisations. Through scientific research, significant empirical data on the processes of communication, war, peace, negotiation and disputes, can be obtained which could further serve as a guide for state representatives.

Establishment of a sociology of diplomacy as an independent discipline will be of particular interest to the social sciences. This may occur through a more detailed scientific research of diplomacy at the sociological level.

¹ Coplin, William D.: "Introduction to international politics", Prentice-Hall, INC., Englewood Cliffs, 1980 New Jersey, p. 256

² Deutsch, Karl W.: "The Analysis of Internal Relations", PRENTICE-HALL, INC., Englewood Cliffs, 1978 New Jersey, p. 165

³ Wilhelm, Andreas: "Außenpolitik – Grundlagen, Strukturen und Prozesse", R. Oldenbourg Verlag, München – Wien 2006, p. 177

⁴ Pappi, Franz: „Politische Soziologie“ in: Holtmann, Everhard (Bot.): „Politik-Lexikon“, Oldenbourg Verlag, München/Wien 2000, pp. 535

⁵ Jónsson, Christer/Hall, Martin: "Essence of Diplomacy", Palgrave Macmillan, Hampshire/New York 2005, p. 1

⁶ Ibid., p. 3

⁷ Berridge, G.R. / Keens-Soper, Maurice / Otte, T.G.: "Diplomatic Theory from Machiavelli to Kissinger", Palgrave, Hampshire/New York 2002, p.1

⁸ Berridge, Geof f R.: "Diplomacia – teori dhe praktike", Kolegji Universitar Victory, Prishtine 2007, p. 78

⁹ United Nations: "Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relation 1961", done at Vienna on 18 April 1961. Entered into force on 24 April 1964. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 500, p. 95

¹⁰ Hamilton, Keith/Langhorne, Richard: "The practice of Diplomacy: Its Evolution, Theory and Administration", Routledge, London 1995, p. 240

¹¹ Gyngell, Allan/Wesley, Michael: "Making Australian Foreign Policy", Cmbridge University Press, Cambridge 2003, p. 9

¹² Wilhelm, Dr. Andreas: "Außenpolitik – Grundlagen, Strukturen und Prozesse", R. Oldenbourg Verlag München/Wien 2006, p. 179

¹³ Berridge, G.R. / Keens-Soper, Maurice / Otte, T.G.: "Diplomatic Theory from Machiavelli to Kissinger", Palgrave, Hampshire/New York 2002, p.11

¹⁴ Grotius, Hugo: "On the Law of War and Peace(Lat.: De Jure Belli ac Pacis), Batoche Books Kitchener, Ontario 2001

¹⁵ Grotius, Hugo: "De Jure Belli ac Pacis" (Three books on the Law of War and Peace), Francis W. Kelsey, New York – London 1964, p. 442

¹⁶ Berridge, G.R.: "Grotius", in; Berridge, G.R. / Keens-Soper, Maurice / Otte, T.G.: "Diplomatic Theory from Machiavelli to Kissinger", Palgrave, Hampshire/New York 2002, p.53

¹⁷ Satow, Sir Ernest: "The Guide to Diplomatic Practice", Longman; 5th edition (February 5, 1979), London 1979

- ¹⁸ Otte, T.G.: "Satow", in: G.R. Berridge/Maurice Keens Soper/T.G. Otte: "Diplomatic theory from Machiavelli to Kissinger", Palgrave, New York 2002, p.129
- ¹⁹ Satow, Sir Ernest: "The Guide to Diplomatic Practice", Longman; 5th edition (February 5, 1979), London 1979, p. 183
- ²⁰ Otte, T.G.: "Nicolson", in: G.R. Berridge/Maurice Keens Soper dhe T.G. Otte: "Diplomatic theory from Machiavelli to Kissinger", Palgrave, New York 2002, p. 152
- ²¹ Ibid., p. 157
- ²² Nicolson, Harold: „Diplomacia“, Brezi 81, Prishtinë 2005, p. 110
- ²³ Kissinger, Henry: "White House years", Library of Congress, Washington 1979, p.701
- ²⁴ Otte, T.G.: "Kissinger", in: G.R. Berridge/Maurice Keens Soper dhe T.G. Otte: "Diplomatic theory from Machiavelli to Kissinger", Palgrave, New York 2002, p. 197
- ²⁵ Veraart, Albert/Wimmer, Reiner: „*Hermeneutik*“, in: Jürgen Mittelstraß (Hrsg.): „*Enzyklopädie Philosophie und Wissenschaftstheorie*“, Metzler, Stuttgart 2008, Bd. 3, p. 364–367.
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Biography

Dr. Sabri Kiqmari completed basic studies (german. Grundstudium) in 1997 at the University of Ruhr –Bochum (FRG), Masters studies completed in 2001 at the University Rheinische-Friedrich-Wilhelm in Bonn (Germany).

At Rheinische-Friedrich-Wilhelm Dr. Kiqmari has successfully defended PhD thesis at the Institute for Political Science and Sociology in 2007.

In the period 1989 - 1999 Dr. Sabri Kiqmari served as a correspondent of different kosovarian weekly magazines from Germany. During the years 2001 - 2005 he has worked as Media Analyst at Media Institute in Bonn. In 2006-2008 Dr. Kiqmari worked as a Lecturer at the Department of Sociology of the University of Prishtina and directed the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy at the International College University "Victory".

On the occasion of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Austria Dr. Kiqmari was sent on a diplomatic mission as Charge d' Affairs (October 19, 2008), while on October 14, 2009 was accredited as first Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to the Republic of Austria. November 2013 Dr. Kiqmari ended his mandate in

Austria. December 2013 he is accredited as the first Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo in Australia.

PUBLICATIONS :

2004: “*Balance*”, Publisher “Koçi”, Tirana 2004

2004: “*On idea of communitarism. Notion, aim and application in practice of communitarism theory by Amitai Etzioni*”, Institute for political and social studies “*Politika & shoqëria*”, Volume 7, No. 2 (14), Tirana 2004

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