

DIPLOMACY OF ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE): STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Parvina Mirayubova, MA student
Faculty of Political Science and Journalism
Department of International Relations
Adam Mickiewicz University
Poznan, Poland

Abstract

Diplomacy is the art of dealing with people in a sensitive and tactful way¹. There are many ways to look and analyze at diplomacy. As the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan said: "You can do a lot with diplomacy, but with diplomacy backed up by force you can get a lot more done." This paper examines issues pertaining to current the role and development of the diplomacy of Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and its strengths and weakness. The researcher tried to show some problems of adaptation of OSCE to current challenges. In view of the fact that it is the most extensive of all the existing organizations supporting security, at the same time being the youngest and possessing potential in the area of maintenance of stability. And in the end the researcher draws the conclusion that modern diplomacy will definitely depend on the direction into which the new world order is going to develop in the 21st century.

Keyword: diplomacy, international organizations, OSCE, UN, peace.

Introduction

Diplomacy required involvement in court politics, where power played a crucial role. Gaining a favorable reputation did matter, especially gained in the view of the receiving of sovereignty.²

Today « new actors »³ who start to render direct influence on the course of world events actively interfere with so-called world politics. It is a question of the new intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, regional and sub-regional economic, political and other groupings.

In the modern world, safety issues are still vital. The world community has been trying to develop some uniform mechanism for maintenance of security. This process originated with the formation of League of Nations and remains to be the most significant to this day.

Now, when the most important body of maintenance of the international security, the UN Security Council, has appeared to be insufficiently authoritative in prevention of numerous wars, it is difficult to talk about a constructive role of other regional formations, such as Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe(OSCE). Although the potential of this organization seems extensive, it still should use all the possibilities of realization its objectives and principles in practice. Even though the Yugoslavian events have shown inefficiency of peacekeeping actions of OSCE on the Balkans, the organization continues to play a constructive role in maintenance of stability in other regions of Europe and Asia.

¹ www.oxforddictionaries.com

² Henrikson Alan K., 2013 Sovereignty, diplomacy and democracy: the changing character of "international representation" – from state to self. The Fletcher Forum of the World Affairs (Special edition). p. 15

³ Mekhdiiev E. T. 2009. The role of Multilateral Diplomacy in the Age of Globalization: OSCE (Case Study). The bulletin of the Perm University.

Multilateral Diplomacy of OSCE

Speaking about multilateral diplomacy in conditions of globalization, one should consider official diplomacy, which traditionally was engaged in establishment and maintenance of interstate attitude. Recently no state participants has actively interfered with international relations (the nongovernmental organizations, the multinational corporation, a various sort of association, group of interests, firm, banks, etc.), which influenced the formation of the future world order⁴. So, the well-known expert in the field of the world politics J. Rosenau marked that “the states, official diplomatic entities are playing a significant role on the global arena”⁵.

At present OSCE is the European organization consisting of 56 states-participants. The organization carries out the activity according to chapter 8 of the Charter of the United Nations. Its main tool is to prevent the crisis situations, settlements of existing conflicts and restoring disputes in Europe. Nowadays, the organization is engaged in a wide range of issues, including the control over arms, preventive diplomacy, strengthening of measures of confidence and security, supervision over elections, as well as an economic and ecological security.

The OSCE carries out the activity through missions and actions. They provide active presence in the countries in need of assistance, and provide a mechanism for translating political decisions into concrete actions. Their work covers all stages of progress of the conflict and includes: the early prevention, preventive diplomacy, regulation of the conflict and post-disputed restoration. Basically, the missions of the organization face two problems: the settlement or prevention of conflicts on territories of the countries-members of OSCE and informing of crisis situations. The missions differ from each other on the number of the involved employees (from 3 up to 600 people) and on the specific targets defined by the appropriating mandate of OSCE⁶.

Currently, OSCE supports 8 missions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and in Minsk, in Ukraine, in Baku, Alma-Ata, Bishkek, Tashkent and Dushanbe⁷. However, the greatest popularity gained the ground with the missions developed by OSCE in territory of former Yugoslavia and Transcaucasia: their activity was covered in the international media and special political science journals. The foreign political scientists, in these regions of OSCE tried to recount the role of this active peacekeeping organization.

For example, the primary goal of the OSCE in Bosnia and Herzegovina (it is created on December, 8th 1995) was to monitor Bosnia and Herzegovina’s compliance with the general frame agreement (“Dayton Agreements”) and the consolidation of peace democracy and stability in the region⁸. The mission of OSCE in Kosovo played the leading part in the restoration of this territory and strengthening of democratic principles in general. Today, OSCE is the only organization of its kind, which differs from the other institutions of multilateral diplomacy in Europe. Here are its distinctive features:

- A comprehensive, universal and indivisible approach to security based on cooperation. The OSCE covers a range of issues such as arms control, preventive diplomacy, confidence-building and security measures, human rights, election observation, as well as economic and environmental security;
- All decisions within OSCE are taken by consensus, so all states parties shall have the same status⁹.

⁴ Baylis J, S. Smith. 1997. The Globalization of world Politics. An Introduction to International Relations. N.-Y., p., 258.

⁵ Rosenau J. N. 1997. Material and Imagined Community in globalized space // Globalization and Regional Communities: Geo-economic, Sociocultural and Security Implications for Australia. Toowomba (Australia), p., 24-40.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ <http://www.osce.org>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ OSCE Handbook. 3rd ed. Vienna, July 2002. URL: <http://www.osce.org>

Despite the listed features, criticism has been addressed towards usefulness of OSCE. Whatever the failures in peacekeeping activities this organization seems to get back on its track again in the beginning of the 21st century. Certain problems of compliance with human rights, basic democratic freedom and the impeachment of the European value became the benchmarks of its activity.

Conclusion

The main goal of diplomacy in the 21st century is to strengthen cooperation and progress of interstate dialogue in the area of boiling issues linked with the settlement of conflicts and disputes, tackling with international terrorism, or enhancing regional and global security and so on.¹⁰

Accordingly, diplomacy is to be tested for its strengths. It needs to adapt to modern conditions, and also has to play the connecting function between the states and non-state actors of international relations.

After all, diplomacy remains the main tool for managing international processes. The accumulated experience of diplomacy in strengthening interstate dialogue will provide a useful service to states and other entities on international stage. They surely contribute to the creation of new, more secure and predictable world in the 21st century. I believe that the peace around the world in this bad patch of ours is achievable only through diplomatic means.

Biography of author

Parvina Mirayubova is a current MA student at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Department of International Relations, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. She earned a Master of Philology from Saint-Petersburg State University in Saint-Petersburg in 2012. She studied Linguistics in the Scholarship Program of the Government of the Republic of Poland for Young Academicians in Warsaw and Gdansk. Currently, her research interests are political science, international relations and diplomacy.

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¹⁰ Mekhdiev E. T. 2009. *The role of Multilateral Diplomacy in the Age of Globalization: OSCE (Case Study).* *The bulletin of the Perm University.*