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Diplomatic Theory from Machiavelli to Kissinger

G. R. Berridge

Maurice Keens-Soper

and

T. G. Otte

palgrave

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Preface

There is a long tradition in the Department of Politics at the University of Leicester of teaching political theory through the 'political classics', and three collections of essays providing guidance to these texts have been published by members of the Department or persons at one time associated with it. It was natural, therefore, when diplomatic theory subsequently began to be taught in the Department as well, that thought should turn to producing a guide to the 'diplomatic classics'. These however proved more difficult to identify, and it has been necessary, therefore, as a rule, to make the diplomatic *oeuvre* of selected authors, rather than single texts, the organizing principle of this particular collection. However, the very scarcity of diplomatic classics and the consequent need to sift through many works for valuable reflections on diplomacy, perhaps makes a book of this sort especially valuable. It is our hope that it will not only stimulate interest in diplomatic theory but for the first time provide an accessible text for courses on this subject.

I am responsible for the Introduction to this volume but it has benefited greatly from the suggestions of Maurice Keens-Soper and T. G. Otte, the member of our trio who, I am bound to note with regret, is not associated with the University of Leicester. The Introduction explains the focus of the book, indicates the character of diplomatic theory, and highlights some of the major themes which emerge from the subsequent chapters. The chapters themselves are ordered chronologically and each is rounded off with suggestions for further reading.

G. R. Berridge
Leicester

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