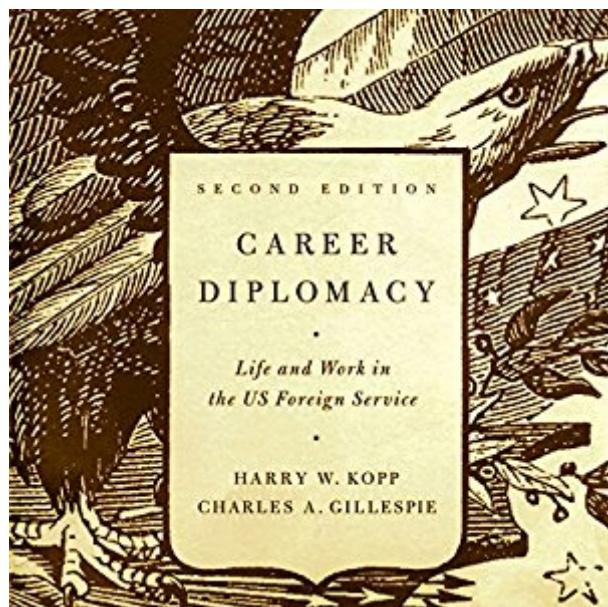


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Career Diplomacy: Life And Work In The US Foreign Service, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

Career Diplomacy - now in its second edition - is an insider's guide that examines the foreign service as an institution, a profession, and a career. Harry W. Kopp and Charles A. Gillespie, both of whom had long and distinguished careers in the foreign service, provide a full and well-rounded picture of the organization, its place in history, its strengths and weaknesses, and its role in American foreign affairs. Based on their own experiences and through interviews with over 100 current and former foreign service officers and specialists, the authors lay out what to expect in a foreign service career, from the entrance exam through midcareer and into the senior service - how the service works on paper, and in practice. The second edition addresses major changes that have occurred since 2007: the controversial effort to build an expeditionary foreign service to lead the work of stabilization and reconstruction in fragile states; deepening cooperation with the U.S. military and the changing role of the service in Iraq and Afghanistan; the ongoing surge in foreign service recruitment and hiring at the Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development; and the growing integration of USAID's budget and mission with those of the Department of State. The book is published by Georgetown University Press.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is for anyone considering a career or close to someone thinking about a career as a Foreign Service Officer. It covers the up and down history of US foreign services, talks about the process to get in including information and study advice for the FSOT (written exam), PN's and the

final interview process that is required to go from application to job offer. It talks about your health and security clearance and what sort of time frame to expect things to happen. You are walked through what to expect during the job orientation program (A-100 class) and advice for selecting your first tours. Full of facts yet a pleasure to read, the book covers almost everything you might be wondering about as a career FSO including salary, promotions and how to obtain them, how to pick assignments and what your chances are of receiving locations you are interested in, the value of foreign languages, which are more valuable than others and how to gain additional knowledge, what it's like to be a married couple working tandem through a career, requirements for advancement and much more. There are also ample sources for further information and hints to suggest future trends in the foreign service. For some, the drudgery of reading the facts, figures and policies, etc., is softened by interesting real stories of FSO's in various situations, job tracks and career levels. I've written a rather boring review - my apologies - I'm currently in the process of writing the personal narratives for the application process so I'm in the habit of limiting description and wordiness in favor of content. The book actually reads quite well and was exactly what I was looking for.

A truthful, sterile look at the foreign service. This book analyzes what the foreign service is and how it works, not what it should be and how it should work. I am thinking about taking the foreign service exam; I found this book to be helpful in giving me an accurate description of what the bureaucracy is like and where the service fits in the greater framework of the US government. As I've said it is sterile, but well worth the investment if one is seriously considering the commitment.

First, I will discuss the reasons why I liked this book. Second, I will offer a constructive critique of what I thought could be improved in a later edition. Third, I will summarize why the overall rating is four stars. First, if one is short on time and can only read one book on this topic, I recommend this one. The material is well researched and the writing is clear. I think readers will appreciate that the quotes are balanced. It provides an institutional view on a foreign service as would be seen by entry to mid-level officers but not necessarily experienced. There are adequate historical and modern updates too. Second, I think readers would benefit from more information on the environmental, medical and familial challenges that members of the foreign service face. I would love the book more if it presented a balance of what insiders like and dislike. Third, I still like this book because it is written from an inclusive perspective rather than an exclusive perspective of being an ambassador or a spouse thereof. This book is one of many highly recommended reads for anyone contemplating joining the foreign service.

I first read this book by borrowing a copy from my local library. Now, a year later, I find the material significant enough to buy a permanent copy as I move abroad. Well written, this is an inside look at the U.S. Foreign Service. An informative read as U.S. foreign policy continues to matter in the world. As Americans and voters, we should understand who and how we are being represented abroad. The greatest eye openers, personally, in was the history of monetary appropriation to the Service from Congress and the cooperation between the military and Foreign Service Officers.

Coming from someone who has very little background knowledge of what is going on in concern to foreign affairs and the people involved, I found this book to be quite straight forward and easy to follow. I loved the author's 'voice,' learned quite a bit and had a good time doing so. Definitely recommend this book to anyone interested in a career in foreign affairs/diplomacy or even the topic in general.

I'm a recent graduate from the United States working at a university in Colombia. I've given some thought in pursuing a career in a government agency, but never for the foreign service until I saw this book for sale on . The book is like an elaborate Wikipedia article on the foreign service. The books explains the structures, positions, and bureaucracy of the foreign service. I wish this book would have had more interviews from people in their field of the foreign service. The book lists the many different roles of the foreign service and what is publicly released about the roles' pay and chance of employment. The introduction makes it clear what to expect from the book. It's dry but this book will provide you a decent introduction. A recommended read for anyone contemplating a career in the foreign service.

I purchased this book a while back, as I was coming out of college and considering a career in the foreign service. While that ultimately didn't pan out, I found this book to be very informative about how one enters into the career of diplomacy. Not only does it go through the process, but it contains a number of personal stories about what it is like to live as an American diplomat. Even if you are only interested in learning more about the conduct of diplomacy, this is a good guide.

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