

Early Modern European Diplomacy. A Handbook (to be published with de Gruyter)

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Over the last 15 years or so, the history of diplomacy, long considered dusty and the epitome of a positivist historiography, has undergone a complete overhaul as part of the cultural turn. Particularly in early modern research, it is currently one of the methodologically and theoretically innovative and leading fields of research. Accordingly, it seems necessary to make the current state of research accessible to a broader circle of recipients within the framework of a handbook. In addition, such a handbook should help to differentiate our understanding of early modern diplomacy and its development more strongly than has been the case to date.

In current research, the Westphalian Peace Congress is repeatedly described as a model for early modern diplomacy in general. Other forms of diplomacy, such as permanent or occasional temporary legations, are not sufficiently taken into account. In fact, a special case - congress diplomacy - is used to form theories for the investigation of the rule case. On the contrary, it can be assumed that each of these varieties has developed its own specific development and that these forms have developed in parallel, in exchange with each other and sometimes with a time lag.