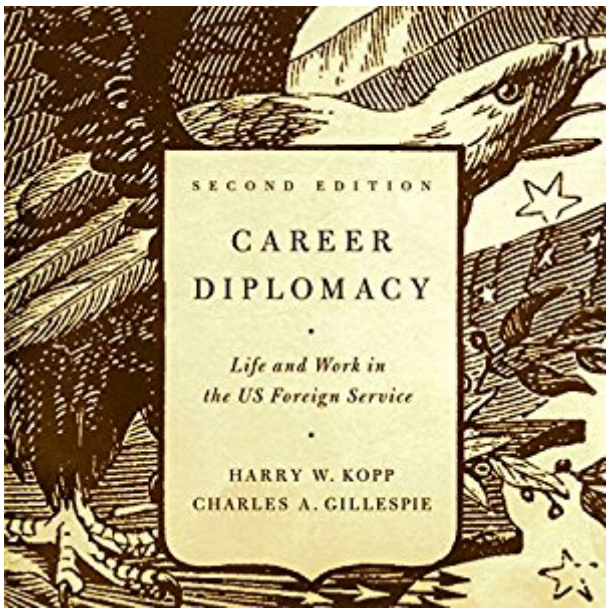
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Career Diplomacy: Life And Work In The US Foreign Service, 2nd Edition



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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.

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Customer Reviews

This book gives a very good overview of what the foreign service is, its history, and what to expect if one decides to become a foreign service officer, whether generalist or specialist. The only weakness may be that it uses information heavily focused on about 2000-2010, and so in the

intervening 7 years, things may have changed, but it doesn't appear to have changed too substantially in that time (from what I've read at the State Department website and looking at the available literature on the internet, although change seems to be somewhat influenced by whatever the current presidential administration desires).This book gives a nice history of the foreign service, actually explaining what the foreign service is (it isn't only in the State Department, and it isn't as easy as one would think to separate out the foreign service within the governmental hierarchies), then explains what the foreign service is used for, or, at least, what people have desired it to be used for, and then what to expect if you go through this career path. The first years will involve consular duty, later years more freedom and leeway if you make the cut. The author also explains the challenges of being an FSO, such as living in places that will give you hardship and bureaucratic inertia, while also explaining what makes being an FSO have appeal.The book succeeds in its main objective, letting a person know whether they may like a job as an FSO, and explaining what that entails. The author includes quotes from relevant FSOs in all the different specialties, and gives a good overview of what each specialy can entail, as well.

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. Their 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 habbit of limiting description and wordiness in favor of content. The book actually reads quite well and was exactly what I was looking for.

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 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.

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 frame work of the US government. As I’ve said it is sterile, but well worth the investment if one is seriously considering the commitment.

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