

**SECRET DIPLOMACY.
HOW FAR CAN IT BE
ELIMINATED?**

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Secret diplomacy. How far can it be eliminated? by Paul S. Reinsch

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PAUL S. REINSCH

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BY

PAUL S. REINSCH



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CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
	INTRODUCTION	3
I.	EIGHTEENTH CENTURY DIPLOMACY	22
II.	OLD DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE	36
III.	AFTER THE CONGRESS OF VIENNA	45
IV.	NAPOLEON III, DISRAELI, BISMARCK	58
V.	TRIPLE ALLIANCE DIPLOMACY AND MO- ROCCO	70
VI.	ENTENTE DIPLOMACY	84
VII.	THE CRISIS OF 1914	102
VIII.	THE SECRET TREATIES OF THE WAR	116
IX.	HOPES FOR IMPROVEMENT DEFERRED	129
X.	THE DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE	136
XI.	PARLIAMENT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS	149
XII.	THE PUBLIC AND DIPLOMACY	166
XIII.	A SURVIVAL OF ABSOLUTISM	181
XIV.	RECENT AMERICAN EXPERIENCE	194
	CONCLUSION	211
	INDEX	225

SECRET DIPLOMACY

INTRODUCTION

Is secret diplomacy the evil spirit of modern politics? Is it the force that keeps nations in a state of potential hostility and does not allow a feeling of confidence and of wholehearted cooperation to grow up? Or is it only a trade device, a clever method of surrounding with an aura of importance the doings of the diplomats, a race of men of average wisdom and intelligence who traditionally have valued the prestige of dealing with "secret affairs of state"? Or is it something less romantic than either of these—merely the survival from a more barbarous age of instincts of secretiveness and chicane acquired at a time when self-defense was the necessity of every hour?

It is quite patent that the practice of secret diplomacy is incompatible with the democratic theory of state. Even in the Liberal theory of state it finds little favor, although that is disposed to grant a great deal of discretion to the representatives who are given the trusteeship of public affairs. Yet the essential idea of Liberalism, government by discussion, includes foreign