### American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age: Examining the Truthfulness and Ethics of U.S. Foreign Policy

American diplomacy has long been a subject of intense debate, with critics and supporters alike weighing its effectiveness and ethical implications. In the current era, marked by widespread mistrust and skepticism towards government institutions, the question of whether American diplomacy is honest and ethical has become increasingly relevant.



#### The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a

**Dishonest Age** by Elizabeth Shackelford

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#### **Historical Case Studies**

Print length

Throughout history, there have been numerous instances of U.S. diplomacy being called into question for its truthfulness and ethics. One notable example is the Gulf of Tonkin incident in 1964. The Johnson administration used false information about North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. ships to

justify an escalation of the Vietnam War. This incident damaged public trust in the government and contributed to the wider anti-war movement.

Another example is the U.S. support for the Contras in Nicaragua during the 1980s. The Reagan administration turned a blind eye to human rights abuses committed by the Contras and provided them with financial and military aid in their fight against the Sandinista government. This support contradicted the U.S.'s stated commitment to promoting democracy and human rights in the region.

#### **Contemporary Examples**

In recent years, the issue of dishonesty in American diplomacy has come to the forefront once again. The Trump administration's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and the subsequent re-imposition of sanctions are seen by many as a breach of trust and a violation of international law. The administration's decision to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem also drew widespread criticism, as it was seen as a violation of the status quo and a provocation to the Palestinians.

The increasing use of drones in U.S. foreign policy has also raised ethical concerns. While drones are often presented as a more precise and less costly way to conduct warfare, there is evidence that they have resulted in civilian casualties and have exacerbated tensions in the Middle East. The use of drones without clear legal authorization or accountability has also raised questions about the legality and ethics of this tactic.

#### **Challenges to Truthful and Ethical Diplomacy**

There are a number of factors that contribute to the challenges of maintaining truthful and ethical diplomacy. One challenge is the inherent

secrecy of diplomatic negotiations. Diplomats often operate behind closed doors, and the public is not privy to the full range of discussions and considerations that go into policy decisions. This secrecy can make it difficult to hold diplomats accountable for their actions and to ensure that they are acting in the best interests of the public.

Another challenge is the influence of special interests on U.S. foreign policy. Powerful lobbies and corporations often have a disproportionate influence on policy decisions, and they may push for policies that benefit their own interests rather than the interests of the broader public. This can lead to diplomatic decisions that are driven by self-interest rather than by ethical considerations.

#### **Implications of Dishonest Diplomacy**

Dishonest diplomacy can have serious consequences for both the United States and the world. When foreign governments and peoples lose trust in the United States, it becomes more difficult to achieve diplomatic goals and to build lasting relationships. Dishonest diplomacy can also lead to conflict and war, as it undermines Vertrauen and makes it more difficult to resolve disputes peacefully.

In addition, dishonest diplomacy can damage the reputation of the United States and its standing in the world. When the United States is seen as a dishonest broker, it undermines its credibility and makes it more difficult to play a leadership role in global affairs.

The question of whether American diplomacy is honest and ethical is a complex one, with no easy answers. There are a number of factors that contribute to the challenges of maintaining truthful and ethical diplomacy,

including the secrecy of diplomatic negotiations, the influence of special interests, and the potential for conflict and war. However, it is imperative that the United States strives to conduct its diplomacy in a truthful and ethical manner. Dishonest diplomacy damages trust, undermines credibility, and makes it more difficult to achieve diplomatic goals and to build lasting relationships.



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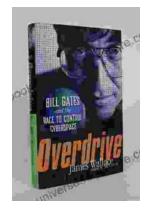
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