



NASS 2024 SUMMER CONFERENCE



NASS
National Association
of Secretaries of State

International Diplomatic Protocol and Etiquette

Hon. Omar J. Marrero
Puerto Rico
Secretary of State





OBJECTIVES & OVERVIEW

- ❖ Critical role of diplomatic protocol and etiquette.
- ❖ Explore concepts of international etiquette.
- ❖ Discuss real-world examples
- ❖ Provide practical tips to navigate international settings
- ❖ Identify common pitfalls





FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL

- ❖ Protocol refers to a set of rules for state representatives to ensure smooth, respectful, and effective interactions between countries.
- ❖ Focus on the respect of the status and hierarchy.
- ❖ Ceremonial Protocol is a tool for maintaining good relationships.
- ❖ Cultural Sensitivity and Etiquette.
- ❖ Conduct and Responsibilities.

International Diplomatic Protocol and Etiquette





ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL

- ❖ Rules of Precedence
- ❖ Seating Arrangements and Order of Processions
- ❖ Addressing Diplomats & Consuls
- ❖ Flag Protocol
- ❖ Invitations and Dress Codes
- ❖ Ceremonies
- ❖ Appropriate Gifts





DIPLOMATIC ETIQUETTE IN ACTION



**Dominican Republic
Trade Mission**

December 2021



**Dinner with General
Consul of Japan in NYC**

March 2022



**Spain Academic &
Cultural Mission**

June 2023





CHALLENGES AND COMMON PITFALLS

- ❖ Language Barriers
- ❖ Nonverbal Cues
- ❖ Social Customs
- ❖ Values and Beliefs
- ❖ Historical Context
- ❖ Stereotypes and Prejudices
- ❖ Miscommunication in Protocol
- ❖ Lack of Cultural Awareness





PRACTICAL TIPS FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVES

- ❖ Familiarize Yourself with the Host Country and Culture
- ❖ Establish Contacts
- ❖ Stay Informed
- ❖ Cultivate Diplomatic Skills
- ❖ Prioritize Safety and Security
- ❖ Seek Guidance of Protocol Officer



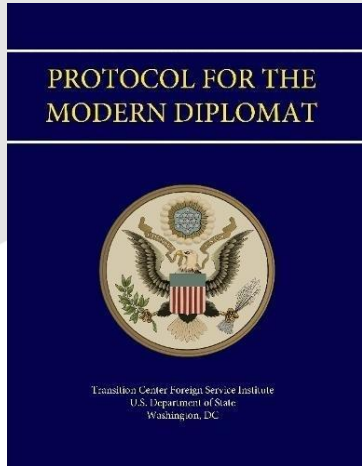
Protocol Officer

- ❖ Role
- ❖ Four Stages of Successful high-level event
- ❖ Unforeseen Circumstances

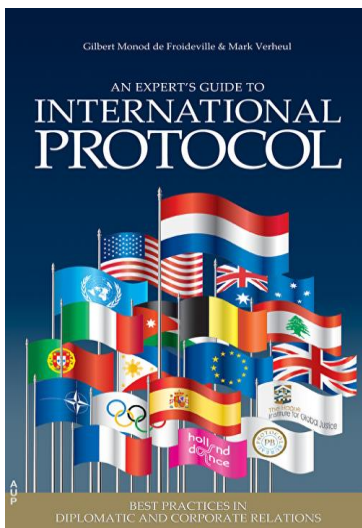




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- ❖ **Protocol For the Modern Diplomat**
Transition Center Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State, July 2013



- ❖ **An Expert Guide to International Protocol**
Gilbert Monod & Mark Verheul, 2021

