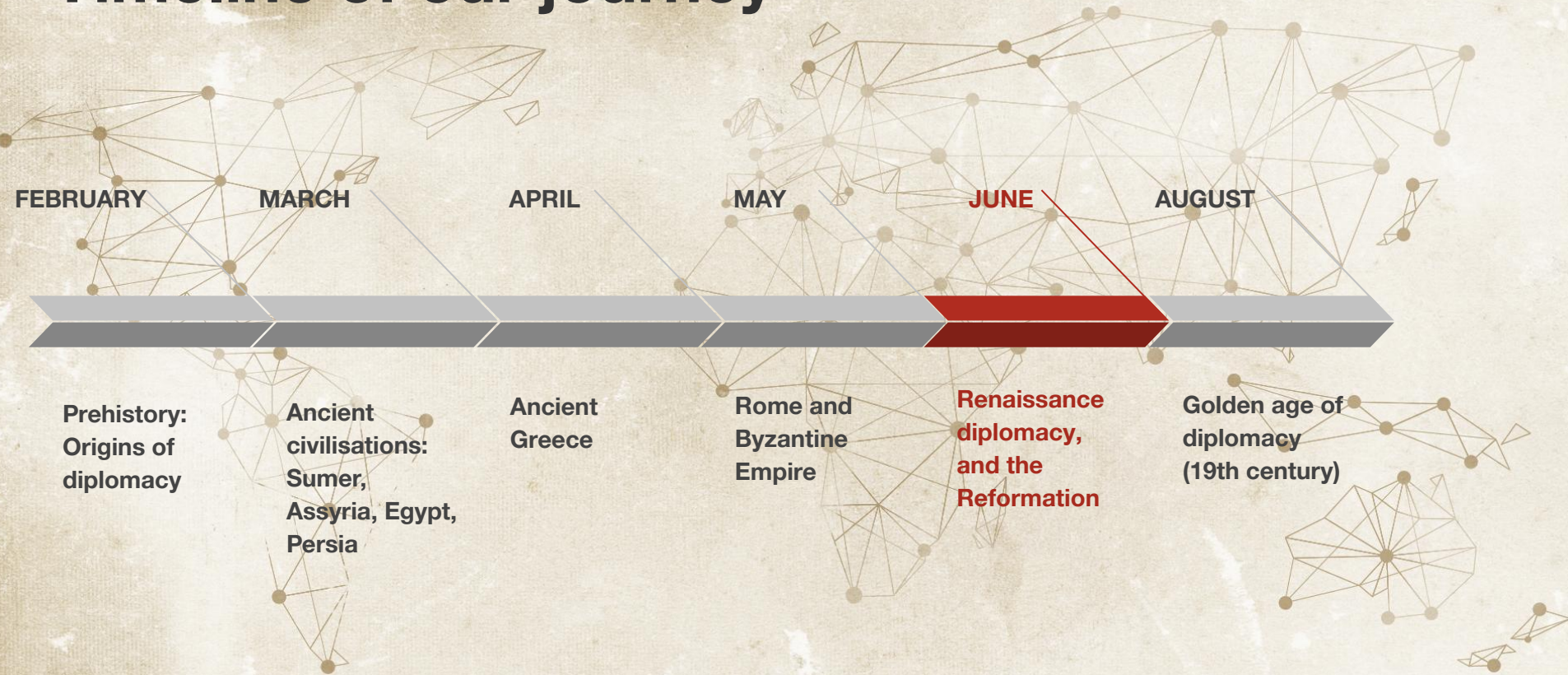


Renaissance diplomacy: Compromise as a solution to conflict

Diplomacy and technology: A historical journey

Dr Jovan Kurbalija, June 2021

Timeline of our journey



When? | 14th - 16th century

Culture: Renaissance (Petrarch, Dante, Boccaccio, Michelangelo)

Society: The Black Death plague (14th century)

Church: The Great Western Schism (1378-1414)

Politics: The emergence of new monarchies

Invention: Printing press (1450, Gutenberg)

Discovery: The Americas (1492, Columbus)

Geo-strategy: Byzantine Empire collapse (1453);
Reconquista (1492)...



Where? | Italy

The Italian Renaissance diplomacy scene consisted of many small city states and five major ones:

- **The Papal State**, with Rome as its capital, located in central Italy
- **The Kingdom of Naples** occupied the southern part
- **Republic of Venice**, the **Duchy of Milan** and the **Republic of Florence** dominated the North, with their strong manufacturing industry and trading



Overview

1350 - 1494

**Italian
Renaissance
diplomacy**

1454 - 1494

**Golden age of
Italian Renaissance
Diplomacy
1454 - Treaty of Lodi**

16th century

**Spread of diplomatic
practice from Italy to
the rest of the Europe**

The emergence of Renaissance diplomacy



The figure of Peace in *Allegory of Good Government*, Ambrogio Lorenzetti

Two main characteristics of relations among Italian city states:

- the lack of a hegemonic power
- a strong interest in cooperating and solving problems through peaceful means

Renaissance diplomacy: **Structure**

- **First resident ambassador** (1450) - 'Sweet Nicodemus', envoy of Duke of Milan to Florence
- **Early Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, developed around diplomatic archives
- Centrality of **diplomatic reporting**



The Story of Esther
Marco del Buono
Giamberti

Renaissance diplomacy: **Main developments**

- Diplomatic privileges and immunities
- Elaborate diplomatic protocol
- Early public diplomacy
- Early science diplomacy
- Marriage diplomacy - 16th century



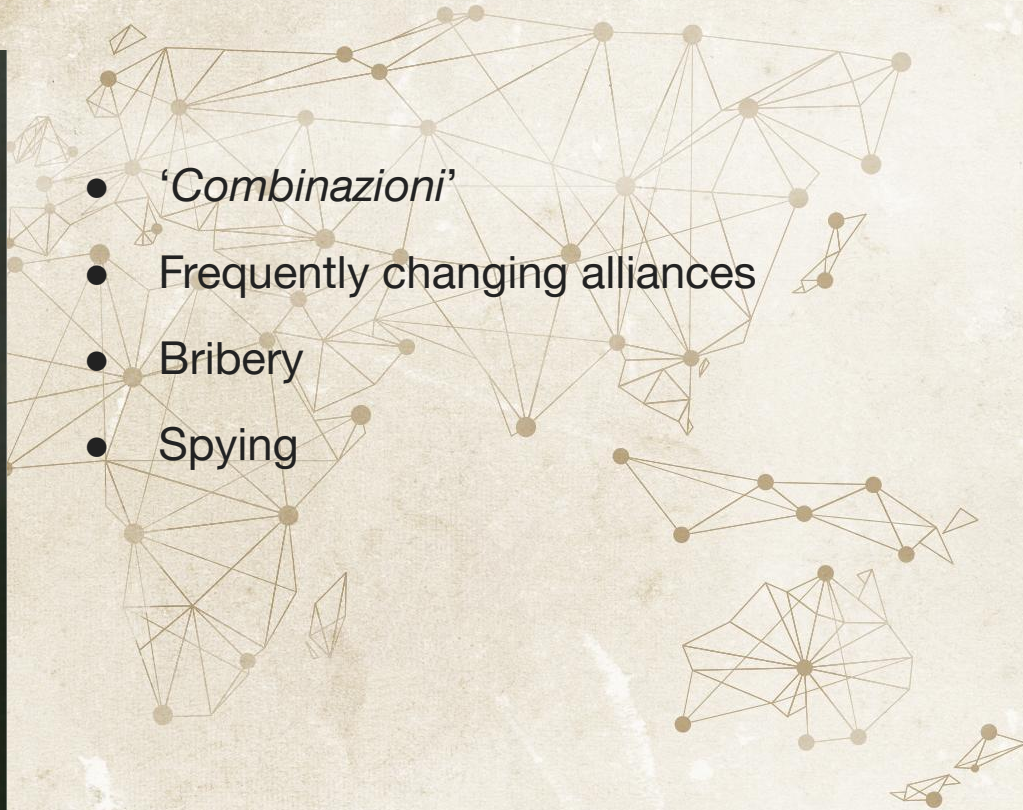
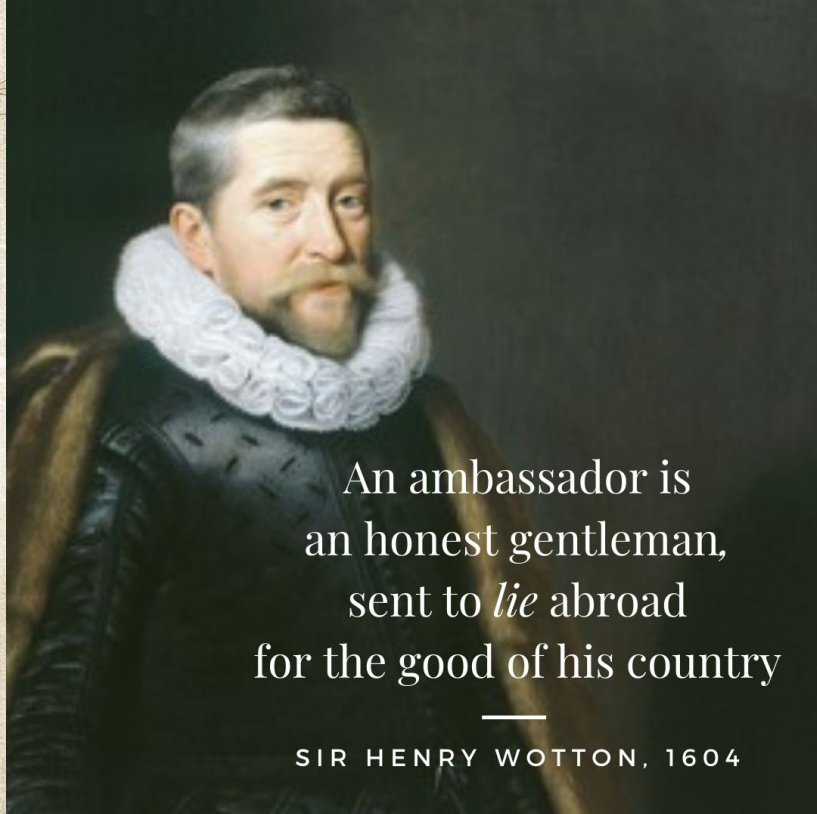
The Ambassadors
Hans Holbein

Renaissance diplomacy: **Papal diplomacy**



- The main objective: to keep doctrinal control over Europe
- Diplomatic tools: negotiation, treaty-making, alliances, arbitration, but also espionage, subversion, and conspiracy
- Complete control over information distribution (using parchment over papyrus) - the clergy became the sole custodians and suppliers of written information

Renaissance diplomacy: **Tools**



Reformation | Invention of the printing press

- Invented in 1450 by German inventor Johannes Gutenberg
- By 1500, around six million books were produced in Europe
- The church's dominance through parchment-based writing was challenged, and church's participation in diplomacy gradually started to decrease.



Meanwhile in...Americas

The Aztec Empire

- The Aztec Empire was an alliance of three city-states, with **Tenochtitlán** being the largest.
- The Aztecs were famous for their cruelties to remain in power, but they also knew how to **'negotiate'** with their neighbours.
- The rivals were offered protection, stability and economic integration into a flourishing trading system, if they decide to subdue to Aztecs.
- If they failed to subdue, after peaceful diplomatic persuasion led by Aztec ambassadors (**Quauhquauhnochtzin**), principal city would be sacked and its king, nobility and warriors all sacrificed to Aztec gods.
- The Aztec Empire was a very broad alliance, kept together by the fear of the bloody reprisals against the mutineers.
- The Empire was wiped out by smallpox disease, brought by European invaders...



Cheers! Aqua vitae

'Its glory is inestimable; it is the parent and lord of all medicines, and its effects are marvelous'

Taddeo Alderotti,
Italian doctor-scholar-chemist

Many alchemists believed distillation actually put fire into the base liquid, making alcohol a combination of two elements, fire and water.

Medical thought at the time was dominated by the Ancient Greek idea of balancing "humours" in the body - the hot and the cold, the wet and the dry.



One German recipe, created by a noble female distiller, required **387 ingredients** and **nine separate distillations** spaced over two years to make the white aqua vitae.

After one Irish nobleman died from taking a bit more aqua vitae, it was recorded in the Annals: "... it was not aqua vitae to him, but aqua mortis [water of death]"