

CHAPTER 1

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN EVOLUTION

"The middle years of the twentieth century find the world in a process of change probably more profound and more sweeping than any which has overtaken it since the mediaeval world broke up in ruins and the foundations of the modern world were laid in the 15th and 16th centuries."

E.H. Carr, What is History?

It is now a commonplace to say that the world is changing with unprecedented speed. Changes of such pervasiveness have occurred as to cause some historians to ask whether a new stage or epoch has been reached which demands a new kind of history and a new name. Professor Barraclough has used the term "contemporary history" to point out the essential difference in quality and content of the period now emerging from that which went before, hitherto known as modern history.^{*} Changing attitudes are also evident in historians' interpretations of the first half of this century.^{**} According to Barraclough, anyone looking down on the world of the 1960's and comparing it with fifty or more years ago will probably find few things more striking than the changes which have taken place in the structure of international relations. In a world that is undergoing such profound attitudinal and structural changes, it would be unreasonable to expect that the substance and methods of diplomacy could long remain unchanged. The assessment of the Duncan Report^{***} in preparation for the future that "The assumption of 'no change' is the one (assumption) which is surely going to be wrong" applies to diplomacy itself as well as to the environment in which it serves.

^{*} An Introduction to Contemporary History by Geoffery Barraclough

^{**} Volume XII of the New Cambridge Modern History (1898-1945) was judged out-of-date and a new edition begun shortly after publication in 1960

^{***} Report of the Review Committee on Overseas Representation, London, 1969