



**SECTORAL  
DIPLOMATIC  
CHANNELS**



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# **THINKING DIPLOMACY** Development of Sectoral Diplomacy

## STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT

# Thinking Diplomacy

## “Development of Sectoral Diplomacy”

The factor which brings individuals together as for creating a “society” is the requirements. The requirement of nourishment, harboring, protection and in the following levels, the search for prosperity bring the individuals together and so the societies have been born. The contribution of intellectual base to the formation of a society is low because the individuals have come all together only for the requirements such as nourishment, harboring and protection at first. But in the following steps, to define more complex political and economic requirements depends on more sophisticated thinking and belief systems.

Throughout the history, it is seen that different beliefs construct their own thinking systems. On the other hand, some thinking systems have also become as an ideology by transforming into a belief. Moreover, the most basic factor that divides civilizations from each other is the original qualifications of the ideas, which form that civilization.

For instance, the basic factor that defines the Islamic civilization is the idea and belief of Islam like the basic factor that defines the Western civilization is the modern Western idea. The same is valid also for Buddhism, Hinduism and African religions etc. If thinking has such a central role in the formation of societies; beliefs and ideas are effective in the formation of political structures in the same level. So, intellectual background should have a vital and decisive effect in the process of international system.

In this point, we should pay attention to the interaction between power and thinking. The ideas that have strong economic, political and militarily support gain the currency and become superior over the other ideas. Greek, Roman, Abbasid, Western experiences etc. have revealed the relation among the development and spread of the thinking structure behind the political power by its rise. On the other hand, thinking has a vital mission for spreading, legitimating the power and making it permanent in the global level. So, **thinking diplomacy can be defined as an art of being aware of the interaction between the ideas and international politics; and founding a healthy and permanent balance between them.**

According to our country, the most important intellectual background that can be presented to the diplomatic world is the love for human being that has been exemplified in the ideas of Mevlana and Yunus. This love for human being and the comprehension of humanism in the Western thinking shouldn't be mixed with each other. The humanism in the West has developed in the base of divinizing the human mind against the traditional “divine inspiration - mind” relation. In the following steps, this approach has become a haughty manner that causes the West, who is “smarter”, to found a domination over the East, “who is unable to use its mind”.

In the frame of interaction between power and thinking; the West is trying to impose itself to the whole world. On the other hand, the love for human being of Yunus and Mevlana depends on the thinking of that all should deal with the same love as the necessity of divine love; as there is the same Creator for both the Western and Eastern people.

There is a requirement of well thought, detailed strategies that consider the interaction of power and thinking for transforming the intellectual savings into the diplomatic power. However, it is seen that there is not enough effort for understanding the historical dimension and multilateral nature of thinking diplomacy.

In this point, it is possible to mention about two mistaken approaches. First of them is the approach, which the Western thinking has been in the most forward step throughout the history of thinking and it is unnecessary even to discuss that. The spread of this approach has shown the dimensions that the Western intellectual power has accessed. And another mistaken approach is to expect the present intellectual savings to be well-accepted without having a power background or well-studied and applied strategies. As for instance of the Christianity spread in the Roman Empire, the spread of a thinking by itself or despite of a political power is possible only in the periods that the political power has lost its effect.

Besides the new developments in the communication and transportation technologies, the rise of powers such as China and India has caused the deepening of the interaction among the ideas. Furthermore, the Western world has entered into an interrogation process of its own thinking systematic. Today, it is seen that China has been trying to strengthen its diplomatic activities by using Buddhism and the other ideas specific to the Far East.

It is not enough to produce and discuss ideas in the ivory towers. The ideas, which are believed as precious according to the international peace and stability, should be reformulated with an easy language that wide public groups can understand and should gain a currency. The decrease of the peace expense and the spread of peace is only possible like that. Also according to the interaction between domestic politics and international relations, it is supposed to consider the effect of current ideas over providing the domestic unity and to define the present policies according to that. An approach that doesn't believe the construction of world by individual or national profits, but believes the construction of world by humanitarian ideas should be developed. This approach will be spread easily when it has economic, political and military power background.

In the context of thinking diplomacy, it is supposed to turn present original intellectual potential active in the elite and global level at first, and to express it with a simple and comprehensive shape in the Western and Eastern languages. In this point, the academy has the biggest mission.

On the other hand, it is supposed to give privilege to principles and activities such as organizing activities that bring opinion leaders, diplomats, religious persons and academicians together; developing the relations with non-governmental organizations; establishing institutes related with certain thinking movements; establishing special commissions related with thinking diplomacy.

In this context, we hope **the Studies of Thinking Diplomacy**, which will be held in the content of **Civil Global 2015-2023-2053** “Development Program of Global Civil Diplomacy”, will provide multilateral profits and important contributions on the development of cooperation opportunities in the national and international area by the proactive approaches.

## **Main Theme**

**Development of Sectoral Diplomacy**

## **Sub Themes**

**Historical Perspective: Thinking - Power Relation and Diplomacy**

**Intellectual Saving and Leaders**

**Ideas as Source of Conflicts and Conflict Solution**

**Academic Activities and Thinking Diplomacy**

**New Approaches in Diplomacy and Thinking Diplomacy**

**Raising Powers (China, India, Russia, Brazil etc.) and Thinking Diplomacy**

**Recent Developments in Communication and Transportation Technologies and Thinking Diplomacy**

**Non-State Actors, Non-Governmental Organizations and Thinking Diplomacy**

**Thinking Institutes, Foundations and Diplomacy**

- Islam Thinking
- Western Thinking
- Buddhism
- Confucianism
- Goethe Institute
- Yunus Emre Institute