**Diplomacy in the Trenches**

The guerilla diplomat is essentially an ideal type for diplomats in the globalization age, bearing a trinity of essential skills—acuity, autonomy and agility—the guerilla diplomat is a sort of global renaissance man, having the elite education of traditional diplomats and their craft slide deeper and deeper into obscurity and insignificance. Now, upon his seemingly permanent departure from the Canadian foreign service, Mr. Copeland has let his years of postings abroad birth in Guerilla Diplomacy: Redefining International Relations. In this incredibly ambitious first book, Mr. Copeland deftly diagnoses the shortcomings of his profession, and lays out an archetype of a new breed of diplomat whose inventive and unorthodox tactics could make practitioners of the world’s second-oldest profession relevant again and help stabilize the globe in the process.

Mr. Copeland’s guerilla diplomats—smarter, supplier and more autonomous—are almost analogous to special forces soldiers in their light, fast, flexible approach. By placing such envoys at the centre of counterinsurgency operations, he argues, guerilla diplomats could help their foreign ministers take back foreign policy pre-eminence from the military.

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The guerilla diplomat, he says, while likely having the elite education of traditional diplomats, also has the mindset for self-sufficiency and autonomy, as well as the ability to charm, engage and communicate with peoples from every corner of the globe, and through every medium. The guerilla diplomat also has a knack for the unconventional, as well as a flair for the dramatic.

Descriptions of the guerilla diplomat are a little fuzzy at times, but in fairness, this is probably because so few specimens exist in the world today.

That’s not to say, however, that guerilla diplomacy is just something Mr. Copeland learned in the trench.

Jeff Davis

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**Indonesian Envoy Recalls Adjusting to Ottawa Politics**

When Indonesian Ambassador Djoko Hardono takes his leave of Ottawa in a few weeks, he’ll also be leaving behind a career that saw him posted around the world. Mr. Hardono is not only returning home, he’s retiring.

“According to my aides, I have to retire,” he jokes. “I have to do something... maybe another field of my career. Because being [right now] to the foreign administration department so I have to do [something] outside of that.

“If somebody is offering me to do [work] in politics, I’ll do it,” he adds. “I’m not looking for it, but if somebody asks me to do it, I’ll do it.

Canada was the ambassador’s fifth overseas assignment. He’s previously been posted to Turkey, the UK, Singapore and Japan. But Canada stood out for its challenges as a country that changed governments during his posting.

“In this case we have to calculate and see about the situation of the government,” he says. “You have a background of the Liberal Party occupying the Cabinet and for quite a long time. [That] means people have a mindset of Liberal thinking.

“Of course it transferred to the diplomat. The guerilla diplomat represents a very important change in the direction of resources and has inflicted dreadful damage across the board,” Mr. Copeland declares, cautioning that a military-first approach in and of itself drives state failure.

Diplomacy is the antithesis of war, he says, and therefore must be used to end insurrections. And since successful counterinsurgency strategies from the annals of history (i.e. massive brutality) are no longer acceptable, political solutions are the only answer... and yes, this means talking to the Taliban.

The central theme of the guerilla diplomat is to be used as the central theme to the whole world, the sweep is much wider than one would expect. Indeed, Mr. Copeland methodically works his way through the “diplomatic ecosystem,” sketching out a brand new conceptual model for the international system before putting forward new foreign ministries, development efforts, and diplomats themselves under the microscope.

While Guerilla Diplomacy is certainly a brainy, dense and erudite read, it mercifully avoids most pitfalls of academic writing. On the contrary, Mr. Copeland’s style is an entertaining one, flecked with clever insights and entertaining tangents.

While unlikely to hit the bestseller list due to its niche subject matter, it has already caught the attention of diplomatic types around the world. Mr. Copeland has been invited to speak to the U.S. State Department, the British Foreign Office, and at other foreign destinations, and will soon share his insights with the prestigious RAND Corporation.

While Guerilla Diplomacy is certainly a must-read for forward-thinking diplomats, one diplomat does regret that Mr. Copeland doesn’t turn his fine analytical razor directly on Canada. While he certainly has the knowledge to do so, he fears overlaying his musings directly onto Canada’s diplomats and foreign ministry. Of course, under a government that seems more interested in fighting than talking—and with the budgets to prove it—one can’t help but think the message would go unheeded.

Royalties from the sale of Mr. Copeland’s book are donated to the Glynn Berry Memorial Scholarship in International Politics at Dalhousie University, in memory of the guerilla diplomat killed in Afghanistan. Copies are available, at Nicholas Hoare Books on Sussex Drive. jfdavis@embassymag.ca

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**Diplomatic Circles**

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Laura Payton

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***We got a lot of support, actually,” says Mr. Hardono. “Although if you’re talking bilaterally, it is very positive. [There is] a lot of co-operation here in Canada.

“We understood that, of course, Canada is interested in business with China, India, Japan and Korea. But we tried to show that Canada that the Southeast Asia area is also very important to it.”

Indonesia is a country of 235 million people, he says, with many resources that need to be developed. While Canada already has some companies working in the mineral sector, Indonesia is also looking for investment in infrastructure. He points to wind power in particular as an area ripe for development.

Mr. Hardono says he hopes whoever replaces him has even more success at building trade relations.

“So we’ll always improve,” he says.

“Static is not good.

“We only hope that in the near future, Canada will see Southeast Asia as also important to make a relationship [with], especially with Indonesia.”

Indonesia is Canada’s biggest trading partner in Southeast Asia. Rubber, fish, electronics and garments are sent north, while Canada exports fertilizer, technical assistance and machinery in return.

“Social-culturally, we try very much to export our capability in tourism, developing the connection of culture,” says the ambassador, adding that Indonesia has many different cultures to explore.

Mr. Hardono expects to have more time for golf and writing once he’s retired. But before retirement, Indonesia will celebrate its national day on Aug. 19. Staff and entertainers were already preparing when Embassy arrived to interview the ambassador, who says he’s featured a different Indonesian culture every year. This year will showcase Kalimantan Island.

lpayton@embassymag.ca