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Nota di contenuto	Entangled objects and hybrid practices? : material culture as a new approach to the history of diplomacy / Harriet Rudolph -- Corals, brass and firearms : material commodities in cultural interactions between Edo and Portuguese in Benin around 1500 / Gregor M. Metzig -- Gifts of time : watches and clocks in Ottoman-British diplomacy, 1693-1803 / Michael Talbot -- Peace medal diplomacy in Indian-white relations in nineteenth-century North America / Volker Depkat -- Society of the "economic miracle" and the non-European world : material culture of state visits during the presidency of Theodor Heuss / Frieder Gunther -- Assembling things right : the material dimensions of West German diplomacy (1950s to 1970s) / Simone Derix -- Forum -- The colonial past is never dead, it's not even past : histories of empire, decolonization, and European cultures after 1945 / Matthew G. Stanard.

The present volume aims at outlining a new field of research with regard to the history of diplomacy: the material culture of diplomatic interaction in early modern and modern times. The material culture of diplomacy includes all practices in foreign policy communication in which single artifacts, samples of artifacts, or else the whole material setting of diplomatic interaction is supposed to be constitutive for creating an intended effect in terms of diplomatic objectives. The chapters of this volume focus on intercultural diplomacy in different regions of the world wherein diplomatic actors of various kinds might have been confronted by a whole universe of unfamiliar artifacts and artifact-related practices. Most of them concentrate on gift giving as a diplomatic practice that offers multiple insights in the complex dynamics of diplomatic relations between representatives of culturally highly diverse political entities. In doing so, they gainfully apply different theoretical approaches of material culture as an interdisciplinary field of study to the investigation of diplomatic cultures across the globe. As a result, it becomes obvious that future research into the history of diplomacy should take into account material practices much more thoroughly than has been done before.

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