**NOTE 6: DIPLOMACY IN ANTIQUITY**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Diplomacy as a vehicle for achieving the foreign policy of states and a medium to manage the relationship between sovereign political entities has evolved over the history of man. Diplomatic differs from period to period. One such period we will be looking at is Diplomacy in **Antiquity**. As such, to understand Diplomacy under this timeframe, we must ask ourselves what Antiquity is?

**6.1. DIPLOMACY IN ANTIQUITY**

The timeline called **Antiquity** is taken to mean **“Ancient Time”** or any period before the Middle Age/ Medieval Period (5th to the 15th century).

**6.2. CIVILISATION UNDER ANTIQUITY**

Every civilisation that existed in Antiquity practised a semblance of Diplomacy. From Africa to Asia, Oceania, Europe, North and South Africa. Every society that lived on this continent practised a type of Diplomacy, during the period, known as **“Antiquity”.** In the course of taking this course, we have treated two of such, Diplomacy in Ancient Greece and India. None the less we shall take a look at Diplomacy in the Roman Empires

**6.3. DIPLOMACY IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE**

Earliest Roman Empire acquired Greek diplomatic traditions. The Romans contribution to **international law** reflects equally on Diplomacy. Romans emphasised the fulfilment of **contracts** or **agreements** and created ***jus gentium*** to manage their affairs with foreigners, their emphasis on just natural; law common to all humanity beyond administrative law for an empire, the emphasis that certain universal principles should govern relations among political units. Romans instituted trained **archivists** who became specialists in diplomatic procedures. They also endeavour to store treaty and agreement with another state in **parchment** deposit in the **temple**. The Romans believe that agreement made by verbal agreement and oaths as fallible, engraving it on parchment was a guarantee against such. Trained negotiations began to surface in the later years of the Roman Empire. For the Roman **War** and **Force** was an instrument of Diplomacy, peaceful negotiation was only used when force could not be applied

**6.4. ROMAN DIPLOMACY UNDER THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE**

Romans in the Byzantine Empire recognised that for them to keep out *‘****barbarians and non-Christian’***that they had to do more than employ force. Diplomats, therefore, became the key players in a diplomatic strategy aimed at fostering rivalry among the barbarians and convert as many ‘heathens’ to Christians. To implement this strategy, the Diplomats had to be more than just heralds or orators. They had to be a **perceptive political observer** with astute observations and sound judgment skills and ability to accurately assess the strength and weakness of neighbouring despots and warriors. The collapse of the western half of the Roman Empire made contact from one town to another problematic, political authority became fragmented between local or regional rulers and the church in Rome. As such, diplomatic practices gradually declined mainly because there was no established system of international contacts. The Byzantine is known to be one of the first civilisation that in conduction their Diplomatic activities employed a trained Diplomatic Corp of professionals. They made use of qualified linguist, negotiators, messengers etc to conduct Diplomacy. Also, intelligence gathering to aid Diplomacy and the actions of the Empire was highly priced.