

【書評】

## City Diplomacy: From City-States to Global Cities by Raffaele Marchetti

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### 概要

本稿では、成長著しい国際交流の一分野である「都市外交」(city diplomacy)を取り上げた新たな研究について紹介する。ラファエレ・マルケッティ著『City Diplomacy: From City-States to Global Cities』は、主要理論、重要事例、研究における未解決事項などを網羅した、このテーマの優れた概説書である。本書の強みは、その簡潔さと包括性である。しかし同時に、今後の都市外交テーマの研究者のための入門書かつ参考書としても、重要情報を写真資料や図表でより補完できれば、本書は大いに役立つだろう。今後、長崎の都市外交の将来を研究する上でも、本書は新たな知見を構築する優れた土台となるものである。

Keywords: city diplomacy, sister cities, global cities

### 1. Introduction

There is a growing awareness that there is more to international relations than just the activity of states. As the literature on the impact of non-state actors has grown, so too has the focus on the activities of cities. As actors below the state but above the citizen or nongovernmental organization (NGO) level, cities offer interesting and unique examples of what Acuto (2013) has called “multi-scalar agency.” In other words, cities work at many different levels and in many different ways. They find strategically interesting ways to use their positions to create issue-specific networks, conduct city-to-city diplomacy, engage intergovernmental organizations like the United Nations, work with NGOs and civic groups, and use the unique cosmopolitan appeals of their locations as a platform for advocacy.

For any growing subfield of knowledge, it is important to periodically take stock of what has been researched and what is still unknown. For this reason, Raffaele Marchetti’s *City Diplomacy: From City-States to Global Cities* is a much-welcomed entry.

Though cities are taking up a more important role in global relations, it is vital not to overstate their importance. It is true that increasingly people are living in urban

centers, that many urban areas are growing into megacities with enormous power, and that the number of people living in big cities is likely to grow over time. And yet, it is too soon to declare that states have been replaced as the main actors. For this reason, it is a good thing that Marchetti states, “we need to have at least two mental maps in mind, the state-centered map and the non-state-centered map” (p. 3). So far, what the burgeoning subfield of city diplomacy has shown is that cities should make up an important piece of the non-state-centered map.

What contributions have cities made in global politics and what more is there to learn? That is the challenge this book takes up: to describe an emerging subfield, chart its progress, and point in promising new directions.

## 2. Summary

The book is divided into four chapters with a prologue and conclusion.

The prologue chapter “Setting the Stage: The Relevance of Cities in Global Affairs” introduces the subject, sometimes in dramatic fashion, by stating the importance of cities, and summarizing some of the key progress that has been made in researching this growing subfield.

The first chapter “Nonstate Actors in Global Politics” takes a step backward by describing cities as one of many non-state actors that make an impact in global affairs. The chapter finds that cities often employ approaches similar to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), nonprofit organizations (NPOs), and activist groups. These tactics include campaigning, lobbying, networking, and awareness-raising. The chapter concludes that city diplomacy needs to be understood as a kind of practice that takes place at many different levels (international, national, city-to-city, civil society) in relation to actors at different scales (the United Nations, national governments, NGOs, NPOs, corporations, citizen groups, and individuals).

The second chapter “A World of Cities” introduces terms and definitions related to cities. The chapter explores the trend of growing urbanization and its implications for the world. This section also provides important history, theory, and details regarding the nature of cities. A key point is that cities are not territorially-bounded, border-obsessed entities like states, but are instead frequently characterized by their connectivity, porousness, and attractiveness to labor and capital.

The third chapter “Structural Factors of City Diplomacy” situates city diplomacy as below the nation-state but above citizen diplomacy and civic activism. City

diplomacy is seen as something that can often be in competition with or cooperate with state diplomacy. It is also seen as a form of diplomacy closer to its citizenry, sometimes empowering citizen groups and activism. In short, cities have “multi-scalar agency” (Marchetti, 2021, p. 51; see also, Acuto, 2013).

The fourth chapter “Fields of Operation of City Diplomacy” discusses the different ways cities engage the world. Marchetti breaks up the activities into categories such as international summits; city networking; city twinning; event hosting; city branding; and cultural diplomacy. Given the vast number of ways that cities can interact globally, it is impressive how Marchetti is able to summarize and synthesize the literature so well. Even scholars well-versed in aspects of city diplomacy are likely to find something new in this chapter.

The short concluding chapter summarizes the key points of city diplomacy as reflected in the research so far and makes several calls for action. These calls for action are not directed at researchers, but rather at practitioners of city diplomacy. They include: better coordination with external actors, better institutional design, and greater societal awareness.

### **3. Analysis**

In any subfield, it is important to periodically review the literature to see what progress has been made and to understand gaps in research in order to avoid duplication of effort. The book does an excellent job of breaking down the existing literature into digestible chunks. Each of the chapters is well-organized and comprehensive. Perhaps most importantly for scholars and students new to the subject matter, Marchetti’s writing is concise and efficient.

One benefit of the book is its ground-up approach. Rather than directly discuss city diplomacy from the beginning, the book spends the first two chapters discussing the theory of non-state actors in international affairs and the nature of cities. This allows a stronger foundation from which to explore city diplomacy. One criticism I have is that the book would have benefited from a more visual approach that mapped key initiatives and broke down numerical information into easy-to-understand charts, graphs, and infographics. Scholars can benefit from these key graphics in shorter articles by Kosovac et al (2020) and Acuto et al (2016), to take just two examples.

Two previous works should still be considered the gold standard for research on city diplomacy: a short study by Van der Pluijm & Melissen (2007), for creating

an easy reference for new scholars on the subject; and a book-length study by Acuto (2013), for establishing city diplomacy as a relevant subfield. It is too soon to know whether Marchetti's book will be the new gold standard in this growing subfield. A new book may soon come out that improves on Marchetti's work. Yet, for the moment, because of the book's recency, it remains the best available for learning the basics of city diplomacy research quickly.

#### **4. Implications for the Study of City Diplomacy in the Nagasaki Area**

Marchetti's survey of city diplomacy has several important implications for further studies of city diplomacy in the Nagasaki area. First, Marchetti's approach broadens our understanding of what is happening in the city and how cities can act globally. For example, Marchetti examines the important impact of event-hosting, museums, and city branding for city diplomacy. These issues have not been extensively examined with regard to Nagasaki's global activities. Second, the book demonstrates that little has been done to date on city diplomacy for small and medium-sized cities. One paragraph is spent discussing the global relations of Modena, Italy, a city of approximately 180,000 people (Marchetti, 2021, p. 74). However, that is the limit of Marchetti's discussion of small and medium-sized cities. Perhaps there is not enough global activity to warrant the study of small and medium-sized cities. Yet, this can only be known after collecting information from the cities themselves. Finally, the book demonstrates that the infancy of city diplomacy applies not only to the scholarship on the topic but also to best practices. Thus, as scholars perform research in the field they must continuously ask: How can we make our research more useful for those city actors who want to engage the world in healthy, peaceful, and productive ways?

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