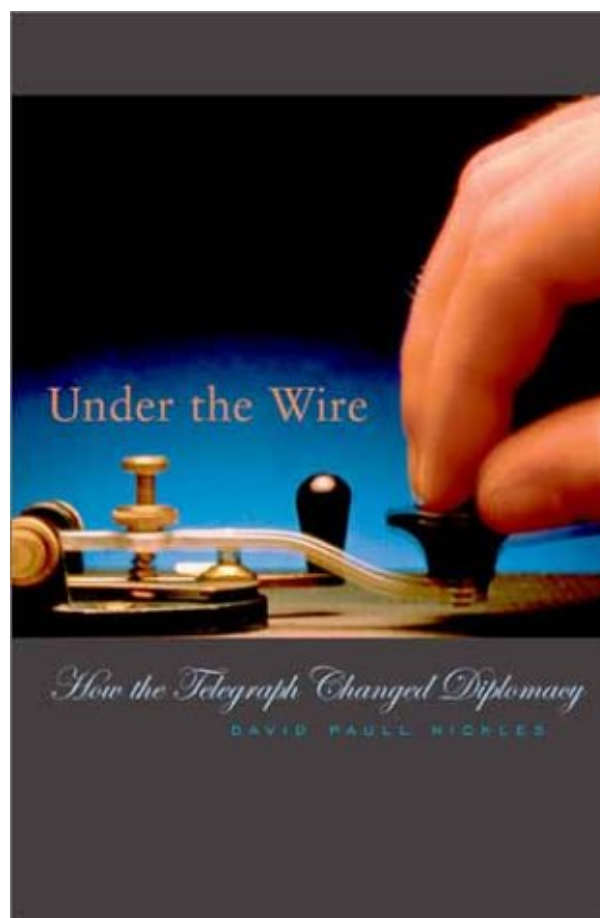
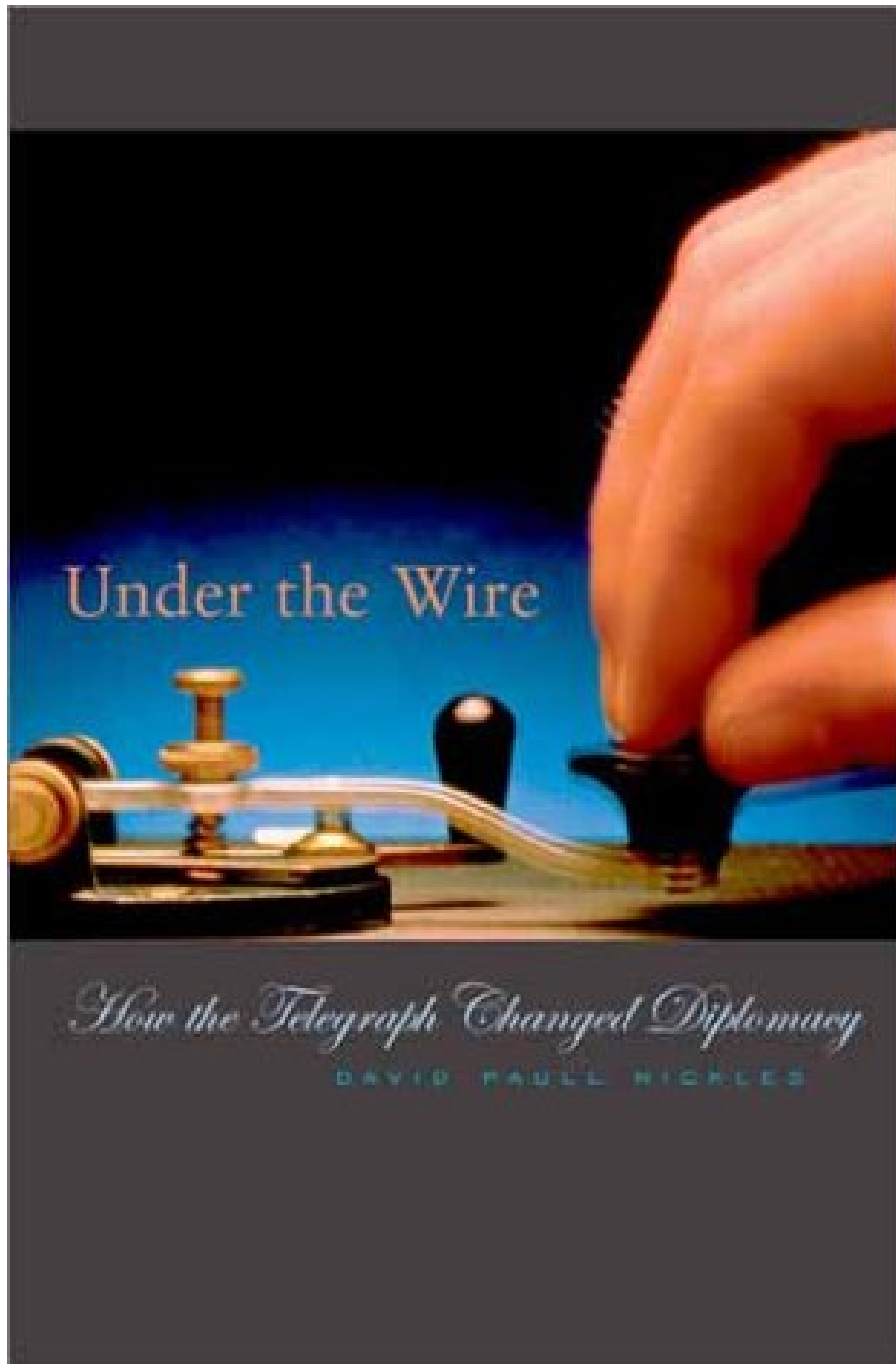


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From Publishers Weekly

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Review

In this study of the impact of telegraphy on the management of international relations, the reader is rewarded

time and again by finding original observations regarding familiar events. This is a book that can have a shaping effect not only on the field of international relations but on many others, since it compels one to think hard about how changes in technology affect behavior and thought among groups with deeply rooted traditions and beliefs. (Ernest R. May, Harvard University)

David Paull Nickles has plumbed the archives of four countries to determine just how transformative [the invention of the telegraph] really was. *Under the Wire* is a subtle and impressive examination of history. (Christian D. Brose Wall Street Journal 2004-01-07)

Nickles offers often interesting and different interpretations of well-known events. His is a timely and readable study of how changing technology impacted the role of traditional diplomats--and the degree to which they could be controlled from Washington. (Communication Booknotes Quarterly)

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How did the telegraph, a new and revolutionary form of communication, affect diplomats, who tended to resist change? In a study based on impressive multinational research, David Paull Nickles examines the critical impact of the telegraph on the diplomacy of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Case studies in crisis diplomacy--the War of 1812, the Trent affair during the U.S. Civil War, and the famous 1917 Zimmermann telegram--introduce wide-ranging thematic discussions on the autonomy of diplomats; the effects of increased speed on decision making and public opinion; the neglected role of clerks in diplomacy; and the issues of expense, garbled text, espionage, and technophobia that initially made foreign ministries wary of telegraphy. Ultimately, the introduction of the telegraph contributed to the centralization of foreign ministries and the rising importance of signals intelligence. The faster pace of diplomatic disputes invited more emotional decisions by statesmen, while public opinion often exercised a belligerent influence on crises developing over a shorter time period.

Under the Wire offers a fascinating new perspective on the culture of diplomacy and the social history of technology.

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Fantastic contribution to history; excellent read!

By A Customer

This book is written masterfully and sheds wonderful light on important facets of history! It is a truly intriguing and fascinating look at how telegraphy and technological change influenced changes in diplomacy and society. The writing is so compelling that this book will interest a wide audience and range of readers. I

highly recommend this work!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Intriguing look at various ways the telegraph affected Western diplomacy

By E. Jaksetic

In this readable and informative history book, the author (a historian at the U.S. State Department) discusses and explains how the telegraph affected diplomacy by the Western countries in a variety of ways during the period 1851-1918. Focusing primarily on diplomacy conducted by the United States, Great Britain, France, and Germany, the author contends the telegraph affected Western diplomacy in three ways: (1) changing the degree of autonomy that diplomats abroad had available to them; (2) changing the speed and pace of diplomacy, with collateral effects on the lives of diplomats; and (3) changing how foreign policy establishments operated. The author draws on a variety of sources -- books, articles, and government archives -- to support and illustrate his contentions and arguments.

The book includes extensive notes and references for scholars and students of history. But, the author writes in a style that is accessible to non-scholarly readers. Although some knowledge of modern history would be useful to better understand and appreciate the author's contentions and arguments, most readers should be able to grasp and follow the author's discussion and analysis without such knowledge. Overall, I found the book to be thoughtful, informative, and enjoyable to read.

Another book, which discusses the effects of the telegraph and radio on diplomacy and international politics during the period 1851-1945, is Daniel R. Headrick, *The Invisible Weapon: Telecommunications and International Politics, 1851-1945*. Readers interested in the effects of the telegraph should also consider taking a look at the following books: Tom Wheeler, *Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails: How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War* and Tom Standage, *The Victorian Internet: The Remarkable Story of the Telegraph and the Nineteenth Century's On-line Pioneers*

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

The Keypad that Changed History

By William Seale

This book takes the reader to a subject not easily imagined---diplomatic history pivoted upon a technical innovation. The author is thorough and his narrative moves swiftly. One of the best "Gee I didn't know that" books I've ever read. And it is serious history, demonstrating how the telegraph made the wide world smaller. Wm Seale

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