DIPLOMACY AND CULTURE OF EDUCATED ELITE: A KEY TO SOLVING GLOBAL PROBLEMS

The responsibility of educational elite in solving world’s problems cannot be underestimated following the global problems that face the world today. It is on this note that the representation and way of life of educational elite will be treated or brought to light. Finally on this paper the diplomacy and culture of educational elite will be seen as a key to solving global problems.

Diplomacy it is the art and practice of conducting negotiation between representatives of groups or state, it usually refers to international diplomacy. The conduct of international relation through the intercession of professional diplomats with regards to issues of peace-making, trade, war, economic, culture, environment, and human rights. International treaties are usually negotiated by diplomats, prior endorsement by national politicians in the employment of tactic to gain strategic advantage or mutually acceptable solutions to a common challenge, one set of tools being the phrasing of statements in a non-confrontational or in a polite manner.

In other words diplomacy is the art of solving problems in a generally accepted way; this explains part of the responsibility of educated elite as diplomats.

Amongst other scholars, Edward B. Taylor said “culture is a powerful human tool for survival, but it is a fragile phenomenon. It is constantly changing and easily lost because it exists only in our minds”. This means culture is a thing of the mind. Culture is the way of life of a particular society or group of people including patterns of thought, beliefs, behavior, custom traditions, rituals, dress, and language, as well as art. This in relation to our topic means the way of life of the educated elite has a long way to go in solving world problems if we make up our minds to have positive thought towards the earth, towards other people's beliefs and traditions by acting right and at the right time, and the people around us will follow suit, because we are their mentors, by these we would have gone far in solving the worlds problems.
Cultural diplomacy is a part of diplomacy. It alludes to a new way of making diplomacy by involving new non-governmental and non-professional actors in the making of diplomacy.

In the frame of globalization, culture plays a major role in the definition of identity and in the relations between people. Joseph Nye points out the importance of having a soft power (democracy) besides a hard power (autocracy). When classical diplomacy fails, a better knowledge can help bridging the gap between different cultures. Cultural diplomacy becomes a subject of academic studies based on the historical essay on the U.S, Europe and the cold war.

Cultural diplomacy has existed as a practice for centuries. Explorers, travelers and artistes can be all considered examples of informal ambassadors or early cultural diplomats. The establishment of regular trade route enables a frequent exchange of information and cultural gift between traders and government representatives. Cultural diplomacy is the initiation or facilitation of such exchanges with an aim to yielding long term benefits whether they promote national interest, build relationships or enhance socio-cultural understanding or promote trade and foreign investments. Common focus of cultural diplomacy has moved from ancient aggressive and imposing practices to a modern transplant and unselfish offering of culture e.g. the ping-pong diplomacy between China and U.S during the 1970’s; the initiatives was in a transparent manner and was beneficial to both countries. Cultural diplomacy can be used by a number of forms defined American political scientist and author Milton C. Cummings, he said it is the exchange of ideas, information, values, system, tradition beliefs with the intentions of fostering mutual understanding.

Before we look further on how educated elite are a key to solving global problems let us examine the word elite and who is referred to as elite.