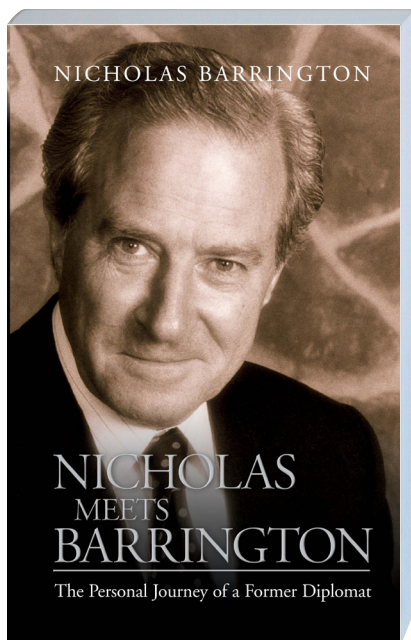


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# ENVOY

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Nicholas Barrington began his dramatic diplomatic career with a post in Afghanistan at a time the country was barely known to the world's headline writers. The narrative of his 37-year career in the British Foreign Office is woven with compelling insights on the countries to which he was posted and which are focal points of international attention: Afghanistan, Iran, Egypt and Pakistan. Serving in Iran during the political storm of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, he had to navigate his way through the drama of a new political order, while his time in Cairo immediately preceded the assassination of President Sadat. The author was a member of the first British Mission to the European Communities in Brussels at the time of De Gaulle's veto and also served as a private secretary to two British Foreign Ministers when Europe was a particularly important and delicate issue, as it is today.

When not serving Britain abroad, he worked in London, and dealt with a range of immigration, cultural and public relations aspects of the Foreign Office – as well as receiving praise from Mrs Thatcher for his smooth running of the London Economic Summit. These memoirs pen the mastery of a diplomat, both in times of Royal state visits to times of manoeuvring political sensitivities and hostage crises. At the end of his rich and varied career, Nicholas Barrington served as High Commissioner to Pakistan, a subject on which he writes authoritatively. Exploring the complex power relations between Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, and examining the multifaceted conflicts in Kashmir and Afghanistan, *Envoy* sheds an invaluable new light on the interaction between Islam, the West and British Foreign Policy in the twentieth century. With erudition and wit, these unique memoirs will prove essential reading for those seeking to understand the political tensions and international issues of the post-war world.

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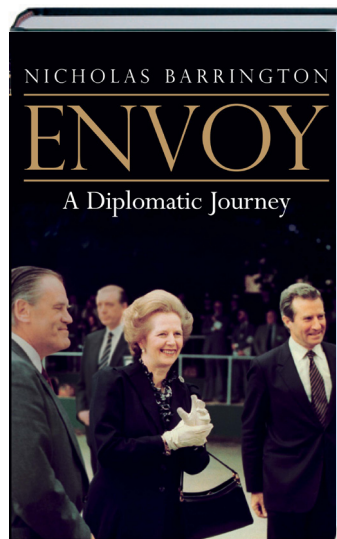
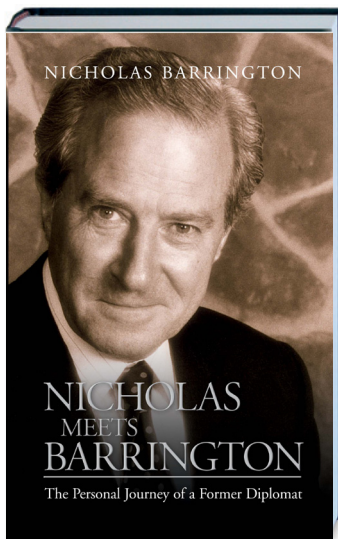
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**Nicholas Barrington**

*Nicholas Meets Barrington* tells the story of a mid-twentieth century young life that blossomed into diplomacy at the tail end of imperial Britain. Coming from an unprivileged family, Nicholas Barrington made his mark as a diplomat in a series of postings ending as High Commissioner in Pakistan. In these captivating memoirs, Barrington describes his childhood during World War II, his family background, his education at Repton School, his two years doing National Service in the army and his time at Cambridge where he earned a First in Law.

This book concentrates on personal rather than foreign policy issues. Readers are introduced to a vast array of characters, with whom Sir Nicholas crossed paths in his 37 years as a career diplomat. From the accounts of his travels in Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Egypt, Barrington presents his interest in building bridges between East and West and between Islam and Christianity, which he pursued during both his diplomatic career and in his life after retirement. What emerges is an engaging account of a colourful life with multifaceted interests, including a love of Japan, art, antiquities, poetry and amateur dramatics. The author explores the stresses of balancing a rich range of experiences with the demands of life in the Foreign Service with amusing stories which humanise the experiences of diplomacy and international politics. As befits a diplomat who was something of a dilettante, the story is told with frankness and wit and will provide unique and enjoyable insights into a fascinating life. Sir Nicholas's diplomatic journey can be found in a parallel book, *Envoy*.

**SIR NICHOLAS BARRINGTON** was a career diplomat for 37 years prior to his retirement in 1994. He has served in a variety of posts overseas including Afghanistan, Iran, Egypt and Pakistan, where he ended as High Commissioner. He also served in Japan and Brussels. His home postings included three and a half years as a private secretary to two British Foreign Secretaries. In retirement he has been active in building bridges between East and West. He is the author of *A Passage to Nuristan* (I.B.Tauris), an account of his travels to remote areas of Afghanistan in the 1960s.



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