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AT HOME WITH THE DIPLOMATS

Inside a European Foreign Ministry

IVER B. NEUMANN

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To Cecilie, the most fleeting of foreign ministry occupants

The social science that we want to concern ourselves with is a *science of actuality*. We want to understand *in its particularity* the encompassing actuality of the life in which we are placed—on one hand, the coherence and cultural *significance* of individual occurrences in their contemporary configuration, and on the other hand, the reasons for those occurrences being historically so and not otherwise.

MAX WEBER