



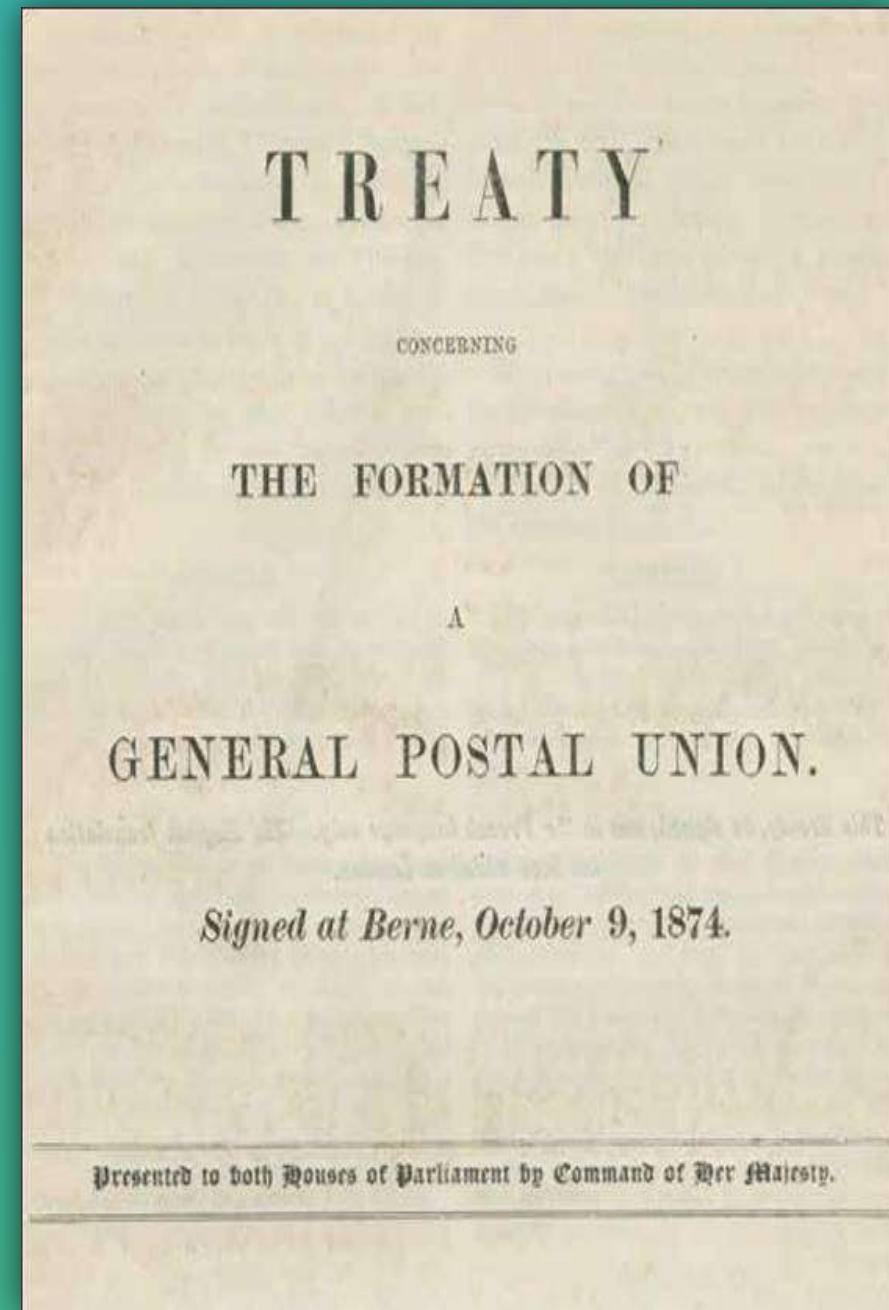
*UPU's emblem*

# The Universal Postal Union: a pioneer and model for multilateral cooperation

Diego Avaria, Ph.D.  
Universal Postal Union (UPU)

# Key messages

- One of the first international organizations
- Postal experts, not diplomats
- 1874, Berne, Switzerland
- Successful model
- Important example → revolutionary
- Chaotic internationally before UPU
- 22 countries → Treaty of Berne
- Uniform postal rates → single postal territory



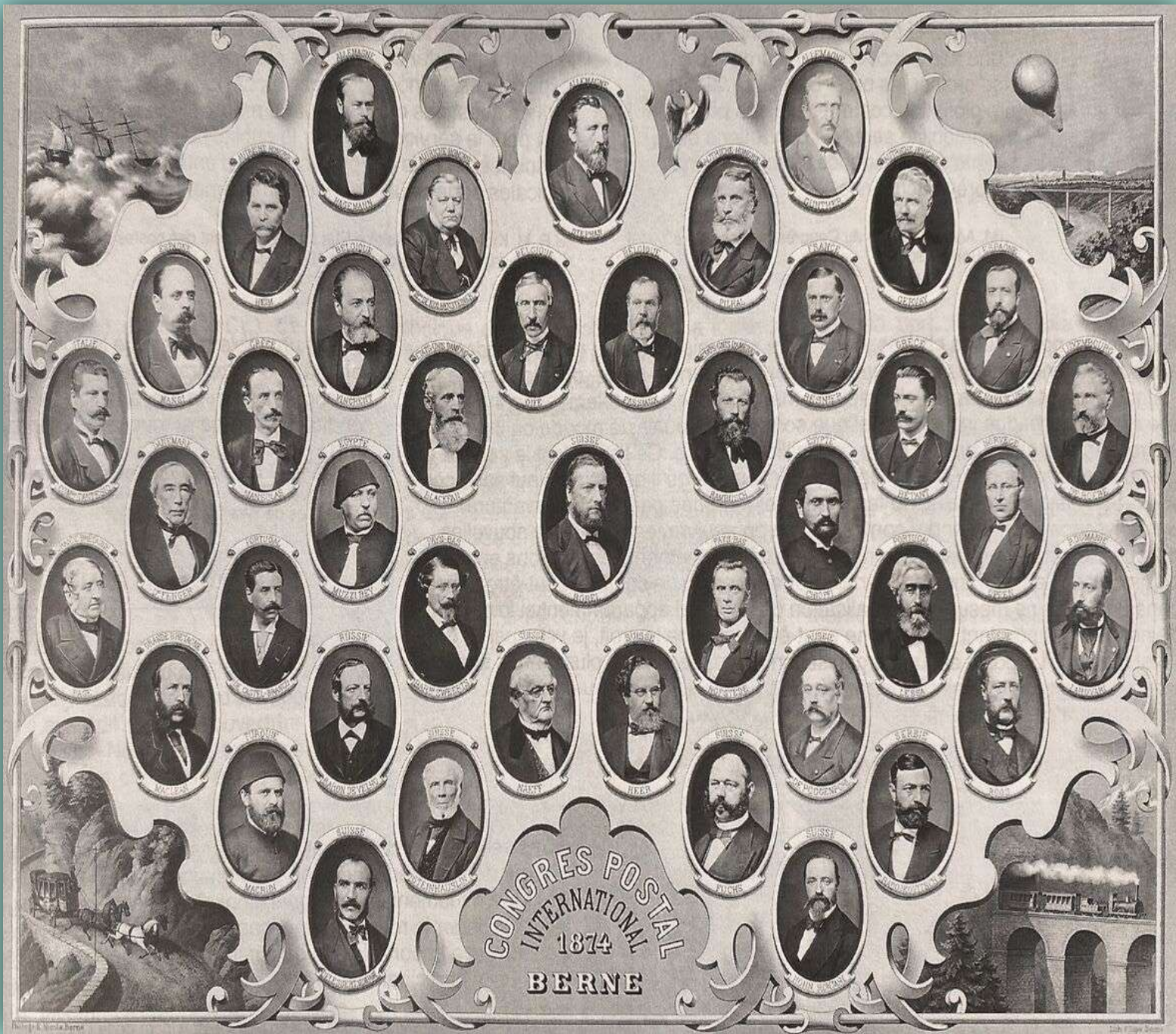
*1874 Treaty of Berne*

# Main aspects

- High level postal officials
- Postal experts
- International Bureau

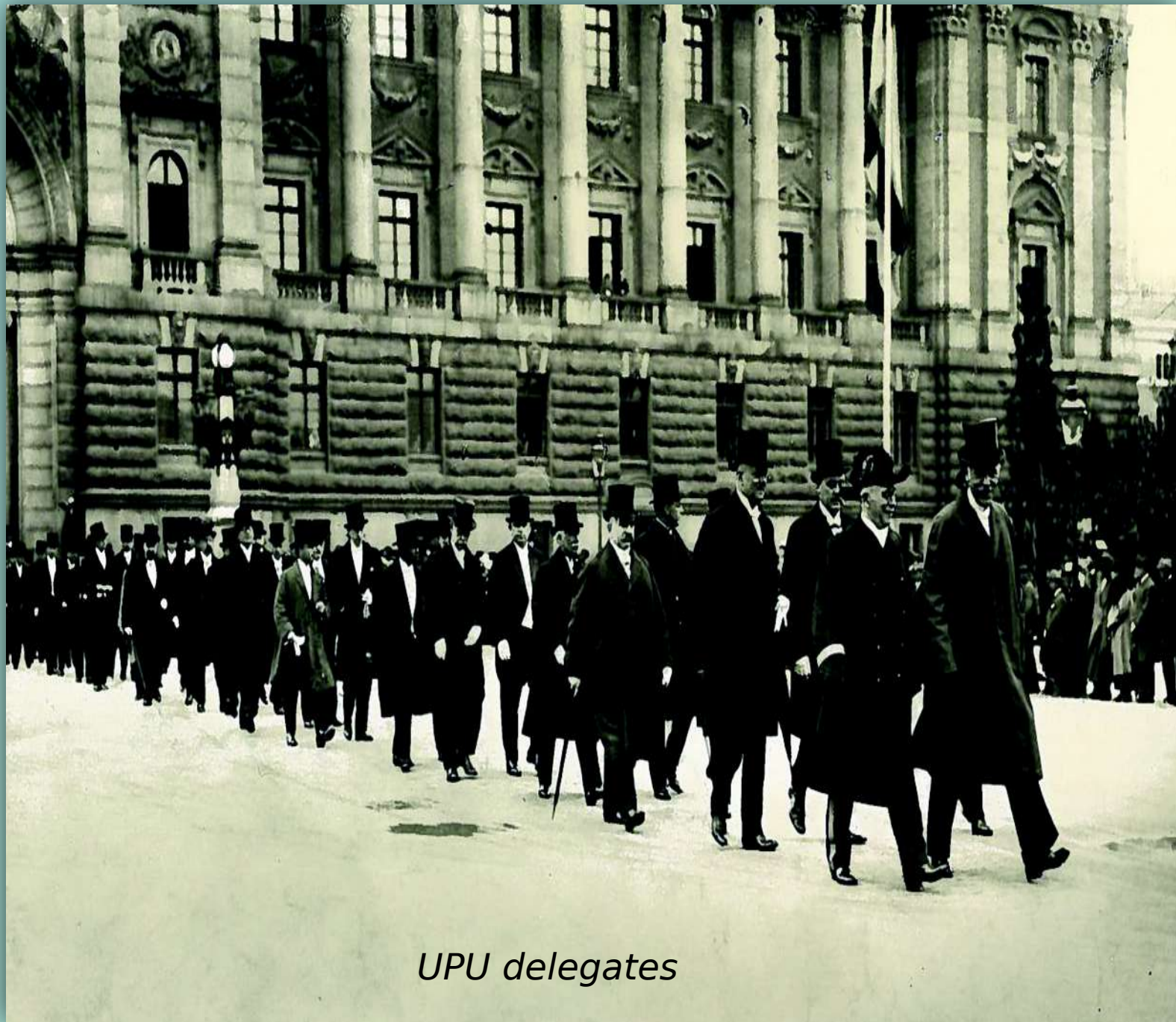
*UPU monument, 'Around the world', inaugurated in 1909, Berne, Switzerland*





# High level postal officials

- 1863, Paris, 31 resolutions agreed on
- Paris resolutions basis for 1874 Treaty of Berne
- Messages are ancient
- National posts developed in 16th - 19<sup>th</sup> century
- 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest international organization - UPU!



*UPU delegates*

# Postal experts

- Shared similar problems
- Bonds forged
- Positive atmosphere
- Today's delegates are postal experts, not diplomats
- Longevity: technical, “non-political”
- Exclusively postal matters
- Technical experts → diplomats



*UPU's IB building, Berne, Switzerland*

## International Bureau (IB)

- Secretariat
  - operational work → carry out the innovative solutions
- Rules implemented in Berne
- IB/secretariat idea copied
- Switzerland, neutral country
- Berne      Geneva
- Fewer working groups

# Conclusion

- UPU's unique take on multilateralism ensures its longevity and efficacy
- From 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond!
- Successful template
- Success and longevity stems from its uniqueness
- Technical





# Thank you!

Diego Avaria, Ph.D.  
Universal Postal Union  
(UPU)