

C631747 MAJOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

KEY WORD: ESTABLISHMENT/RELATIONS/CHINA/SOUTH KOREA/1992

BARALEE SUKONTARANGSI : THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND SOUTH KOREA IN 1992. THESIS ADVISOR : PROF. KHIEN THEERAVIT, Ph.D. 142 pp.

This research is aimed at studying factors which were instrumental to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea in 1992. The research analyses the internal and external factors in both countries which had play a major role leading to their decisions.

In this study, the author has applied the concepts of "linkage politics" and "idealism and pragmatism" in analysing factors that are expected to play a major role in the two countries' decisions. From the author's point of views, there are inter-relations between internal and external factors in any given state's foreign policy. Decesion-making and policy implementation will depend on which of the two factors is considered of greater importance.

With reference to China, the author has found that its decision to establish ties with the Republic of Korea was based chiefly on domestic factors. The change in the leadership from the late chairman Mao Zedong to Deng Xiaoping forced a drastic shift in political ideologies, economics and security patterns. From a close-door society that stressed ideology, to an adoption of a more liberal policy and emphasized to national economic development. The author merged the concepts of "idealism and pragmatism" and "linkage politics" to help analyse the People's Republic of China's change of policy. Serving as a catalyst was the prevailing changes throughout the outside world, including the collapse of the Soviet Union and the admission of North Korea and South Korea as new members of the United Nations.

Regarding the Republic of Korea's decision-making, the author has found that it was influenced mostly by external factors, in particular changing of the US foreign policy to be more conciliatory with the People 's Republic of China. Such a change has a great effect on the changing of South Korea's policy towards China--from the anti-communist policy to the policy of friendship i.e the establishment of diplomatic relations with China. Considering the internal factor i.e. private Korean business and interest groups, the author has found that it had less influence on the government's decision.

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