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**National Power, International Interdependence and state
Socialization:
Explaining China's Diplomatic Behaviour in Climate Change
politics**

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Statement

I, Leong Chi Ian, hereby state that this thesis is my own and original work, apart from the sections where origins are clearly stated. All the materials in this thesis have never been used (partially or wholly) in fulfilling the requirements for any degree or qualification in this or other universities prior to this submission.



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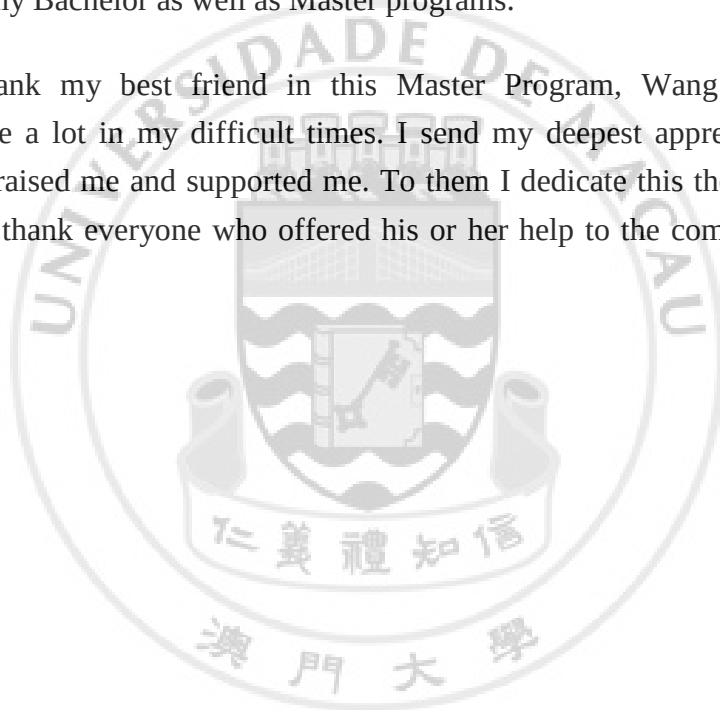
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Abstract

The 2009 Copenhagen United Nations Climate Change Conference ended with “take note of” as remarks. It carried the meaning that with the decision to be adopted by most participants, yet the note implied that it left lots of space for moving forward. China, one of the largest greenhouse gas emitters, turned her diplomatic behaviour into the focus in the international climate change conference. The strong reduction statement from China was appraised but remained with doubts. This thesis questions why Chinese national government diplomatic behaviours in this climate change conference would be different from the past, what and how to change. The three main perspectives; realism, liberalism and social constructivism in international relationship would be applied in this study. When applying the three international relationship perspectives in analyzing Chinese national government diplomatic behaviours, three main international environmental time stage seemed to be relevant: 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Kyoto Protocol and 2009 Copenhagen United Nations Climate Change Conference. The paper aimed to find out which one would be much appropriate in explaining the behaving of Chinese national government regarding climate change issue. Realism assumes power leads the behaviours of a state to defend their national interest and sovereignty. Nevertheless, numerous of international institutions emerging bring out significant influence to state’s diplomatic behaviours when state participating into international affairs. Those international institutions would alter the national policy priority in terms of liberalism. In addition, social constructivism argues the cognition, image construction and identity would affect the behaviours of the international actors. The finding shows that the three main interrelation perspectives is functioning in different stage, but realism still is the most appropriate one in explaining the change of Chinese national government diplomatic behaviours in the climate change.

Key Words: 2009 Copenhagen United Nations Climate Change Conference, Realism, Liberalism, Social Constructivism

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