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China and UN Peacekeeping: A Dilemma of
Intervention

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Statement

I, Liu Xinyu, 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.

Student's Signature:

Date:



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Abstract

The United Nations Peacekeeping Operation is one of the most important regimes to help the United Nations and international community in providing collective security and international peace. The peacekeeping operation was first mandated in 1948, when three years after the United Nations got established. For over half century, the peacekeeping regime under the management of the United Nations Security Council has been improved along with the progress of the times.

The People's Republic of China, with the world's largest population and second place of economic aggregate, is a fast growing potential superpower. For over 60 years, the relationship between China and the United Nations experienced a dramatic change. As one of the core regimes of the United Nations, peacekeeping is recognized by China nowadays. But when we go through the evolution of China's attitude towards peacekeeping, the history is dynamic changing. What has caused China to change its attitude to UN peacekeeping during the years and what dilemmas China is facing?

The significance of this thesis is that there will be a full screen of China's participation in UN peacekeeping operations with a historical survey from the very beginning to the end of 2010. It helps people better understand the changes of China's attitude towards UN peacekeeping. The thesis set up three hypotheses to be test in the study. They are figured out based on the three major international relations theories: the Structural Realism, Neoliberal Institutionalism, and Social Constructivism. As these three theories also construct the methodology of theoretical analysis, the

hypotheses will be tested in different segments of this thesis.

This thesis believes that analyzing the evolution of People's Republic of China and the United Nations relationship could largely help understanding how China changed its perception along with dilemmas. The historical survey on the evolution of China and UN peacekeeping is one of the major methodologies in this thesis. The first part will review and analysis on China and UN relations and China's attitude to UN peacekeeping from 1940s to 1980s. The second part will take a study on the evolution of China's substantial participation to UN peacekeeping. According to different characters and attitude of China's participation to peacekeeping, the substantial participation period will be segmented into four different periods. In addition, there will be two typical cases chosen as case study in this thesis. One is China's participation in peacekeeping mission Cambodia. The other one is China's participation in peacekeeping mission in Sudan. Both of the two cases are very typical to represent China's substantial participation and attitude to UN peacekeeping in different periods. However, when we go through the event in Cambodia, we found it different from other missions that China participated in the specific period. This special case deserves an independent in-depth analysis. The thesis finds out some common characters of China's participation in UN peacekeeping as well as the dilemmas that China is facing in dealing with the peacekeeping issue.

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