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China and North Pole: Why China Put an Eye on the Arctic

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in International Relations and Public Policy
at the University of Macau
04/09/2014

Abstract

With the globe warming and glaciers melt, Arctic has become a hot topic in international politics recent years. The states who located on the Arctic Circle had enacted their Arctic policies that benefit own national interests. Moreover, many non-Arctic states also begin to take part in Arctic issues and proceed to formulate their Arctic policy. China, as one of the countries that rise rapidly in recent years, has done some practices in the Arctic area. The subsequent question is why China would like to positively focus on Arctic issues, and the true intention of China has evoked dispute around academics. Some scholars deem that China aims at abundant natural resources and strategic maritime route of Arctic, and advocate other states should contend with China; the rest think that there is no need to worry about because China's Arctic participation is the part of global strategy of China, and other states should cooperate with it.

Document analysis and the case study method are adopted here to analyze the research question. China's Arctic practices in two aspects are acted as case studies---China's Arctic practices in scientific investigation and international cooperation; practices in resource exploitation and shipping research. Then, three international relations theories---Neorealism, Neoliberal Institutionalism and Constructivism will be applied here to

analyze the hypothesis and finally get a conclusion for the research question.

Key Words: China; Arctic; Nature resource; Maritime route; International relations



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Content

Statement.....	1
Abstract.....	2
Acknowledgements.....	4
List of Charts.....	7
List of Maps	7
Table of Abbreviations	8
Chapter 1, Introduction and Significance	10
1.1 Background.....	10
1.2 Research questions.....	11
1.3 Research significance.....	12
1.4 Research structure.....	13
Chapter 2, Literature review	14
2.1 Contest Scope	14
2.2 Cooperation scope.....	21
Chapter 3, Theoretical framework and Methodology	28
3.1 Neorealism.....	28
3.2 Neoliberal institutionalism.....	31
3.3 Constructivism.....	33
3.4 Hypothesis.....	36
3.5 Methodology	38
Chapter 4, China's Arctic practices in scientific investigation and international cooperation.....	39
4.1 China's Arctic scientific investigations from 1999 to 2012.....	39
4.2 China's Arctic scientific research organizations	41
4.3 China's scientific cooperation with international institutes.....	42
4.4 China's endeavor to be an observer of Arctic Council	44
Chapter 5, China's Arctic practices in shipping and resource exploitation with littoral states	46
5.1 China's shipping researches.....	46
5.1.1 Chinese ships sailing in the Arctic region	47

5.1.2 China's indirect investments on ports	49
5.2 China's resource exploitation with littoral states	50
5.2.1 China's resource exploitation in Russia	51
5.2.2 China's resource exploitation in North America.....	53
5.2.3 China's resource exploitation in Nordic countries	57
Chapter 6 General analysis and test for hypotheses	62
6.1 China's national interests in the Arctic	62
6.1.1 China's energy gap and energy diversification.....	63
6.1.2 Effect of Northern Sea Route to China.....	66
6.1.3 Summary.....	72
6.2 Arctic and China's multilateralism policy.....	74
6.2.1 Briefly review on China's multilateralism policy.....	75
6.2.2 China's participation conforms to its multilateralism policy	76
6.3 Arctic and China's national identity	79
6.3.1 Analyze China's national identity from international scope.....	80
6.3.2 Analyze China's national identity from domestic aspect.....	82
Chapter 7 Conclusion and Suggestion.....	85
Bibliography	88
1. Official government documents	88
2. Articles and Books	88
3. Online Sources and News.....	92