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Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Department of Government and Public Administration

Security, Interest, and Reputation: Explaining China's

Foreign Aid Policy

Submitted by Li Yali

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Supervisor: Dr. Weiqing Song

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Abstract

The main point of the thesis focuses on the research on the motivation of China's foreign aid policy. And aid is not a new research questions in the international relations. China was a poor country in the initial time, but its foreign aid funds often goes to countries with a higher per capita gross national product (GNP) than its own. China as an actor in the anarchic international system, it must pursue the security, power, interest in the world. In this thesis I find out that the China's foreign aid has the characteristic to serve its national interests, and it is also the policy to serve for the foreign policy and the same time it is one policy toward the third world countries. In each different historical period, China's foreign aid holds the different main points which influenced by its domestic conditions. In the 1950s-1970s, the main point of the foreign aid was to safeguard the national security faced the threat from United States, and it was still the way to compete with Soviet Union and United States for influence among the third world countries; and in the 1979-2000, the economic development was the first task of Chinese government, and so many enterprise went to the international market by some aid projects for the commerce purpose; after the 21st century, China focused more about the humanitarian aid and multilateral aid and gain a lot reputation from the aid program. In this period, Chinese government cared more about the humanitarian relief of the developing countries. So the China's foreign aid has the purposes include humanitarian, developmental, commerce and diplomacy. The case of China's aid to Timor-Leste and

Zambia was also from the national interest consideration which includes geopolitical and geostrategic consideration, diplomatic influence for the recognition of One-China policy, and also from the economic interest for market and natural resources consideration.

Key words: Foreign aid, national interest, reputation, international relations.



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