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Siwaluck Lailers : CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY UNDER XI JIN PING ON DISPUTES OVER SOUTH CHINA SEA. Advisor: Pongphisoot Busbarat

This study aims to China's foreign policies during the presidency of Xi Jinping, particularly in the "South China Sea dispute", to conclude that whether the United States is a primary factor in China's decision-making regarding its foreign policies in the South China Sea dispute. This study considers events from Xi Jinping assuming the position of President of China up to the present day. During the presidency of Xi Jinping, China's foreign policy in the South China Sea dispute found that the role of the United States as an external regional player not directly involved in the South China Sea dispute, but choosing to participate in the region in terms of cooperation in diplomacy, military involvement, and other factors . That has been significant reasons for China's more assertive responses to the South China Sea dispute. China perceives the United States as the primary factor in interfering with China's power expansion in the Asia-Pacific region, reducing the confidence of countries in the Asia-Pacific region towards China. Consequently, China has chosen to bolster its military presence in the South China Sea, asserting its dominance in the area through the construction of artificial islands and various military exercises, in order to demonstrate its power in the region and to undermine the influence of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region.

The ultimate goal of China is to rise as a new superpower. Therefore, the relationship between the superpower countries is to seek opportunities to gain superiority over its rivals. The state aims to achieve ultimate sovereignty, superpower status (hegemony), or the utmost strength to be free from other states' influencing. The relationship between the superpower countries is thus defined as a constant competition for stability, so the state must expand its military, economy, and geography in order to increase its stability. This can explain why China has chosen to pursue such foreign policies with the theory of offensive realism, to describe the behavior of the superpower and other states in the international political system.

Field of Study: International Relations

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