

ABSTRACT

The process of China's economic rise started with the Deng modernization reforms in 1979. A struggling country has turned into the world's largest economy. Now, China is an important part of global and regional organizations and Chinese stake in resolving global issues has maximized. Chinese foreign policy has become a debatable issue for scholars. They are analyzing the trends and patterns of Chinese policies and their possible implications for the world. Korean Peninsula is not only an integral part of Chinese foreign policy but also contains global significance. The division of Korean Peninsula into two parts, representing the ideologies of two hostile powers of Cold War, made it a permanent part of major power politics. Although, the Cold War ended but the logic of war still has a deep impact over Korea's internal and external affairs.

The history of Sino-Korean relations is centuries long but modern era started during the Korean War. Korea is important for China's territorial security and economic interest. Traditionally, Korea has been a security shield for China against external threats. China always tried to maintain its influence on Korea and prevented any hegemonic power to get control over it. The objective of this study is to analyze the Chinese policies towards Korean Peninsula and to identify different shifts and changes in these policies and their possible reasons. Furthermore, this thesis assesses the relevance of Korea for the US global interest and the impact of Sino-Korea policy for the pursuance of these interests.

The principles of realism have been used to analyze the Sino-Korea policy. From analysis, it has been concluded that national interest is the paramount priority of China in its relationship with Korea and traditional rivalries or acquaintances and ideology did not become a hurdle in pursuance of the state's interest. As far as the relationship between Sino-Korea policy and the US interests is concerned, this is what has been examined through the realist idea of power politics. The US military presence in South Korea is for containing expansion of communism and Chinese assistance to North Korea is for defensive purpose. If any party tries to change the status quo then there is a possibility for wider conflict in the world's most militarized zone.