

Abstract

The preliminary scope of work of this thesis, following the neo-classical realism's methodology of analyzing, we intend to find out Taiwan's foreign policy trajectory. We want to know under what circumstances and domestic situation, Taiwan chooses to follow what foreign policies. Through the analysis of objective power (which includes economy, technology, military, and International relations), and with internal political situation (which is mainly focused on elites' perceptions of the country), we hope to find out the patterns of the foreign policy and possibly contribute to future foreign policy insight.

The thesis found out that due to Taiwan's constitutional type which is a semi-presidential system, Taiwan's foreign policies are heavily aligned with the leaders' perceptions and interpretations under the unified government. The leaders' view, on the other hand, is still heavily influenced by their traditional party's stands and the goals for both two parties in recent years after democratization are always seeking more visibility in international relations and reduce the threats. The different methods and approaches applied by the leaders resulted in completely different outcomes of the objective power of Taiwan and also the changes in the opinions of citizens over the years. The results could help us to better understand politics in Taiwan nowadays and help with future policy decision.