

## Abstract

This thesis describes the CCP united front work in the Czech Republic and challenges the current understanding of the Chinese diaspora's role in the PRC's influence in countries with small Chinese communities. Through an analysis of primary Chinese-language sources contextualized using secondary literature, the study presents the first overall picture of the CCP united front work in a European country. It identifies the main united front groups within the Czech Chinese diaspora and describes their engagement with the Czech and PRC political systems, as well as pan-European Chinese diaspora associations. The main finding is that, while these organizations play an auxiliary role to the Party-state organs and channels PRC uses for interacting with Czech and European politics, their importance and activity is higher than noticed in previous research. The study further finds that the trans-national mobility of the European Chinese migrant communities, well-established in previous scholarship, influences united front work in its treatment of the continent as single space. The creation of pan-European Chinese associations is actively supported by the PRC organs that engage them on higher level than groups restricted to specific countries. The relevance of previous research on European Chinese diaspora to the analysis of the CCP's interactions with Europe is further demonstrated by the observation that PRC political system shapes the structure of Chinese associations abroad. The findings point to the existence of incentives to form groups that mimic PRC mass organizations, defined by affiliation with smaller PRC administrative units, rather than organizations aiming to represent the entire local diaspora. The conclusions of this work are relevant to the study of PRC's influence activities abroad. Due to global PRC policies and mechanisms, even in countries whose Chinese communities are smaller than in more traditional destinations for Chinese emigration, such as Australia or Canada, diaspora organizations need to be analyzed when researching local manifestations of PRC influence.