

Abstract

This thesis aims to evaluate the EU's two sanctions on China's human rights issues from an innovative realist perspective, with two case studies of the sanctions of June 1989 and March 2021. First, I explain why realism and human rights promotion do not contradict each other despite the former's cynical nature. On the contrary, I argue that human rights promotion can benefit from realist thinking. Three realist guidelines are designed as evaluation standards for the case studies. This thesis concludes that although the EU's two sanctions had yet been proven to achieve any substantial improvement in China's human rights condition, nevertheless, the policy design or their impact is in alignment with the realist guidelines.