

This thesis deals with the dispute settlement in international economic law. Specifically, it focuses on dispute settlement mechanism within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The aim of the thesis is to examine specific features and evolution of this mechanism and to look at its functioning through case analysis.

As an object of the case analysis I chose to investigate cases which have been filed by or against People's Republic of China (China) since its accession in 2001. The accession of China to the WTO was entailed with some controversy and China is well known as a state which is rather not in favor of international adjudication. Therefore, I would like to discuss why this system is more appealing to China and which consequences it might have.

The thesis is divided into four main parts which are further divided into chapters. The first part of the thesis explores evolution of the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO from its predecessor GATT 1947 and outlines main features of the dispute settlement proceedings.

The second and the third parts of the thesis shift focus on China and provide a basis for the case analysis in the fourth part. The second part deals with specific circumstances of the accession of China to the WTO, while the third part looks at historical and cultural reasons which have shaped the attitude of China towards international adjudication. Hence, these two parts are essential for better understanding of the behavior of China within the dispute settlement system.

The fourth and final part contains the case analysis which consists of two subsections. The first one examines the reasons of complaints against and by China, who are the main complainants or defendants in these cases, which agreements are most frequently tackled and other more general insights. The second subsection highlights the most important and specific areas of cases, such as intellectual property rights and trade remedies, and provides detailed analysis of two cases within these problematic areas.