



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Yiyi Du

Title: Priorities of China's Climate Policy: An Analysis of the Policy Formulation

Programme/year: Master in International Relations

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Jan Karlas

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	7
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	27
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	30
<i>Total</i>		80	63
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	9
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	18
TOTAL		100	81



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis chose a very well-defined and relevant topic: the evolution of China's climate policy. Initially, China used to be a country that prioritized its economic development, claiming that the Western states should take a lead. Over time, China became more ready to address climate change, both domestically and internationally. Hence, the development of the country's policy in the last 30 years constitutes a very meaningful topic. The thesis poses one straightforward, but clear question: what are the main driving forces behind China's climate change policy formulation?

It is necessary to appreciate that the author starts the thesis with a literature review and, in this way, sets a background for the exploration of the topic. The thesis is characterized by a very extensive and suitable theoretical and methodological framework. First of all, the framework integrates in itself several possible explanations of the change in China's climate policy: 1) material conditions constituted by vulnerability and emission intensity, 2) socialization into climate norms, 3) changes in the preferences of domestic political actors, 4) input and activities of epistemic communities, and 5) changes in the domestic public opinion. The explanations are sufficiently presented, the causal logics are outlined. Each explanation ends with a concrete hypothesis.

The methodological part is based on process-tracing. The author presents the method in a great detail. Overall, the thesis has an adequate theoretical and methodological framework.

In the empirical part, the thesis provides a sufficient overview of the changes in China's climate policy. Moreover, the author systematically applies the analytical framework build in the previous chapters. She puts together some basic data to test each of the explanations/hypotheses.



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Overall, my assessment of the thesis is positive. I would only add two critical remarks. First, the analyzed period is very long. Even though the provided analysis is not superficial, the thesis still cannot capture all the necessary details of such a long period in the limited room that it has at disposal. Second, one of the key findings is that China moved to a more active climate policy since it had socialized itself more deeply into climate norms. However, to make this finding really convincing the author would need to back it with more extensive evidence.

Minor criteria:

No comments

Overall evaluation:

The thesis focuses on an interesting and relevant topic. It builds a good theoretical and methodological framework. The analysis applies the framework systematically. Limitations – the thesis does not capture all the necessary details of the policy transformation over a very long period of time. The analysis of the empirical validity of the explanatory factors could be more thorough.

Suggested grade:

B

Signature: