

GLOBAL POLITICS

Using one of the Asia Pacific nation states as an example, discuss the ways in which that state used various forms of power to pursue its perceived national interests.

China is an Asia-Pacific nation-state that has used various instruments of power in order to achieve its national interests. Consequently, some of its more aggressive forms of power, like its military, have actually been a deterrent to some of its national interests. Additionally, China's "chequebook diplomacy" towards resolving the "divided China" issue, has weak with it drawing strong international condemnation further weakening its ability achieve its goals. In contrast, when China has used diplomacy or politics to resolve its quarrels with separatist Taiwan it has come close to reunifying with the Asian Tiger because of the soft power it enforces through dialogue, which is not threatening like its other power instruments. Ultimately, it is evident China is an emerging global superpower due to its hegemony in the Asia-Pacific community with its military, economic, diplomatic and political forms of power.

China's simulated military threat against Taiwan is an example of where hard power is unreliable for a state to achieve its national interest, and to an extent hindering for its goals. This is exemplified when Beijing tried to influence Taiwanese Presidential elections in 2000 by publicizing a military exercise to 2.5 million implying or threatening an invasion against the small Taiwanese isle. China's efforts evidently failed because the Pan-Green party won a majority. This is bad for China because the Pan-Green party is for Taiwanese independence while the Pan-Blue party seeks to eventually reunify with the mainland. Moreover, China's efforts were shown to be radically ineffective in achieving its national interests because its preferred government drastically fell in the polls and the simulated military attacks on Taiwan drew strong international condemnation against China. The international condemnation was especially bad for Beijing because it made the US pass the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act where American soldiers would teach Taiwan security forces. Therefore, its perceived national interest of a positive international standing in its bid to open up, much like Russia did with Gorbachev's "Glasnost", has been hurt because of its concentration on hard power which the international community condemns strongly because of China's evident asymmetric control and power against a separatist nation.

China's tremendous economic surplus of US\$180 billion has proved to be significant in its regional influence and to an extent successful in its bid to achieve its changing national interests. A form of power China has used to achieve its national interest of improving its territorial integrity and control is "chequebook diplomacy". This hard form of power has been used by Beijing to influence other states to not recognise Taiwan's sovereignty by China paying them under the table for their refusal to see more than "One China". This mercenary influence has to an extent been successful for China because no more than twenty states see Taiwan as independent from China. Furthermore, this increases China's own national power in the Asia-Pacific community because other states and nations become dependent upon China's mercenary boom to propel their own national interests of economic growth.

Additionally, its prospering economy (annual growth rate of 9%) has become one of its major power assets with the fluctuating US economy and gives it the strength to pursue its national interests with, sometimes, the undesired backing of other states because of their dependence upon China for their own national interests. However, the US is weary of China's emerging economic power and seeks to contain it to the Asia-Pacific community and perhaps therefore also invests its time and money in Taiwan.

The diplomatic exertion of power is a soft instrument of power which is gradually progressive. Hence, it is less favoured by China. However, when China has used its diplomatic and political influence it has increased its bid to achieve its national interest to an extent. This is evident in 2001 in the EP-3 crisis when the US "Peter Rabbit" collided with a Chinese jet. The US spy plane caused

a significant amount of damage to the people involved and complicated the Beijing-Washington relationship. The diplomatic pressure from Beijing to America was significant as it evidently achieved its national interest at the time of gaining an apology from the US. Even though China wanted a public apology it received one in the form of a letter delivered by the US ambassador in China. Additionally, Beijing received US\$34,000 in compensation, even though it demanded US\$1,000,000. But the fact that the global hegemon and superpower apologised to the Asian state was vital in its long term national interest to improve its international standing. It further increased China's accrued potential for power because it defeated the US in the diplomatic quarrel. In paradox, China faced some failure in its gloating because the US sold its biggest ever batch of arms to Taiwan. This potentially increased Taiwan's power to pursue a battle with China if it decided to violently reclaim the separatist state. Hence, China's diplomatic power was successful to an extent, but also caused some draw backs with its strong pursuit in demanding an apology from the US.

The complication of the "divided China" issue is role the US plays. Even though China implements various instruments of might to pursue its national interests, the interplay of the US' national interest's conflict with China's and therefore there is a continuity of long term national interests, as they remain unachieved by China because of complicated external influences affecting its decision making. Therefore, China's exertion of soft and hard power leave its national interests unachieved because of external influences, like the US' interference in the issue causing a "heel dragging" (President Hu Jintao) process of reunification with Taiwan and China.

Since power is the exertion of various forms of power in the pursuit of federal interests, it is evident that China displays strong power both aggressively and in softly because it has been effective in both to certain degrees. However, it is evident China's soft power has been more successful in its pursuit of its national interests, even though it is a slow and tedious process which progressively achieves Beijing's goals. Consequently, it is evident that hard power in China has caused it much peril, this is historically evident in 1989 in the Tiananmen Square Massacre and in its behaviour in Taiwan's 2000 Presidential elections where it was ostracised for its asymmetrical use of power. Therefore, it is evident that either hard or soft power do not bring the most spectacular successes, but that it is usually an interplay of both that achieve significant results for a states national interests.