

Engaging with the World: Chinese Foreign Policy Decision Making

Session 6: The Bureaucratic Politics of Chinese Foreign Policy (4 hours)

Purpose:

To understand Chinese foreign policy making from a governmental perspective.

Key points:

1. The perspective of bureaucratic politics in foreign policy: non-Chinese case studies.
2. Understanding different meanings of bureaucratic politics: factionalism vs. bureaucratic politics.
3. General features of the structure of the Chinese Government.
4. The changing role of Chinese governmental politics on Chinese foreign policy
5. The changing role of the Foreign Ministry in Chinese foreign policy making
6. New players and new tendencies in Chinese foreign policy

Reading assignments:

Hamrin, Carol. "Elite Politics and the Development of China's Foreign Relations," In *Chinese Foreign Policy: Theory and Practice*, eds. by Robinson and Shambaugh. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1994, pp. 70-109.

Chapter 1, "The Foreign Affairs Structure," Chapter 2, "The Organization of a Bureaucracy and Sectoral Mechanism and Process," Chapter 3, "The Case of The MFA-Its History, Cadres' Corps, and Political Cultural," in Lu Ning, pp. 7-76.

David Lampton, "China's Foreign and National Security Policy-Making Process: Is It Important and Does It Matter," in Lampton, pp.1-35

Questions:

What are the most remarkable features of the structure of the Chinese Government?

How does the structure of the Chinese Government affect Chinese foreign policy?

How is China's foreign policy making process different from those of other countries (like yours)? Give some explanations of these differences.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of democratic decision-making?

How does the complexity of China's foreign policy making shape Chinese foreign policy today?