

A THEORETICAL ASSESSMENT OF CHINA'S RATIONAL CHOICE DECISION MAKING IN AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Fanie Herman

Department of Diplomacy and
International Affairs
Ming Chuan University
TAIWAN

ABSTRACT

China is a major player in African peacekeeping operations (PKOs) and makes decisions based on careful government options. The motivation to participate in PKOs is not based on a fixed set of security or strategic interests but takes rational decision making into account to maximize utility. The literature points out that China is involved in PKOs to promote international prestige, become a responsible world player or to gain operational experience but these goals are generally speaking also applicable to some other international objectives, for instance joint military exercises and technological exchanges. In view of this background, the study aims to examine China's rational decision making in PKOs focusing on the expectation that the leadership considers a list of options to maximize national or security interest, a reaction to an option is proposed, and with every option one course of action is chosen. Peacekeeping intervention is analyzed in relation to the primary goal of promoting international peace and development with secondary contributions on specific goals in the peacekeeping environment. The study point out that peacekeeping is a means to exercise economic diplomacy, strengthen bilateral and multilateral relations, builds strategic partnerships and facilitates energy diplomacy.

Keywords: Peacekeeping Operations, Rational Choice Decision making, Bilateral and Multilateral Relations, Economic Diplomacy, Strategic Partnerships.