

ACTORS AND STRUCTURES IN PROCESS AND POLICY APPROACHES TO CHINA'S PEACEKEEPING

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ABSTRACT

The argument in this paper is that China's peacekeeping decision-making is the product of a number of actors and structures, focusing on the interplay between domestic and international processes and actions. Examining the interaction between process and action approaches provides answers to who are the actors involved and the structures that affect decision-making, which in relation to foreign policy analysis in China is a complicated field. In view of this complexity, the actors and structures treated in the analysis of China's peacekeeping decision-making shall be examined as follows. The first step in this overview is to determine what is to be explained, i.e. the explanandum (or dependent variable). The second question is how peacekeeping decision-making is explained, referring to the type of explanans (or independent variables) invoked in its analysis. The nature and role of actors are then discussed in relation to these explanatory dimensions and the approaches that they have generated within China's peacekeeping decision-making. Finally, two further issues are briefly raised, the agency structure problem, and the question of whether an integrated framework within peacekeeping decision-making is feasible, before concluding with a recommendation of how to resolve the former in terms of a constructive answer to the latter.