

**Information on dissertation submitted for the PhD degree
of National Research Tomsk State University**

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

With the continuous improvement of China's position in the international arena and the adjustment of its foreign policy, the importance of China's relationship with Southeast Asia has become increasingly prominent. This dissertation focuses

on the role of soft power in the relationship between the People's Republic of China and Southeast Asian countries from 1990 to 2020. By exploring the historical interactions between China and Southeast Asian countries, it expounds the importance of cultural influence and immigrant exchanges in the basis of cooperation. Selected examples from economic, political, cultural and other perspectives, in – depth analysis of China's influence on Southeast Asian countries and the interaction process between the two sides. In particular, assessing the status and role of overseas Chinese in the interactions between Southeast Asian countries and China. Through as comprehensive research as possible, trying to clarify the practical path of soft power and public diplomacy in the communication between the People's Republic of China and Southeast Asian countries, and shows the gradual evolution and mutual promotion relationship among them. This is of great practical significance for promoting bilateral cooperation and developments.

The purpose of the study is to identify the tools and results of China's use of soft power in the process of interaction with Southeast Asian countries. To achieve this goal, the following tasks are set:

- to explore the concepts and development of soft power and public diplomacy;
- to study the international situation and the evolution of the foreign policy of China and Southeast Asia in 1990-2020;
- to explore the interaction between China and Southeast Asian countries in specific areas such as politics, economics and culture;
- to study the situation of Chinese living abroad and their understanding of the relationship between China and the countries of Southeast Asia.

Chronologically, the study focuses on the period from 1990 to 2020. Methodologically, the research is based on the principle of historicism. To conduct the research, a systematic approach, historical-descriptive and political-descriptive methods, case studies, as well as statistical data analysis were used. The novelty of the study lies in the fact that this is the first comprehensive study of the impact of China's soft power on the countries of Southeast Asia, covering the period after the

end of the Cold War. A number of primary sources in Chinese were introduced into scientific circulation for the first time.

Keywords: Soft power, Public Diplomacy, Culture, Relation, Interaction, Overseas Chinese.

List of articles:

1. Yiyuan X. (2023) The influence of the economic policy uncertainty on investment in China and Russia. *East Asia: Facts and Analytics*. № 2. pp. 17 – 29. DOI: 10.24412/2686-7702-2023-2-17-29

2. Yiyuan X. (2023) The role of openness in energy transitions: a comparative study of China and Southeast Asian countries. *Issues of National and Federative Relations*. № 101. pp. 3561 – 3569. DOI: 10.35775/PSI.2023.101.8.034

3. Xiang Yiyuan, Luo Yanchao (2023) Zheng He's contribution to the development of China's soft power concept. *Vestnik Tomskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Istoriya – Tomsk State University Journal of History*. № 84. pp. 97–102. DOI: 10.17223/19988613/84/12

4. Yiyuan Xiang, Timoshenko, A.G. (2024) Overseas Chinese as one of the main tools of Chinese soft power. *Vestnik Tomskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Istoriya – Tomsk State University Journal of History*. № 87. pp. 144–151. DOI: 10.17223/19988613/87/17

5. Xiang Yiyuan (2024) Overseas Chinese as assets of public diplomacy in Southeast Asia. *Vestnik Tomskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Istoriya – Tomsk State University Journal of History*. № 91. pp. 110–119. DOI: 10.17223/19988613/91/13

List of conferences:

1. International Scientific and Practical Conference "China–Russia Relations under International Changes: History and Reality" (China Association for the Study of China – Russia Relations History and Shandong University, Qingdao, 7–9 July 2023). The report "The Role of Economic Policy Uncertainty in Shaping Russia – China Relations during International Crises".

2. International Scientific and Practical Conference "The Path to Southeast Asian Studies: Mutual Learning of Theory, Value, and Methods in the Era" (South China Normal University, Guangzhou, 27 August 2023). The report "The Role of Openness in Energy Transition: China's Implications for Southeast Asia".

3. International Scientific and Practical Conference "Common Development between China and the Indian Ocean Region" (Yunnan University of Finance and Economics, Kunming, 18 August 2023). The report "Dynamic Evolution of the China – India – Pakistan Triangle Relations and China's Strategic Choices in the Indian Ocean Region" (co-authored with Luo Yanchao).

4. International Scientific and Practical Conference "2023 China – ASEAN Xishan (Regional Countries Study Sub Forum): China – ASEAN high-quality joint construction of the One Belt One Road" (Guizhou University, Guiyang, 31 August 2023). The report "Opportunities and challenges of China – ASEAN cooperation from the experience of cooperation between countries outside the region and ASEAN" (co-authored with Zou Jiahong).

5. International Scientific and Practical Conference "Intersectionality and Integration: South Asian Studies from the Perspective of Regional and National Studies" (Xi'an International Studies University, Xi'an, 20–21 May 2023). The report "The confrontation and integration of soft power between China and India in South Asia: a regional research perspective in the 21st century" (co-authored with Luo Yanchao).