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CONFLICT BETWEEN CHINESE MAINLAND AND HONG KONG (1997-2024): FACTORS,INTERESTS AND RESOLUTION

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Universiti Utara Malaysia

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA

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CONFLICT BETWEEN CHINESE MAINLAND AND HONG KONG (1997-2024): FACTORS,INTERESTS AND RESOLUTION

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ABSTRACT

Hong Kong is undoubtedly an inseparable part of China, and the "One Country, Two Systems" policy has yielded positive outcomes during the initial years following Hong Kong's return. However, in the post-handover period, a series of social conflicts have emerged, with their scale gradually escalating. From the education reforms at the beginning of the 21st century to the Occupy Central movement in 2014 and the widespread opposition to the "One Country, Two Systems" framework in 2019, these events have significantly intensified tensions between Hong Kong and the mainland. As a result, the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle now faces substantial challenges. Given the framework of "One Country, Two Systems" and Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy, why does it continue to experience frequent confrontations with the Central Government, while Macao, also a returned territory, rarely encounters similar conflicts? What underlying factors contribute to these divergent trajectories? What are the respective interests of the parties involved? And what strategies have been adopted in response? The purpose of this study is to address these critical questions. This research conducts interviews with residents from both regions and performs a systematic comparison of the collected data to derive meaningful conclusions. Based on the findings, recommendations for conflict resolution and improved governance are proposed. This research uses qualitative analysis to analyze the differences between the two places and their interactions from the perspectives of politics, economy, culture, education, and their impact on conflicts. It combines primary and secondary data to draw relevant conclusions, and the reliability of the primary data is further verified through triangulation with secondary sources. This study conducts in-depth research on Functionalism, Conflict Theory, Conflict Triangle, Interactionism, Exchange Theory, and other theories within the broader conflict theory framework, and identifies key factors, issues, and potential resolutions. It also provides guidance for future research directions in conflict studies. The main reason for the conflict between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong lies in their nearly one hundred years of colonial history. This colonial history has created significant political, social, and cultural differences between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong.

Keyword: Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, Conflict, Factors, Resolutions

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ABSTRAK

Hong Kong tidak dapat dinafikan merupakan sebahagian yang tidak terpisahkan daripada China, dan dasar "Satu Negara, Dua Sistem" telah menghasilkan impak positif pada tahun-tahun awal selepas pengembalian Hong Kong. dalam tempoh pasca penyerahan, satu siri konflik sosial telah muncul, dengan skalanya semakin meningkat dari semasa ke semasa. Bermula daripada reformasi pendidikan pada awal abad ke-21 hingga kepada gerakan Occupy Central pada tahun 2014 serta penentangan meluas terhadap kerangka “Satu Negara, Dua Sistem” pada tahun 2019, peristiwa-peristiwa ini telah secara signifikan meningkatkan ketegangan antara Hong Kong dan tanah besar China. Justeru, pelaksanaan prinsip “Satu Negara, Dua Sistem” kini berhadapan dengan cabaran yang besar. Berdasarkan kerangka “Satu Negara, Dua Sistem” dan tahap autonomi tinggi yang dimiliki oleh Hong Kong, mengapakah wilayah ini terus mengalami konfrontasi yang kerap dengan Kerajaan Pusat, sedangkan Macau, yang juga merupakan wilayah yang telah dikembalikan, jarang sekali berhadapan dengan konflik yang serupa? Apakah faktor-faktor asas yang menyumbang kepada trajektori yang berbeza ini? Apakah kepentingan masing-masing bagi pihak-pihak yang terlibat? Dan apakah strategi yang telah diambil sebagai respons? Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menjawab persoalan-persoalan kritikal tersebut. Kajian ini menjalankan temu bual dengan penduduk dari kedua-dua wilayah dan melaksanakan perbandingan sistematik terhadap data yang dikumpulkan bagi menghasilkan kesimpulan yang bermakna. Berdasarkan dapatan kajian, cadangan untuk penyelesaian konflik dan penambahbaikan tadbir urus dikemukakan. Kajian ini menggunakan analisis kualitatif untuk meneliti perbezaan antara kedua-dua wilayah serta interaksi mereka dari perspektif politik, ekonomi, budaya dan pendidikan, termasuk kesannya terhadap konflik. Kajian ini menggabungkan data primer dan sekunder bagi merumuskan kesimpulan yang relevan, dan kebolehpercayaan data primer turut disahkan melalui kaedah triangulasi dengan sumber sekunder. Kajian ini turut menjalankan penelitian mendalam terhadap teori Fungsionalisme, Teori Konflik, Segi Tiga Konflik, Interaksionisme, Teori Pertukaran, serta teori-teori lain dalam kerangka teori konflik yang lebih luas, dan mengenal pasti faktor-faktor utama, isu-isu berkaitan serta potensi penyelesaian. Selain itu, kajian ini turut memberikan panduan bagi hala tuju penyelidikan masa hadapan dalam bidang kajian konflik. Punca utama konflik antara Tanah Besar China dan Hong Kong terletak pada sejarah kolonial yang berlangsung hampir seratus tahun. Sejarah kolonial ini telah mewujudkan perbezaan politik, sosial dan budaya yang ketara antara Tanah Besar China dan Hong Kong.

Kata Kunci: Tanah Besar China, Hong Kong, Konflik, Faktor, Penyelesaian

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	Attitude Behavior Contradiction
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CPPCC	Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HK	Hong Kong
HSBC	The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited
HKD	Hong Kong Dollar
IPO	Initial Public Offering
LIC	Low Intensity Conflict
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
RMB	Renminbi
PPI	Positive Peace Index
PTS	Points
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SCT	Social Conflict Theory
USA	The United States of America
USD	United States Dollar
UK	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
UN	United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
WEB	World Wide Web
WTO	World Trade Organization

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Conflicts are pervasive in human society. While conflicts can sometimes lead to losses for all parties involved, they also have the potential to strengthen commitment and enhance relationships. Conflicts that are understood and effectively resolved can facilitate change and development within interpersonal dynamics. True peace is not merely the overt suppression of conflicts nor a superficial calmness maintained amidst tension and vulnerability. Rather, it emerges from the creative management of conflicts and the collaborative efforts of diverse groups working together to achieve genuine consensus. Peace is attained when individuals, families, groups, societies, or ethnic communities integrate into harmonious interpersonal relationships.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Interview Questions

Due to not every respondent having the time and willingness to be interviewed, the majority of respondents were surveyed via email, especially in Hong Kong, with some using face-to-face interviews.Due to the qualitative analysis adopted in this study, all questions were open-ended, allowing interviewees to elaborate on their viewpoints in more detail and comprehensively. All issues revolve around conflicting issues, actors, and resolutions.

Dear interviewees, I am a doctor from North University of Malaysia who is conducting a survey on the conflict between Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Question 1: How old are you?

_____

Question 2 : What is your job?

_____

Question 3 : Have you ever participated in the conflicts that occurred in Hong Kong? The ways of participation include direct involvement or supporting relevant opposition activities online.

_____

Question 4: Do you think you are Chinese?

_____

Question 5: What do you think of the colonial history of Hong Kong?

_____

Question 6 : What do you think of the political system in China ?

_____

Question 7 :What's your opinion on "One Country, Two Systems"?

_____

Question 8:What do you think of the referendum?

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_____

Question 9 : What's your opinion on the central government's educational reform in Hong Kong, especially the addition of patriotic education ?

_____

Question 10 :What's your opinion on the Fugitive Extradition Regulations?

_____

Question 11 :Which social media do you usually use?

_____

Question 12 : What do you think is the way to resolve the conflict between Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland?

_____

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