

The Three Dimensions of China's Comprehensive National Power (CNP): Hard, Soft & Smart

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Abstract

Asian countries such as China and India have established and developed their own concepts of national power. It is a comprehensive re-assessment of what created national power especially after the end of the Cold War which involved the United States of America and Russia, as well as the Asian and Trans-Atlantic monetary crises. Clearly, China was advanced when it suggested the concept of its Comprehensive National Power (CNP). Basically, the power usage would be grounded on an entire national vision which is mainly based on its people aspirations added with strong leadership ability. China's CNP is distinctive based on the Chinese people perspectives, yet different from the Western national power. To understand further about China's national power, this article aims to investigate certain concepts about China's CNP. The article also seeks to answer questions on what entails China's CNP and also the dimensions of China's CNP. The objective of this article is to examine the three dimensions of China's CNP in terms of hard, soft, and smart power. Overall, this article argues that China's CNP has a wider coverage, emphasising completeness and factors such as material strength, economy and influence. This article is based on qualitative methodology using document analysis of various reading documents and journals. Relevant themes were analysed and categorised to come up with themes to illustrate the different components of concepts pertaining to China's CNP - hard, soft and smart power.

Keywords: China; Comprehensive National Power (CNP); Hard Power; Soft Power; Smart Power

INTRODUCTION

Received: 10 July 2022
Accepted: 21 August 2022
Published: 31 December 2022

Baru (2020) stated that Bertrand Russell in his classic treatise regarding power emphasized that in order to understand society, it essential to understand the notion of power. From Russell's perspective, aspects such as economy, military strength, governmental administration and also ideology of a country make up the notion of national power. In brief, national power can be summarised as a combination of various elements such as the country's economy, military strength, administration and last but not least, the ability of ideology. These aspects are significant in accordance to the national power defined by the Western and Asian strategists especially with regards to influential countries such as the United States of America (USA), China and also India.

In addition, Tellis (2017) highlighted national power as the ability of a country to achieve strategic objectives over decisive acts. Asian countries such as China and India have established and developed their own concepts of national power. It is a comprehensive re-assessment of what created national power especially after the end of the Cold War which involve the United States of America and Russia, as well as after the Asian and also the Trans-Atlantic monetary crises. Clearly, China was advanced when it suggested the concept of its Comprehensive National Power (CNP). Basically, the power usage would be grounded on an entire national vision which is mainly based on its people aspirations. Moreover, the national vision required strong leadership ability. This means that the goals and objectives of its national power is not only emphasized on China's military power, but also on other factors such as its economic strength, human resource, accessibility of national resource, knowledge and also science and technology.

China's CNP which consisted of all these mentioned factors has its significance. It is true that China's Comprehensive National Power is distinctive based on the Chinese people perspectives, yet different from the Western national power. To understand further about China's national power, this article aims to investigate concepts about China' CNP. This article also seeks to answer questions posed on (1) What is China's CNP all about? (2) What are the dimensions of China's CNP? This article is divided into three parts. Firstly, it illustrated the CNP concepts. Secondly, it examined the dimensions of China's CNP. Finally, the third section concluded the dimensions of China's CNP. It is hoped that this article would add to the knowledge on China's comprehensive national policy to create a better understanding towards China's stand and role in the current influence and position in the contemporary world situations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Concept of Comprehensive National Power (CNP)

According to Chuwattananurak (2014), CNP was presented in China in 1984 after Deng Xiaoping requested some Chinese scholars to seek answers on the prospect of China's security environment. China's CNP concepts and policies were initiated in an academy known as the China Academy of Social Sciences. Comprehensive national power (CNP) or *Zonghe Guoli* is regarded as a concept founded on modern political

thoughts of China. This concept basically refers to a nation-state general power. CNP is distinguished for being a fully Chinese political concept which clearly bears no root in Marxism-Lennism or the pre-20th century Chinese (Bajwa, 2008). Hans Morgenthau suggested that elements posed in 1954 - such as governance, diplomacy, national character, morale, armed forces, military preparedness, population, leadership, technology, industrial capacity, raw materials, food and also geography, be included in the country's modern and advanced concept of national power.

The definition of CNP by the Chinese could be found in “*The Rising of Modern China: Comprehensive National Power and Grand Strategy*” written by Hu Angang. According to Hu (2002), CNP is a country's comprehensive ability to achieve its strategic goals by conducting the required actions globally. Generally, CNP is described as the total power of a country in the aspects of economy, military strength, science and technology, resources and also influences (Hu & Men, 2004). In this context, Deng Xiaoping clearly stated that the measurement of a country's national power must be looked into systematically and viewed from all aspects (Chuwattananurak, 2014).

China's rise in the international arena, especially after Deng Xiaoping introduced the Open Door policy and reformations in terms of the economy, led the leaders of China to fully focus on the assessment of China's own power. By focusing on its own power, China was able to comprehend the gap between its power and other global powers, especially the United States of America (US). The main reason China adapted and developed its own CNP as its power assessment is the neglect of some elements within Western CNP. For example, Western CNP neglected the sources of soft power such as education and culture, which are regarded by China as important to be adopted in its CNP (Chuwattananurak, 2014). From the perspective of China, CNP's assessment has two major aims. The first aim is that, if there is a war, CNP will be able to estimate the relative abilities of global powers. The second aim is to make an evaluation of the potency of China's strategic partners and opponents.

Dimensions of China's Comprehensive National Power (CNP): Hard, Soft and Smart Power

The topic of power has been an interest of social scientists since ancient times, if one were to return to the writings of prominent social scientists such as Aristotle, Plato, and Machiavelli. Nevertheless, there are still noteworthy debates regarding the specific

definition of power. This is because power is not only one of the most important topics in political science, but it also encompasses the realm of international relations. In international relations, one of the most influential definitions of power belongs to Max Weber. Power has been defined as the probability of one actor within a social relationship being in a position to carry out his own will despite resistance (Weber, 1947). Meanwhile, Robert Dahl defines power as the capability of A to get B to do something he would otherwise not do (Dahl, 1957).

Numerous scholars have written comprehensively regarding "power", but this article uses the writings of Joseph S. Nye (1990) on power, with specific reference to Nye's frames : hard, soft, and smart. According to Nye (1990), power is the ability to affect others to achieve the outcomes he wants. Essentially, this paper examines the three dimensions of China's comprehensive national power, which are hard, soft, and smart power, as illustrated by Nye.

China's Hard Power

Nye (1990), a distinguished service professor at Harvard University in his book entitled, "*Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power*" stated that there are mainly two sources of a country's hard power - economic and military strength. Nye & Jisi (2009) in "*The Rise of China's Soft Power and its Implications for the United States*" defined hard power as the state ability to follow in a mean that would bring about a preferred result over force, inducement or payment. Moreover, hard power is measured through its tangible resources such as weapons and capital. This means that the more money you have, the more things which you can spend on. In the context of China, at present it has proven itself as a major economic player which has the ability to turn into a responsible global and regional emerging power. This can be seen clearly by analysing the Asian financial crises which occurred in 1997 and 1998. As the world's hegemon power, United States of America (US) failed to react accordingly and was unable to provide necessary solutions to overcome such crisis. During this critical moment, China came into action, and stabilised the impact of the crisis on world economy. China clearly stated that the country would not devalue *Renminbi* (RMB), even though China had received high pressure to devalue its currency.

To further understand this topic, this section would then focus on China and Southeast Asia's economy. At present, China has become the major factor which has an

influence on the Southeast Asian countries' economic development for several years. China has become the vast market for the Southeast Asia countries to export their goods at a low tariff and increase their Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Therefore, Southeast Asian countries, especially through the ASEAN economic perspectives place significant concerns and have build close relationships with China. Realising the significant economic relations with Southeast Asian countries, the current Paramount Leader of China, Xi Jinping launched an economic initiative known as One Belt One Road (OBOR) which was later known as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). BRI is a modern version of the ancient Silk Road initiated by Xi Jinping. Jinchen (2016) in "*One Belt and One Road: Connecting China and the World*" mentioned that Xi's economic initiatives consisted of six economic corridors. These corridors brought about the connectivity not only between China, and Southeast Asia but also with South Asia, Northeast Africa and also the Southern Europe regions especially in terms of economic developments.

Apart from BRI as being one of China's economic initiatives with the nations around the world, China has also established the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The establishment of this bank in 2015 is to provide capital for the development in terms of providing funds to help develop infrastructures in the Asia Pacific regions. An interesting matter worth mentioned here is that US allies such as United Kingdom (UK) and France have also become members of the AIIB bank. Apart from that, the so called "*de facto*" leader of European Union (EU), Germany also took part in China's economic initiatives. With the involvement of UK, France and Germany, USA has strongly voiced that it is against their involvements with AIIB as United States and China are considered as rivals.

It is opined that it is not only the nations in Asia and Europe which have understood, and are currently sensing the rapid influences of China's economic strengths. Similarly, the African regions have also been impacted by China's economic clout. A fact worth mentioned here is that at present, USA is no longer Africa's largest trading partner. China has strengthened its position in African nations since 2009. After 13 years, as what the world could observe right now, China has become a dominating influence in these regions. In fact, China has continuously given its full commitment in providing capital for the development of infrastructures and has continuously been promoting its economic aids.

Besides Africa, China's influence also expands to the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) regions. The economic objectives of China in LAC are mainly to obtain access to raw materials and agricultural goods. Other than that, China establishes new vast markets for goods from this region too. Moreover, it has secured a close partnership in terms of technology firms with LAC nations. Like in Africa, China also has the same objective which is to strongly implement its One China Policy. This is significant for China in order to corrode the diplomatic support which Taiwan currently revels in (Berg, 2021). As for now, there are 8 out of 25 countries within the LAC regions which recognize Taiwan, instead of China. Those countries include Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and last but not least, St Vincent and the Grenadines. All of these countries have conveyed renewed support for Taiwan as a sovereign Chinese country (Mowla & Bernhard, 2022).

Based on these economic strengths, it is believed that China is able to become the alternative for third world countries to access funds. Now countries need not rely too much on funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and also World Bank. 16 years ago, China together with Brazil, Russia and India formed Brazil, Russia, India, and China (BRIC) pact during a meeting comprising of their foreign ministers at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2006. In 2010, South Africa joined the four members. Thus, the BRIC acronym changed to BRICS. As in 2019, BRICS's economy accounted for 3.14 billion people which equal to 41% of the global population, having 24% of the global GDP along with over 16% shares within the global trade (BRICS, 2021). Since its establishment in 2006, BRICS members have worked closely together in order to deliberate significant issues pertaining to the three pillars of BRICS - politics and security, finance and culture, and people to people exchange (BRICS, 2021).

As mentioned earlier in this section, the sources for a country's hard power are through its strong economic and military context. According to Elder & Ayson (2012) in their written work, "*China's Rise and New Zealand's Interests: A Policy Premier for 2030*", they clearly stated that China's military power development has accompanied the upsurge of China's strength in economy. 1990s was the beginning era for China's modernisation of its armed forces, the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Since then, PLA's competency as the main defence force has been highly boosted. PLA is a unified military organization for China's land, sea and air military forces. Essentially, China is one of the world countries which have the capabilities to strike nuclear power.

Moreover, it has the ability to launch nuclear warheads with Intercontinental Ballistic missiles (ICBMs). China military power also includes having stealth fighter jets and drone. These advance technological equipment would then equip China as a country with sophisticated air force technology. This would certainly project China's significant aerial military power inside China, and also in the airspace dimensions of other countries around the world.

Realising the significance of having stealth jet fighters and stealth drones, China's air force - the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) has made a move by making improvements on its stealth J-20 fighter jets. Currently, PLAAF has a stand and achievement as excellent as other powerful air forces such as America. In addition, it has the ability to build its own fighter jets. According to Xioayan (2014) in "China "Sea Power Nation" Strategy", China has made plans to make its navy, the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) as blue water navy units which could uplift China as a sea power in the world. According to Vavaseur (2021), China's navy is currently the world's largest, with the strength of around 355 ships which consisted of major surface combatants, aircraft carriers, ocean-going amphibious ships, main warfare ships and fleet auxiliaries. It is believed that in the next three to eight years, China's navy force is projected to expand its fleet armada to about 420 ships and 460 ships (Vavaseur, 2021).

China's Soft Power

Soft power is the ability to get what you want through attraction rather than through coercion or payment (Nye, 2004). Soft power is also the ability to affect others through cooperation means of framing agenda, persuading and occasioning positive attraction in order to get preferred outcomes. In fact, hard power can be measured through tangible resources such as weapon and capital. In fact, it is not an easy task to measure soft power since it is derived from intangible resources, such as culture. Nevertheless, the usage of hard power is costly as it needed a lot of material resources. But, this is not true with soft power. The usage of soft power must be originated from sources such as culture, political ideology and also diplomacy.

Currently, there are seven different ways to look at the influence of China in terms of its soft power to the world. Those seven ways are observed from perspectives such as the promotion of its culture, education, martial art, public diplomacy, ideology, developing model and also foreign policy. In this article however, only three ways

would be highlighted and detailed out namely the promotion of China's culture ideology, and foreign policy. This article selected only these three ways in order to align with the sources for soft power of a country (culture, political value and foreign policy) as discussed by Nye (2006).

First of all, one of the sources for a country's soft power is through its culture. In the context of China, the world has witnessed this East Asia country as one of the world's greatest civilization power. As a great civilization power, Mandarin language has attracted a high level of attention among foreigners to learn the language. Mandarin is one of the six official diplomatic languages of United Nations (UN) along with languages such as English, Arabic, French, Spanish and Russian. With almost a 1.5 billion population, it is reasonable that Mandarin is being recognized as one of the official languages highly used in the world. In relations with its enormous population, China is emerging and of course, its huge population has made it into a significant market for its domestic economic growth.

As an emerging power, China has huge influences on the world's economic sector. Hence, the promotion of the Mandarin language to be used by the global speakers for communication and economic purposes has become crucial. A Chinese cultural institute known as the Confucius Institute (CI) was established in 2004. It was established during the era of Hu Jintao as the Paramount Leader of China. According to Jung, Wang, & Cho (2020), CI was initiated by the Confucius Headquarters (*Hanban*) with the main aim to promote the Chinese language and its culture. Confucius (551-479 BC) was the Latin name for Kong Zi. He was a prominent Chinese philosopher and a founder of one of the world's oldest philosophy, Confucianism.

Confucius and his philosophy, Confucianism has been recognized by the world as a philosophy that its tenets stressed on harmony, filial piety, benevolence and justice. Therefore, this article believes this one of the main reasons which led CPC as the ruling party of China to name its cultural institute as Confucius Institute. In order to achieve its target, the overseas CI has been authorized by China in bilateral form. The establishment of CI in University of Malaya (UM), Malaysia is an example. On 1st November 2009, the cooperation between *Hanban*, China's higher education institution, Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) together with Malaysia's higher education institution, UM has led to the establishment of the first CI in Malaysia. At UM, CI is known as Kong Zi Institute and became a part of international CI network. Through this

strategy, the outstanding status and respectable image of the university partner in host country such as UM in Malaysia able to deliver instant trustworthiness for CI too. This is because CI clearly realises that is quite difficult to obtain more benefits if this institute is standing alone and without strong support from any receiving institutions in the host country. However, overseas CI also can be set up in other institutions which are not related to education too as long as the institutions able to provide enough facilities. In this context, CI is believed to be able to promote the acknowledgement of Chinese culture and at the same time able to reduce the costs of transaction due to culture dissimilarity (Jung, Wang, & Cho, 2020).

The second way to view the influence of China with the adoption of soft power towards the world is through the embracement of ideology. Marxism has been China's ideology when Mao became the Paramount leader of China in 1949. Then when Deng Xiaoping took the baton of China's leadership, he reformed China's economic through his Open Door Policy and became an example of a country that embraced the ideology of socialism. However, time to time, China saw itself in a declining situation of morality. Since the Western ideology such as Marxism and Socialism are only emphasising on the material aspect but not the spiritual and moral aspects as mentioned by Zhao (2018). According to Zhao (2018), in China, the declining situation of morality has become a serious domestic issue and the Chinese government has seen the occasion to embrace back traditional values especially Confucianism in order to become a Chinese solution to Chinese problems as well as counter the influence of the West.

So, the main question here is what is the suitable guiding ideology in order to solve this major issue and at the same time without denouncing the core ideology in China, Marxism. Definitely, the Chinese especially CPC as the ruling party cannot look for another Western ideology to solve this matter. The outcome will be the same. As a result, CPC has realised the huge occasion to return to its traditional philosophy and also ideology for several dynasties in Ancient China. In this context, the CPC decided to return to Confucianism. According to Zhao (2018), it was a logical choice for the elites in Chinese's politics to return to Confucianism since this ancient Chinese philosophy able to unite the Chinese under their rule due to the strong roots of Confucianism within the Chinese history itself. A fact worth mentioned in this article is Confucianism is the same ancient philosophy that being strongly suppressed by Mao Zedong through his anti-feudal campaign known as Cultural Revolution (1966-1976).

Next, due to China's declining sense of morality, Confucianism philosophies have been revived by the CPC as Chinese-based solution approaches taken to solve problems pertaining to the Chinese people. At the same time, the approaches were important to counter the growing influence of the West. It is opined that the reconnection of contemporary China to its historical predecessors act as essential elements to strengthen the legitimacy of Chinese power. Apart from that, the reconnection is seen as a source of China's national pride and core values to counter Western influences. Currently, Confucius and his philosophy, Confucianism are not considered as an alien to China anymore. Therefore, China today views Confucianism as the ancient philosophy which has become a guiding ideology especially in realizing its CNP aspirations.

The third way to look at the influence of China's adoption of soft power is through its foreign policy. Foreign policy is one of the significant aspects for a country. The shape of a country foreign policy is the main factor to determine the level of relationship with other countries. Since the establishment of People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949, Mao Zedong as the first paramount leader together with China's first premier, Zhou Enlai have taken a major role in shaping China's foreign policy. In this context, the cornerstone of China's foreign policy is the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. Brown (2017) illustrated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence as elements such as mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty which was agreed upon at the 1953 Asian-Asian Conference in Bandung, Indonesia. Other elements included mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs. The next element was equality and cooperation for mutual benefit which was agreed upon during the 1954 Sino-Indian Joint Statement as well as Sino-Burmese Joint Statement. The last element in the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence was peaceful co-existence among nations.

Within the global perspective, there are two perceptions towards China's foreign policies, which are peace and propaganda. For countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean which belong to the Third World countries, they see China and its foreign policy as a policy which promotes peace and stability, especially through the concept of Peaceful Rise of China and its provision of economic aids. This concept was initiated by Hu Jintao with the embracement of Confucianism's concept of harmony and benevolence. Essentially, it is opined that thus far, China has posed a great influence and emitted a strong soft power to gain a high level of acceptance and support from the

Asian, African and South American countries. Examples can be referred to the above aforementioned China's hard power section. Moreover, it could be observed that China has been providing various assistance to countries and regions in need of development in the sense of boosting their economy and infrastructure developments.

Notably, China's foreign policy is different as compared to Western foreign policies whereby those Western countries are well-developed and belong to the First World countries. Nonetheless, it is said that the image of China as a country which always promotes peace is a considered as a fallacy. This is because for the Western nations, China is a country which is deeply ignoring the importance of democracy. In fact, China is based on a one party system since its establishment in 1949 . As a matter of fact, only CPC as the ruling party play the major role in determining the next leaderships of China. Essentially, China's leaders and administrators are not elected by the Chinese people casting their votes to choose their leaders. Hence, the West accuses China of not being democratic in their government rulings. China is also accused of violating human rights, especially the violation acts done towards the Uyghur people in Xinjiang who were put in jail and tortured in detention camps.

In terms of rule of law, the West gave the example which illustrated that China does not respect the law. For example, the relationship between its Southeast Asia neighbours such as the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Brunei are becoming progressively tense due to territorial disputes. All the countries are claiming their rights over the islands and other maritime features within the South China Sea (SCS). In this context, the West claimed that this is where China shows its disrespect towards the rule of law by looking at the event of SCS arbitration between China and the Philippines. During the law process, China totally rejected the arbitral procedure and strongly obeyed to the position of neither accepting nor participating in these proceedings. Other than that, China also has issues with the rest of the claimant countries due to the disputes with regards to the South China Sea.

China's Smart Power

Besides hard power and soft power, Joseph Nye also introduced another term known as smart power. This concept has been coined in the last sentence of his book entitled "*Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*" in 2004. He defines smart power as the combination of hard power and soft power. Wilson (2008) defines

smart power as the ability of an actor to combine the elements of hard power and soft power through the means that goals of the actor are advanced effectually and competently. McClory (2011) further adds that soft power on its own may not be adequate, but its relative strategic significance compared to hard power will continue to upsurge. Based on these definitions and also explanations on smart power, one could assume that the believers of smart power need to adopt the hard power advantages and create a combination with investment in alliances, partnerships and also institutions. In this context, Nye (2011b) stated that if hard power is “push and soft is “pull”, this combination allows leveraging maximum outcomes in a legitimate way. From the perspective of this article, as a suitable method to further discuss on hard and soft power, it is relevant to say that these elements be embedded in the arena of international relations. It can be concluded that smart power is in fact a combination of diplomatic, economic, military, political, and legal and also culture. As such, China can be considered as one of the examples of such context. China has the ability to shape international norms in its own image, due to its strength and power in the economic and also military sectors.

Moreover, the forth Paramount Leader of China, Hu Jintao also favoured the adoption of smart power since he totally believed that China must balance its hard and soft power. This is very significant in order to avoid other countries from forming a coalition to go against China in future. From the perspective of this article, it is opined that China is not a country which could be easy to analyse since as mentioned before, China embraces a strong Confucian philosophy as a guiding ideology, and that it does not prefer to be criticized by others. Nevertheless, China’s opponents continue to demonize it. The cynical realists in the West especially America, has always created negative narratives regarding China’s hard power. In this context, China’s growing military strengths are said to be delivering a grave threat to the world. Realising on this matter, China totally understands the scenario of global politics and has combined its hard and soft power, and consequently, addressed the notion of smart power. Through the adoption of smart power, China hopes to significantly reduce the negative perceptions of Southeast Asian countries and also the rest of the world against it. Therefore, the concept of Peaceful Rise of China has been introduced to boost the image and perception of China as a peaceful country, a good neighbour and definitely not a source of threat to others. The insinuations of China’s smart power could be observed pertaining to USA and also the ASEAN regions. In terms of America, the deployment of smart power by China could be seen through the case of Pivot to Asia

policy implemented by America. Generally, Pivot to Asia is a policy for America to secure not only its geopolitical power, but also to place its geostrategic interests within the South China Sea regions (Mehboob, 2018). Therefore, this article interprets that China's deployment of smart power could be considered as China's charisma to counter America's security strategic positioning within Asia, specifically within the East Asian regions.

Moreover, in case of ASEAN, both China and ASEAN countries have increased the importance of endorsing interdependence in terms of economy for the purpose of mutual development and also maintaining prosperity (Bi, 2021). As a result, China's initiative known as 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (NMSR) has been introduced. ASEAN main area of interest in dealing with China is the infrastructure sector. The infrastructure sectors in the ASEAN member countries probably would be sponsored by bank of AIIB. However, one has to deliberate the fact that China is likely to give the impression of adopting smart power as engagement means for its foreign policy with the ASEAN countries in the South China Sea. Thus, it becomes a debate whether ASEAN would give its full blanket support for this NMSR concept. At the end of the day, China has shown its full commitment towards common benefits through its smart power implementation over the ASEAN region.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that the concept of CNP is not an alien concept to China. It can be stated that CNP has a wider coverage, emphasising completeness and essential factors such as material strength, economy and influence. In examining China's hard power, it could be concluded that in the regional and global level, "carrots" has been used more than the "sticks". Due to its amazing economic development, China has successfully influenced developing countries to support China. For example, it promoted to other countries to cast votes for China in global organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and to support its policies, for instance the One China Policy.

In terms of soft power, China also has a great influence and strong soft power to get support from the third world countries from the Asian, African and South American regions. Notably, China's soft power is different as compared to the perspectives valued by the West. This is mainly because those Western countries are well developed, and

are considered as first world countries. In this context, the image of China as a country which frequently upholds peace is considered a fallacy, especially by its enemies namely America. As a result, the negative perceptions towards China and the tension between China and the Western countries remain unsolved and have turned into a continuous endeavour.

In fact, China has become a smart power in terms of combining the ideas of its two CNP dimensions, hard and soft power. It could be concluded that with China's continuous efforts to allure aggressive means along with its foreign policies which stresses on creating good relationships with its neighbouring countries, China for the past few years is set to become an attractive force to its neighbouring countries. It is hoped that this paper would add to the knowledge on China's comprehensive national policy to create a better understanding towards its stand and role in the current influence and position in the contemporary world situations.

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Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Journal of Administrative Science (JAS) in publishing this article.

Funding

This paper is self-funded.

Conflict of interest

Not applicable.