

The European Union Policy Considerations toward Tibet Riots on March 10, 2008

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS



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ABSTRACT

This paper is aimed to find out the considerations behind the European Union (EU) policy to condemn the Tibet riots which have been happened on March 10, 2008 and not to boycott the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The Rational actor model which is explained by Graham T. Allison is used to analyze the problem. Allison mentions that the rational actor will choose one of the rational choices that yield the highest payoff. This research is conducted using library research, in which the data are obtained from books, journals and other reliable sources.

The EU decision in condemning Tibet riots is regarded as a rational choice. The rational actor emphasizes the best choice of action taken among alternatives sets of consequences cost and benefit. As a rational actor, EU will choose the choice that gives the most beneficial effect toward EU's national interest. EU does not want to take any actions that can harm its bilateral relations because China is EU main trade partner.

There are three considerations behind EU's decision to condemn Tibet riots. Firstly, boycotting 2008 Beijing Olympic Games will lose an opportunity to promote human rights in China. The EU regards that the boycott of Beijing Olympic Games can ruin its attempt to promote human rights in China. The better way is having dialogue with China to support China in dealing with human rights issue. Secondly, boycotting Olympic Games is also politically ineffective, because it is regarded as a coercive action which can deteriorate EU-China bilateral relations. The last, condemnation is a better way its concern toward Tibet riots. It helps EU to maintain its bilateral relations with China without sacrificing sport interest. Finally, EU chooses the best rational choice that gives most beneficial effect toward its national interest, namely economic well being.

Key words: Boycotting Olympic Games, Condemning, European Union, Tibet riots,

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
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| CCP | : Chinese Communist Party |
| CFSP | : Common Foreign and Security Policy |
| COREPER | : Committee of Permanent Representatives |
| DG | : Directorate General |
| EC | : European Community |
| ECHR | : European Court of Human Rights |
| ECJ | : European Court of Justice |
| EEC | : European Economic Community |
| EIDHR | : European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights |
| EP | : European Parliament |
| ESC | : Economic and Social Committee |
| ESDP | : European Security and Defence Policy |
| EU | : European Union |
| EUMC | : European Union Military Committee |
| EUMS | : European Union Military Staff |
| GAERC | : General Affairs and External Relations |
| HR | : High Representative |
| IOC | : International Olympic Committee |
| JHA | : Justice and Home Affairs |
| MEP | : Member of the European Parliaments |
| PRC | : People's Republic of China |
| PSC | : Political and Security Committee |
| QMV | : Qualified Majority Voting |
| TEU | : Treaty on European Union |
| WTO | : World Trade Organization |