

# SUMMARY

## THE SINICIZATION OF THE HONG KONG POLITICAL SYSTEM

Discussed in this publication is the issue of the subordination of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China (PRC) after it had taken over the sovereignty of the region. The book answers the following questions: does the PRC have a strategy of subduing the region; what are the formal and informal instruments of influence of the central authorities of China over Hong Kong; what changes in the political system ensued as a result of the actions of the PRC in Hong Kong; what domains of functioning of the political system of Hong Kong affect the actions of central authorities of PRC; what are the differences in perceiving the principle of "one country, two systems" by those living in Hong Kong and by the central authorities of PRC; what social consequences are the actions of the PRC leading to; what in the institutional and in the social sphere accelerates and what slows down the processes of change. The tool used for the analysis of these phenomena is a model of "political sinicization" developed by the author on the basis of different theoretical concepts.

As a result of the conducted research it has been established that because of the subordination to central authorities and because of cultural, social affinity the policies and norms of the PRC permeate Hong Kong. A determinant limiting this diffusion is the identity and political culture, as well as the principle of "one country, two systems" adopted in the Chinese-British negotiations and expressed in the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The position of the two sides is not equivalent. A verification of this hypothesis confirmed that sinicization

actions of the PRC towards Hong Kong are a fulfilment of the strategy of subduing the region and silencing its anti-government opposition.

The political sinicization has affected not only the domain of politics but also that of the economy and culture – it leads to a change of political discourse, the political norms and values, the rules of the game (including the models of political leadership), the ways of fulfilling public policies or the identities of the inhabitants. The economic dependence of Hong Kong on its mother country has also increased, the stability of some rights and freedoms has been questioned and the independence of political institutions has been weakened. Formation of localist political parties represents a change in the institutional subsystem. An evolution of the function of the principle of “one country, two systems” into that of “one country” represents a change in the functional subsystem. In the communicative subsystem it is a transformation of the character of the relations between the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress and the institutions of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. From the point of view of the dimensions of politics, changes have affected not only the dimension of politics, but also that of policy.

An important finding is that sinification can proceed at varying rates, while political sinicization has an incremental character and can cause different forms of adaptation – absorption (smooth changes influenced by the process, when resistance and hostility do not appear, but instead the necessity of adapting), adaptation (when there is willingness of the subject to take on the phenomena and their implementation, as a result of which an accommodation inside the system has to occur), friction (hostility towards the given phenomenon, its adoption causes conflicts and tensions) or rejection (a defensive response, refusing to accept the given phenomenon). The levels of sino-scepticism in Hong Kong can be distinguished based on the attitude towards China and the Chinese identity, as well as the accepted tools of political conflict.

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