

**CHINA'S MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY AND  
THE NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR ISSUE**

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**THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT  
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTERS OF  
SOCIAL SCIENCE IN STRATEGY AND DIPLOMACY**

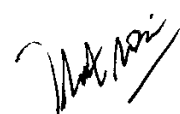
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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

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## **ABSTRACT**

Not like in the past, China has become pro-active in the multilateral area and has even become an active participant in the political solution of the regional issues. This research aims to find out the determinants influencing China to shift from bilateralism to multilateral approach in engaging the world. Regarding the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula, the bilateral channel between the two countries alone cannot fully help China to settle the issue peacefully nor induce North Korea to give up its nuclear programme. What kind of foreign policy choices should China take to overcome the problem effectively? In this context, this research examines China's diplomacy through the lens of its multilateral approach towards the North Korea nuclear issue as a case study. This study assumes that China's application of multilateral diplomacy facilitates China to play a role of a great power and this enables China to achieve development, prosperity and its image as a powerful nation in the world; and the North Korean nuclear issue has given China a great power role and China has taken advantage of this issue as a means to gain leverage against other powers. This research utilised qualitative research methods and primarily based on secondary data. A case study research method is applied in this research with a focus on China's multilateral engagement in the North Korean nuclear issue. It is concluded that China embraces multilateral method in different spheres to access more rooms in the main stream of the international multilateral environment in order to realise its foreign policy objectives. China's engagement in the multilateral process of the Six-Party Talks brings the country into a "concert-like mechanism" where China can exert its influence more by keeping abreast with other powers.

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