

The role of energy factor in Chinese foreign policy

Abstract

Since 1993, China has become an importer of oil; the oil consumption has been growing. At the same time, China couldn't increase the oil production, as the result, the lack of oil supplying has continuously increased. If we analyze from the point of international resource consumption, China comes to be the key country between those, who will struggle for the energy resources in the future. Since 1993, energy factor has been implemented to the consideration in the Chinese diplomacy. China has started to pay more and more attention to the energy factor while dealing with its international affairs. In 21 century, the oil price has been increasingly rising, that has become a serious danger for Chinese economy. The sudden lack of energy resources will be the great threat for fast developing Chinese economy. Also, been increasing its military power, China needs to create strategic oil stocks in order to move effectively its military forces.

If we consider from strategic point of view, China is in the center of Asia, with Pacific Ocean on its East Coast, bordering with Pakistan on the South, China has very favorable geographical strategic advantages. China needs to use its strategic position for early planning strategy in its "non-blood war" for oil resources. Otherwise, China will face containment from the other countries. The purpose of this study is thus to investigate the following issues based upon the date for the influence of energy factor on Chinese foreign policy and intentions during the period of 1993-2003:

1. Understanding the trends for the future growth of energy demand in China.
2. Investigating what kind of measures can be applying by Chinese government in the face of these trends.
3. Figuring out how big the role of energy factor in the Chinese foreign policy implementation.

Keywords: Chinese foreign policy, oil, energy security.