Continuities and Changes in Hong Kong's Political Culture and Democratization During the Handover Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Työn laji-Arbetets art</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Aika-Datum-Month and year</th>
<th>Sivumäärä-Sidantal-Number of pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master's thesis</td>
<td></td>
<td>2002-04-17</td>
<td>142 + 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The focus of this thesis is to examine the continuities and changes in Hong Kong’s political culture and democratization during the handover years. Hong Kong’s political culture and democratization are examined at two different levels: at the political structural macro-level and at the individual micro-level. Structure and culture are treated as interdependent variables. Both Hong Kong’s political structure and political culture have been influenced by the intervening external factors, Great Britain and China, and lived experiences such as the Sino-British Negotiations and the Tiananmen Incident.

Both qualitative and quantitative research methods are used in this study. Dankwart A. Rustow’s linear model of democratization is utilized to give an interpretive and historical overview of the development of Hong Kong’s political culture and democratization during three different phases: (1) Background Phase Before 1982: Democratization Postponed in a Parochial Political Culture; (2) Preparatory Phase Between 1982-1988: Democratic Opening and Mobilization of the Masses; and (3) Decision Phase After 1989: Rapid Democratic Reform and Changing Political Culture. The dynamics of democratization are explained by using Guillermo O’Donnell’s and Philippe Schmitter’s analytical framework based on their study Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies.

Hong Kong’s political culture at the individual level is comparatively analyzed during each of the three phases, using Gabriel A. Almond’s and Sidney Verba’s political culture approach to democratization presented in The Civic Culture and The Civic Culture Revisited. According to their micro-behavioral perspective, a nation’s political culture is identified by looking at the citizen’s attitudes toward three levels of the political system: system, process, and policy. At the individual level, quantitative inquiry methods are used to analyze secondary data from longitudinal surveys.

From the analysis, it is concluded that Hong Kong’s political culture has transformed from a parochial political culture into a more participative and diverse political culture, and that Hong Kong has not fully democratized as a result of both internal and external constraints.

Avainsanat-Nyckelord-
Hong Kong
Political culture
Democratization

Säilytyspaikka-Förvaringsställe-
Muita tietoja-Övriga uppgifter-
Where deposited
Additional information