Chapter XVII

Just War Concepts - Western and Chinese Perspectives

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1 Introduction

The guiding principles of Chinese foreign policy at the beginning of the 21st century are peace, development and cooperation (*heping, fazhan, hezuo*).\(^1\) Although promoting peace demonstrates a universal goal, hardly any state emphasizes its peaceful and defensive orientation as definitely as the People’s Republic of China (PRC). From a Chinese perspective the development of a harmonious society (*hexie shehui*) is only to achieve in agreement with a peaceful and stable international environment.\(^2\) Since the end of the Cold War China’s continuous economic success and increasing political engagement constitutes the foundation for its growing


influence in international politics.\textsuperscript{3} In this context the changing attitude towards United Nation Peacekeeping Operations (UN PKO) particularly underlines China’s self-understanding as a peace-loving country. In contrast to earlier absence and abstention policy the Chinese government currently regards UN Peacekeeping as one fundamental principle for a new responsible China.\textsuperscript{4} Therefore, the PRC today represents a rising international and regional power whose official statements and political attitudes are carefully monitored by others. But even though the PRC is more active in international organizations and integrated in the international society than ever before, there, however, exists reason for distrust.

The Beijing leadership uses its international influence frequently to point out its negative attitude towards the use of armed force, especially regarding Peacekeeping Operations within the scope of Chapter VII (UN Charta) authorisations. At the same time the military expenditure (in constant US$ 2005) and armament expenses are increasing.\textsuperscript{5} Beijing, moreover, takes drastic measures against the so-called three evils: fundamentalism, separatism and terrorism. Hence the political solution of the Xinjiang, Tibet or Taiwan question somehow differs from the guiding principle of peaceful development.\textsuperscript{6} The flexible and ambiguous Chi-


