Abstracts

The challenges facing the Danish foreign and security policy activism in the handling of great power China

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With its focus on promoting Danish security, Danish interests and Danish values, Danish foreign and security policy is these years confronting an overarching dilemma of, on the one hand, ensuring Danish economic and commercial interests, which increasingly link up with the new emerging power centers, and, on the other hand, ensuring national security and promoting Danish values, which are closely linked to the U.S.-led liberal world order. The dilemma is most evident in the case of Denmark’s handling of great power China. Through a pragmatic approach Denmark has so far managed to take advantage of the new opportunities that the »Rise of China« has resulted in, especially for the Danish economy, while at the same time tackled the new challenges following the Danish »comprehensive strategic partnership« with a non-Western and non-democratic great power. In the future, however, it will be more difficult and the dilemma will increasingly come to influence the Danish policy towards China.

From Political Principles to Commercial Pragmatism: Danish Human Rights Policies and Collaboration with China

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Case story no. 1.

New engine in the Danish-Chinese relations: Strategic partnership between public authorities

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The strategic partnership between Denmark and China initiated in 2008 focused on making the Danish public sector a more independent actor through bilateral authority-to-authority collaboration. This marked a shift in Denmark’s China policy towards a more relational, network-based and collaborative new public diplomacy. The article explores the significance of this shift through an examination of the authority-to-authority collaboration at state and municipal level within climate, environment, energy and sustainable urbanization. The article analyzes concrete collaborative initiatives and discusses whether the
authority-to-authority collaboration creates commercial and public value and concludes that it promotes central Danish core competences in China within climate, energy, environment and sustainable urbanization. The Chinese side acknowledges that Denmark can contribute positively to China’s development and international integration. However, the sustainability of the approach will be challenged if it does not deliver sufficient commercial and public value in Denmark.

Sino-Danish Center – the Danish-Chinese utility value

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Case story no. 2.

The Parliamentary Ombudsman’s cooperation with China

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Case story no. 3.

Trade – Always at the Core

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Trade and shipping have been at the core of the relations between Denmark and China. For 340 years, successive Danish governments continuously promoted Danish trade interests in China. After 1949, the early establishment of diplomatic relations between Denmark and the People’s Republic of China helped Denmark to continue its trade with China. From 1971 to 1989, a number of Danish companies successfully consolidated their position in the Chinese market, supported by a focused Danish policy towards China. From 1989 to 2004, there was a less focused Danish policy vis-à-vis China, while many new Danish companies found their own way to the Chinese market. After 2005, an update of the Danish policy towards China was launched. The update was fully implemented after 2011. A richer, economically stronger and more internationally engaged China will probably mean that other considerations than trade and shipping in the future also will influence Denmark’s policy towards China.

Chinese Import Competition: Consequences for Domestic Firms and their Workers

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Case story no. 4.

From China to Denmark: Mobility Patterns over the Last Century

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This article first describes the history of Chinese migration to Denmark and shows how migrants from rural China to a large extent have been replaced by students and professionals from urban areas. With China’s economic development the concentration of Chinese migrants in the catering business has become less pronounced. Next, we look more closely at educational migration from China and its political context. The Chinese state pays close attention to strengthening Chinese migrants’ loyalty to China, so diaspora policies and their effects on the organization of Chinese people in Denmark are the topic of the following section. We finally conclude that the higher educational level of the new migrants will probably imply that they will mobilise networks and resources of great potential importance for the cultural, economic and political cooperation between Denmark and China. At the same time, migration is expected to become less permanent and more driven by global companies’ shifting labor demands.

China in the news: We don’t applaud, when an authoritarian state is celebrating

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China criticizes Western media coverage for painting a negative picture of the country – Western media do not understand China. So far there is limited systematic analysis of how perceptions of China as a growing military, political and economic power are reflected in Danish media coverage. This analysis examines how China is portrayed in Danish news media. The analysis focuses on how China’s celebration of the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in September 2015 was covered by the Danish newspapers Politiken, Jyllands-Posten, Berlingske Tidende and DR Online. The analysis shows that the Danish media focus on the importance of the military parades in signaling that China has a new strong leader, but omit to focus on the Chinese people as well as the historical, political and ceremonial importance of the military parade. Instead the Danish media present different interpretations of the timing of the parade by using existing frames that portray China as an authoritarian state with unresolved geopolitical conflicts in the immediate neighborhood as well as domestic political challenges as a result of the declining economic growth.

Observations of the development of a historic mutual relationship between Denmark and China

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The extensive Danish-Chinese relationship achieved after 65 years of cooperation is remarkable. Denmark ranks among the best in EU concerning close political relations with China and export to China. President Xi stressed after his last meeting with Danish PM Lars Løkke Rasmussen the »fruitful exchange and cooperation« and highlighted 12 new areas of cooperation. President Xi describes the bilateral relationship being at »an all-time high«. The cooperation comprises legal cooperation, citizen’s complaints, intellectual property rights, human rights, Arctic, safe shipping and climate changes. The same trend is observed when it comes to foreign and security policy where China made a frigate participate in the Danish led mission to remove the chemical weapons from Syria. Denmark is one of the very few countries in the world that China takes inspiration
The economic diplomacy as practiced by the Danish Foreign Service means that Denmark complements the foreign and security policy with sector based cooperation and this creates new opportunities for safeguarding Danish priorities and policies.

The Use of Experts in the Danish Media: A Case Study of the Use of Experts on TV2

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It is often argued that we live in a society dominated by experts and that media to a greater extent than before are using experts in their news coverage. But is this claim correct, and how are experts used in the Danish media? Inspired by the analysis of the use of experts in three major Danish newspapers in the period 1961-2001 published by Magtudredningen, this article examines the use of experts on the Danish public service channel TV2 in the period 2005-2015, specifically in the evening broadcast. It shows that while the absolute number of experts has been declining over the period in question, the number of experts per feature has remained almost constant, as the number of features per broadcast has declined equally in the same period. Furthermore, the article discusses the potential pitfalls of using a wide expert concept as well as some of the more general issues that evolve when experts are used in the media.