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Topic of Research : **China's West Asia Policy: A Case Study of the Media Discourse on the Civil War in Syria**

### **Findings**

China is a rising power in the world and its influence in West Asia is increasing rapidly. China's current foreign policy is shaped by its national interests, and ideological influences of Marx, Lenin, or Mao are diminishing. Its fundamental ideological tenets are *panchsheel*, non-interventionism, the One China Policy, and so on. In most of these conflicts in West Asia, Beijing sided with the more powerful player and framed or projected its policies around ethical principles such as non-intervention and peaceful negotiation. Therefore, China's role in Syrian crisis is based on pragmatism and its vast interest in the country and entire region and to protect these interests, China is trying to portray itself as morally correct.

Media in China is not free and must adhere to the official line of the Party and the State. Following van Dijk's ideological square under CDA, the study shows that through editorials and articles, China, Russia, Iran, and the Assad regime were portrayed positively, while Syrian opposition groups, the US, and the West were portrayed negatively. The US and its allies were portrayed as a hegemonic power that uses human rights and democracy to expand its hegemony. They are dubbed "moral losers" due to their dishonest tactics and behaviour. Their involvement in Syria was dubbed "the horrors of hegemony," which resulted more sufferings of people and spreading the conflict further. China was portrayed as a power with high moral standards which values justice, rule of law, impartiality, pragmatism, and rationality.