

# HONG KONG'S "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" MODEL AND THE PROSPECT OF NATIONAL REUNIFICATION

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**Abstract:** The practice of "One Country, Two Systems" in Hong Kong represents a journey toward achieving national reunification, maintaining national security, and fostering the development interests of Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan, China. This process has preserved Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability. The model is beneficial in continuing to push the practice of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy framework along the correct path. It has impacted various aspects of Hong Kong's development, particularly in terms of providing a reference for exploring political consensus in Chinese Taiwan on implementing the "Two Systems" Chinese Taiwan scheme.

Emphasizing the adherence to the Party's overall strategy for resolving the Chinese Taiwan issue in the new era, "Peaceful reunification and One Country, Two Systems" constitute the basic principle for resolving the Chinese Taiwan issue and the best approach to achieving cross-strait reunification.

**Keywords:** "One country, two systems"; Hong Kong; Taiwan Province of China

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The "One Country, Two Systems" principle was established as a fundamental national policy aimed at achieving national reunification, maintaining national security, and fostering the developmental interests of Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan, China. Following Hong Kong's return to the motherland on July 1, 1997, the "One Country, Two Systems" policy transitioned from a theoretical concept into a vivid reality. Through continuous exploration and full and accurate implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, it has been conducive to safeguarding national sovereignty, security, and developmental interests, as well as propelling the practice of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy framework forward on the correct trajectory, maintaining Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability. This model has significantly impacted various aspects of Hong Kong's development, particularly in providing a reference for exploring political consensus in Taiwan Province of China regarding the implementation of the "Two Systems" Chinese Taiwan scheme. President Xi emphasized in the report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China the importance of adhering to the Party's overall strategy for solving the Chinese Taiwan issue in the new era, serving as an action guide and fundamental compliance for Chinese Taiwan-related work. This has profound significance for advancing the process of national reunification in the new era. "Peaceful reunification and One Country, Two Systems" are the basic principles for solving the Chinese Taiwan issue and the best approach to achieving national reunification. It aims to create a broad space for the content of peaceful reunification practices and provide a more perfect system guarantee for advancing the great cause of unification[1].

## 2 THE INSTITUTIONAL ESSENCE OF "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS"

The proposal and fundamental principles of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy are predicated on the premise of national unification, while maintaining Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and capitalist system. It aims to address the issue of the return of Hong Kong and Macau to China, and is also applicable to the reunification of China and Taiwan, China. This principle can be applied to the Chinese Taiwan issue[2]. The background of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy dates back to the early 1980s, when the Chinese government began to explore how to reintegrate Hong Kong and Macau China, regions that had been colonized by European countries during different historical periods. This policy was first officially proposed in the Sino-British Joint Declaration in 1984, which stipulated the governance of Hong Kong after its return to China [3].

The Chinese government aims to achieve national reunification through peaceful means. Therefore, it has started to explore how to reintegrate the Taiwan Province of China. However, unlike Hong Kong and Macau, Taiwan Province of China has its own military and international status. The Chinese government wishes to adopt an approach that not only achieves unification but also preserves the existing system and social institutions of the Taiwan Province of China. The core principles of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy include:

## **2.1 One Country, Two Systems**

This signifies that China is a sovereign state, including Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan Province of China. Taiwan Province of China is an inseparable part of China. This means the Chinese government is responsible for national defense and foreign policy. Two systems: This means that Hong Kong and Macau China can continue to maintain their original capitalist economic systems and legal systems, including the rule of law, freedom of speech, and the right to autonomous legislation and self-governance. It also implies that the Taiwan Province of China can continue to maintain its existing political and social systems, including democratic elections and a free media.

## **2.2 High Degree of Autonomy**

The fundamental principle of "One Country, Two Systems" grants a high degree of autonomy to Hong Kong and Macau China, allowing them to manage their internal affairs, including legislation and policy implementation. This principle also encourages the Taiwan Province of China to maintain a high degree of autonomy, allowing it to manage its internal affairs, including legislation and policy formulation. Central government guarantee: The Chinese government ensures the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, including maintaining the rule of law and stability in Hong Kong and Macau China [3].

## **2.3 Maintaining National Security**

The Chinese government emphasizes that under "One Country, Two Systems," national security must be maintained, and secessionist activities are not tolerated. The Hong Kong National Security Law was formulated and implemented according to Article 23 of the Basic Law to legally maintain social stability in Hong Kong China [4].

## **2.4 Peaceful Unification**

Regarding the Chinese Taiwan issue, the Chinese government proposes the "One Country, Two Systems" model, expressing willingness to engage in dialogue with Taiwan Province of China to achieve peaceful unification while allowing Taiwan Province of China to maintain a relatively high degree of autonomy. These fundamental principles constitute the core of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, aiming to ensure that China can maintain prosperity and stability in Hong Kong, Macau, and the Taiwan Province of China while achieving national unification. However, in practice, this policy has also triggered a series of challenges, especially in Hong Kong and Taiwan Province of China [2].

## **3 "THE PRACTICE OF 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS' IN THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE**

Region Discussing the experience of implementing 'One Country, Two Systems' in Hong Kong China, including successes and challenges faced, offers valuable references for evaluating this policy for the Taiwan Province of China [5]. In terms of the possibility of peaceful reunification, Hong Kong's experience under 'One Country, Two Systems' provides a framework for peaceful unification [6].

### **3.1 Active Dialogue Across Society**

Social stability in Hong Kong China is characterized by broad freedom of speech and press freedom, embracing a diverse society, culture, and religious groups. The implementation experience in Hong Kong China shows that successful policy implementation requires social stability. First, dialogue between the government and the public. Second, negotiations between the government and different political factions. Third, societal participation in policy formulation [4]. Due to active citizen participation, Hong Kong's election turnout has increased, indicating greater interest among citizens in policy-making and participation [7].

### **3.2 Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection**

Hong Kong China not only maintains the rule of law and traditional human rights but also pays special attention to protecting people's rights to subsistence and development. First, an independent legal system. Second, the Basic Law and human rights legislation [4].

### **3.3 Changes in the Electoral System**

In 2017, Hong Kong China implemented its first comprehensive universal suffrage system for Legislative Council members, marking a significant transformation in the electoral system. (1) Chief Executive Election System. (2) Legislative Council Election System. (3) Number of Seats Produced[8].

### **3.4 Impact of the National Security Law**

Hong Kong China has implemented multiple measures to ensure national security while preserving its unique social and legal systems. Among the most important is the enactment of the "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China National Security Law," aimed at combating actions that endanger national security, such as secession, subversion of state power, terrorist activities, and collusion with foreign or external forces to endanger national security[9].

## **4 THE "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" POLICY AS AN INSPIRATION FOR NATIONAL UNIFICATION**

The "One Country, Two Systems" policy provides a multitude of insights characteristic of China for the construction and development of national unification. The implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy in Hong Kong China after its return has faced numerous challenges, especially in maintaining the rule of law, freedom of speech, and social stability. Therefore, for Taiwan, China, in-depth policy research and extensive social discussion are needed to ensure that the interests of the people of Taiwan, China are fully respected and protected. "One Country, Two Systems" offers a possible model for unification, where the Taiwan Province of China can unite with the motherland while maintaining autonomy and its existing system[10].

### **4.1 Experiences from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

The experience of the Hong Kong China Special Administrative Region in implementing the "One Country, Two Systems" policy provides an interesting reference for Taiwan, China. Through the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, Taiwan, China has the opportunity to maintain its political and social systems to a certain extent, ensuring the maintenance of its existing democracy and legal system, as well as freedom of the press and public expression to preserve internal harmony and stability, while achieving unification with China[11].

### **4.2 Regarding the Relationship between the Central Government and the Special Administrative Region**

The implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy in Hong Kong China offers a model of unification for Taiwan, China, highlighting the balance between a high degree of autonomy and the core interests of the state. This provides Taiwan, China with a reference framework for maintaining its democracy, rule of law, and autonomy while achieving the possibility of national unification[11].

Taiwan, China can draw from the clear division of responsibilities between the Hong Kong China Special Administrative Region and the central government. Taiwan, China can focus on how to establish active cooperation and dialogue with the central government and learn from Hong Kong's experience in maintaining China's national security while ensuring respect for freedom of speech and the rule of law[12].

### **4.3 Regarding the Rule of Law and Citizen Participation**

Social dialogue helps the government better understand the needs of the public, resolve political disputes, and maintain social harmony. Learning from Hong Kong's experience, governments should actively listen to public opinion to meet the people's needs. Drawing on the experience of the Hong Kong China government in negotiating with different political factions to resolve political disputes ensures political stability. Upholding the rule of law and human rights is a key factor in ensuring policy implementation and social stability. Taiwan, China can learn from Hong Kong's experience on how to ensure the independence of the rule of law, protect human rights and freedoms to meet the needs of the public, while maintaining social harmony and stability. This aims to raise citizens' awareness of their rights and promote an inclusive and diverse society that meets the needs of its citizens[13].

### **4.4 On the Impact of the National Security Law**

The Taiwan Province of China can learn from Hong Kong's experience to balance the relationship between national security and democratic values, safeguard freedom of speech, promote social unity, and face challenges in international relations. Maintaining the security and stability of Taiwan, China under the "One Country, Two Systems" policy framework. Strengthening the national consciousness of the people of Taiwan, China under the principle of "One China" helps the people of Taiwan, China better understand and maintain national security[14].

## 5 CONCLUSION

Hong Kong China has made progress within the framework of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, but it also faces challenges. Hong Kong's future will continue to be influenced by political, social, and international factors, yet it remains vibrant and resilient. Efforts from all parties are required to ensure the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong China. As a significant policy driving national unification, "One Country, Two Systems" has achieved globally recognized success. The peaceful development of cross-strait relations aligns with the common aspirations of compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Province of China Strait and the overall interests of the Chinese nation. It paves the way for a new prospect for peaceful development across the strait, completing the great cause of national reunification in the process of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation[15].

## COMPETING INTERESTS

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