

**THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA,
1948-1998**

by

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Submitted in accordance with the requirements for the degree

DOCTOR PHILOSOPHIAE (HISTORY)

in the

Faculty of Humanities

University of Pretoria

Pretoria

May 2001

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved wife Su-hwa (Sophia) Lin,
and my three daughters, Jane, Helen and Tina.

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ABSTRACT

To date, no in-depth analysis has been made of the diplomatic relations that existed between the Republic of South Africa (RSA) and the Republic of China on Taiwan (ROC) from 1976 to 1997. Current scholarly works on relations between the two countries tend to oversimplify the forces that drew the two countries into close association during the said period, and presume that ROC–RSA bilateral relations were merely the result of the mutual pariah status of both states. In addition, several common misconceptions regarding the nature of ROC–RSA relations are recurrent in the existing research. This thesis, therefore, examines the development of ROC–RSA relations and interactions from the eve of the ROC government’s relocation to Taiwan in 1948 to the severance of ROC–RSA diplomatic relations in 1998 against the background of the overall historical circumstances of both countries. This study argues that the factors in the formation of ROC–RSA ties are manifold and a result of the convergence of anti-communist ideologies and common interests. Pariah status and international ostracism are only part of the array of complex factors. Efforts are made to investigate the historical conditions, foreign policy objectives and national interests that helped cement diplomatic relations, as well as the extent of co-operation in the complete spectrum of ROC–RSA relations, including economic and cultural relations, and military and nuclear collaborations. These various aspects are explored in order to give a fuller picture of ROC–RSA ties, and the effectiveness and limitations of these relations are analysed. Furthermore, the causes that led to South Africa’s switch of diplomatic recognition to the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and the prospects of future relations between the ROC and the RSA are also studied.

SAMEVATTING

Tot dusver is geen grondige analise van die diplomatiek verhoudinge tussen die Republiek van Suid-Afrika (RSA) en die Republiek van China op Taiwan (ROC) vir die tydperk 1976 tot 1997 gedoen nie. Akademiese werke hieroor is geneig om die kragte



wat die twee lande gedurende die betrokke tydperk in 'n noue verbintenis saamgesnoer het, te ooreenvoudig. Daar word veronderstel dat ROC–RSA-verhoudinge bloot die gevolg van hulle paria-status was. Daarbenewens kom verskeie algemene wanopvattinge, oor die aard van ROC–RSA-verhoudinge, herhaaldelik in bestaande navorsing voor. Hierdie proefskrif beoordeel gevolglik die ontwikkeling van ROC–RSA-verhoudinge en interaksie, sedert die hervestiging van die ROC-regering op Taiwan in 1948 tot met die beëindiging van diplomatieke verhoudinge tussen die twee state in 1998, teen die omvattende historiese agtergrond van die onderskeie lande. Hierdie studie voer aan dat die faktore in die totstandkoming van die ROC–RSA-bande veelvuldig is; en dat dit die gevolg van 'n gemeenskaplike anti-kommunistiese ideologie en belange is. Die paria-status en internasionale isolasie was slegs 'n deel van die komplekse faktore. Pogings is aangewend om die historiese omstandighede, buitelandse beleidsdoelstellings en nasionale belange wat daartoe bygedra het om sowel die diplomatieke betrekkinge as die omvang van samewerking in die volle spektrum van ROC–RSA-verhoudinge, insluitende ekonomiese en kulturele verhoudinge en militêre en kernsamewerking, in berekening te bring. Hierdie verskillende aspekte is nagegaan ten einde 'n meer volledige beeld van ROC–RSA-bande te gee. Die doeltreffendheid en beperkinge van hierdie verhoudinge is ook ontleed. Verder is die oorsake vir Suid-Afrika se sluiting van diplomatieke betrekkinge met die Volksrepubliek van China (PRC) ondersoek, sowel as die vooruitsig vir toekomstige verhoudinge tussen die ROC en die RSA.

KEYWORDS:

Reluctant relations; pariah status; diplomatic isolation; apartheid; complementary economic/trade relations; convergence of common interests; national interests; nuclear energy co-operation; ROC–RSA defence industry co-operation; limitations of alignment; Government of National Unity (GNU); development aid; “cheque-book” diplomacy; “Two Chinas” dilemma; “One China” policy; pragmatic diplomacy; substantive relations; mechanism of mutual consultation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This thesis could not have been completed without the gracious intellectual guidance, supervision and advice of my supervisors, namely Prof. Johan S. Bergh and Prof. Karen L. Harris. I am most grateful for their kindness in assisting me in various aspects in preparing this thesis. They have accorded to me not only their precious time, but also their understanding and encouragement. Their suggestions, comments and corrections of the draft are particularly appreciated.

In the course of preparing this thesis, I am especially indebted to the following persons: Ms Anne Sexton for her editing, correcting, proof-reading and typing of the complete work; Mrs Bernadette Stewart for typing the first two chapters of the first draft; Ms Christine Lin for typing my Curricula Vitarum; Prof. B.M. Gourley, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Natal for allowing me to utilise the University's library; and Mr Johan van Wyk, the subject librarian of the Academic Information Services at the University of Pretoria, for his assistance in finding and tracing certain material and sources. My sincere thanks are also due to the staff of various institutions where I conducted my research as mentioned in the bibliography. Last, but not least, I wish to extend my special thanks to my wife Su-hwa (Sophia) for her invaluable support and understanding and to my three daughters for their help in typing and sorting out related problems that I encountered on many occasions over the years.

Song-huann (Gary) Lin
May 2001

DECLARATION

I declare that The Relations between the Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa, 1948-1998 is my own work and that all the sources that I have used and quoted have been acknowledged by means of complete references.

Song-huann (Gary) Lin

Date

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	African Development Bank
AEB	Atomic Energy Board
AEC	Atomic Energy Corporation/Council
AGOA	Africa Growth and Opportunity Act
ANC	African National Congress
APEC	Asian-Pacific Economic Council
ARMSCOR	Armaments Corporation of the RSA
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CETRA	China External Trade Development Council
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CIST	Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology
COSATU	Congress of South African Trade Unions
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
DP	Democratic Party
DPP	Democratic Progressive Party
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EPZ	Export Processing Zone
ESKOM	Electricity Supply Commission
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FF	Freedom Front
GATT	General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs
GNU	Government of National Unity
HEU	Highly Enriched Uranium
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IDC	Industrial Development Corporation
IFP	Inkatha Freedom Party
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organisation

ISCOR	South African Iron and Steel Corporation
ITRI	Industrial Technology Research Institute
KMI	KwaZulu-Natal Marketing Initiative
KMT	Kuomintang (Nationalist Party)
LNLA	Lesotho National Liberation Army
MK	Umkhonto we Sizwe
MOEA	Ministry of Economic Affairs
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MPLA	Movimento Popular de Liberacao de Angola
NEC	National Executive Committee
NCS	National Calibration Service
NIC	New Industrialising Countries
NP	National Party
NPT	Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty
NSC	National Science Council
NT	New Taiwan Dollar
NUFCOR	Nuclear Fuels Corporation
ÔAU	Organisation of African Unity
OPEC	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
PAC	Pan Africanist Congress
PLA	People's Liberation Army
PRC	People's Republic of China
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
ROC	Republic of China
ROCSA	ROC–South Africa Economic Council
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SACP	South African Communist Party
SACTWU	South African Clothing and Textile Workers Union
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADF	South African Defence Force
SAFTO	South African Foreign Trade Organisation

SANDF	South African National Defence Force
SAPA	South African Press Association
SAROC	South Africa–ROC Chamber of Economic Relations
SMME	Small, medium and micro enterprises
SWAPO	South West Africa People's Organisation
TWTC	Taipei World Trade Centre
UANC	United African National Council
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNITA	Uniao Nacional para a Independencia Total de Angola
USA	United States of America
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
VOC	Vereenigde Nederlandsche Oost Indische Compagnie
VTC	Vocational Training Centre
WTO	World Trade Organisation
ZAPU	Zimbabwe African People's Union
ZANU	Zimbabwe African National Union