CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

This research has found that following the Research Question of "How China Utilizes SOMNEs as a Political Tool in Achieving its National Interest?" that SOMNEs has proven to be utilized as one. The entity of SOMNEs was that of a corporation that had the government to hold a minimum of 10% of its ownership. After the process of corporatization, the government would be able to affect and influence the decision-making process of the company, therefore affecting its performance. In the case of SOMNEs in China, the state's sole-political party, the CCP, had plans in continuing its autonomy over the SOEs within the state and had created a government body that supervises and regulates the firms within (SOEs) and outside (SOMNEs) of the state. The activities by which SOEs and SOMNEs would partake or implement would also require the CCP's approval, and some projects were even those that contained the government's will and interests within it. Thus it can be seen that SOMNEs in China were driven by the state, especially when it had internationalized.

The internationalization of Chinese SOEs to be a SOMNEs had purpose, it is backed by not only the government's "going-out" policy which drove firms to expand its market and increase its performance within the open-market, but also China's own interests. Within the case of African countries, the continent was considered a high-risk category, as it not only had a less developed economy, but there are plenty of security issues within it. Though China sees this as an opportunity, the untapped market, and the rich natural resources were the main

factors. As mentioned previously, the continent was categorized as high-risk, thus Private firms would hesitate to explore, as there are less safety nets for the firms to land upon. This is where SOMNEs would have the advantage, with the government's backing through the state's financial bank and an opened gate for easing the investments through the government-to-government diplomatic means, SOMNEs had little to worry about.

Within this research it can be seen that SOMNEs particularly the Oil and Construction companies, are utilized as a tool within China through the illustrated Oil-for-Infrastructure or the Angola model which China utilizes firstly in Angola, and then also Nigeria. This model utilizes oil and gas SOMNEs (such as SINOPEC, and CNOOC) to both maintain and manage the oil block contracts in order to keep the oil reserves for the state's industrial needs, whilst the Construction SOMNEs (such as the CCECC, and CSCEC) are utilized as the main builders and loaners for the Infrastructure projects in Nigeria as agreed upon. In the new model of exchange, named the Ghana Model, the utilization of SOMNEs are still very apparent, as the difference is only lies in the dynamics of the exchange (where previously, deals are done from direct government-to-government, while the new model would have a government-to-company, thus it would purely be a transactional relations, without political pressure). SOMNEs' contribution and role as the key holder to the exchange of oil and infrastructure would further contribute to China's political interest.

As SOMNEs continue to build further for the Chinese market to expand, so does China's presence as a whole would expand, as seen in Nigeria, where the

government puts China's high investments and infrastructure projects as the main consideration for reaffirming its commitment towards the One-China policy. Further interests such as maintaining the security and welfare of Chinese workers and investments were also kept, with SOMNEs' continual yearly spending for Security in regards to that interest. Therefore, this research would conclude that SOMNEs had played its role as China's political tool, especially in Nigeria, through the implementation of China's strategy of exchange (Angola, and Ghana model), utilizing SOMNEs as the vital tool for the strategy. By which has been proven, to be successful in contributing towards the achievement of China's national interest in Africa.

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