

A Study of the Impact of Foreign Relations on Electoral Strategy: Comparing Ukraine, South Korea and the ROC

Shih-Fang Chao

Abstract

Does a country's foreign relation have its impact on domestic politics? Academic research has already answered it, the point is when and how. The major purpose of this thesis is to use vote-maximizing model to examine the presidential elections of the ROC (Taiwan) in 2000, South Korea in 2002 and Ukraine in 1999. All these countries have a kind of special "foreign relation" with them; cross-Strait relations for Taiwan, Inter-Korea relations for South Korea and Russo-Ukrainian relations for Ukraine. Besides, such the relation has the main feature of leading one country's nature of elections and people's identity. Evidence also shows there is a standard distribution of public preferences on mixed identity.

After comparing the three elections, our finding is: if a country's salient issue lies on identity politics, and public preference is concentrated in the middle, than public preference will induce political parties (or electoral candidate) to move ideologically toward the center. Chen Shui-Bian in Taiwan, Roh Moo Hyun in South Korea and Leonid Kuchma clearly demonstrated the above feature in their electoral strategy.

Key Words: vote-maximizing model, Chen Shui-Bian, Roh Moo Hyun, Leonid Kuchma, presidential election