

**BEIJING'S POLICY TOWARDS MACAO
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR BEIJING'S
BORDERLANDS POLICY**

Bill K. P. CHOU

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Executive Summary

1. Beijing-Macao relations are best described as cordial, evidenced by survey data and comments of China's political leaders.
2. The support of Beijing on Macao's economic performance significantly enhances the legitimacy of the Beijing and Macao governments in the eyes of average Macao citizens.
3. There is no apparent feeling of marginalization among the Macao people due possibly to, first, Macao's extensive power of initiation. Macao is authorized by the Basic Law to make all decisions on the policies of economy, culture and social welfare.
4. It can elect its own Chief Executive and the Legislative Assemblies are formed by both election held among Macao electorates and appointment by the Chief Executive.
5. Second, Macao people have many opportunities of developing their own identities. Portuguese and Cantonese are still widely used in the public administration, legal professions, and public debate.
6. Portuguese passport holders are not discriminated in the appointment and election to public offices, except for the post of Chief Executive. Freedom of religion is respected. All leadership posts in the government are reserved for the Macao people.
7. Beijing maintains effective leverages on Macao despite the autonomy. With Beijing's behind-the-scene maneuvering, the Election Commission is largely formed by pro-Beijing politicians.

8. Only candidates hand-picked by Beijing can win the Chief Executive election. Beijing's Macao agent, the Central Liaison Office, may coordinate candidates running for Legislative Assembly to ensure that pro-Beijing candidates will be returned.
9. Beijing has the ability to influence Macao over the making of important economic decisions, namely casino policies and reclamation to curb the spillover effect of these policies and to force Macao to follow its policy agendas.
10. Beijing's smart co-optation policies help it to maintain its influence over new political forces unaffiliated with the traditional pro-Beijing groups.
11. Certain aspects of Beijing's Macao policy may be applied to the unsettling borderlands of Tibet and Xinjiang, namely more extensive use of ethnic languages in the public administration, more freedom in religion practice, more proactive co-optation of community leaders with extensive support, and certain freedom over the formation of leadership of local governments.