

**Chinese Overseas Infrastructure Construction and Local Conflicts: An Empirical Analysis of Hydropower Projects****Huang Bei Wang Xiao Liu Zhexi (38)**

【Abstract】Since the beginning of the 21st century, international cooperation on infrastructure construction has become increasingly significant in China's diplomacy. The local impact of relevant projects has also attracted high attention from scholars, think tanks and media at home and abroad. In the existing literature, the discussion on the influence of Chinese overseas infrastructure projects on local conflicts and related empirical research is still insufficient. Based on a new dataset of 106 Chinese hydropower projects in 37 countries, this article analyzes the micro-level impact of these projects on local conflicts between 2004 and 2019 with quantitative methods such as the difference-in-differences method and hierarchical linear model. Contrary to the view of some Western think tanks and media that Chinese overseas hydropower stations are intensifying conflicts, it shows that Chinese hydropower projects have moderated local conflicts. The result also supports the mechanism of local economic development effects of hydropower projects: as these projects promote local economy, the opportunity cost of initiating conflicts and the government's capacity are improved, and the dissatisfaction caused by economic inequality is also alleviated, which leads to the reduction of local conflicts. In addition, the political and ethnic factors in host countries could weaken the moderating effect of Chinese hydropower projects on local conflicts.

【Key Words】infrastructure construction cooperation, the Belt and Road Initiative, internal conflicts, spatial analysis, difference-in-differences

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**Demystifying the Behavior of Nations: A National Utility Function Based on Relative Interests****Xia Guangtao Zhang Yuyan (67)**

【Abstract】In the light of changes unseen in a century, the international relations are