

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	ix
<i>List of Tables</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xii
Introduction: Sino-Czech Relational Shift in Context	1
1.1 <i>China's Relations with the Czech Republic in the European and Global Contexts</i>	1
1.2 <i>Why the Czech Republic?</i>	5
1.3 <i>Relationality in Chinese Foreign Policy</i>	6
1.4 <i>Structure of the Work and Methodology</i>	8
1 Relational Theorizing with Chinese Characteristics	12
1.1 <i>Toward a Chinese School of International Relations</i>	12
1.2 <i>Between Western and Eastern Ontologies of Relationships</i>	14
1.3 <i>Relationality vs. Guanxi</i>	15
1.4 <i>The Relational World of Dependency</i>	19
1.5 <i>Relationality, Normativity, and Bilateralism</i>	22
1.6 <i>Relationality in Chinese Foreign Policy Practice: The Case of Africa</i>	26
1.7 <i>Framework for Relational Analysis</i>	29
2 Between the Global South and the West: Central and Eastern Europe as a Relational Partner of China	35
2.1 <i>The Peripherality of CEE in the Chinese Imaginary</i>	35
2.2 <i>A Balancing Tool: CEE as a (Post)colonial Area</i>	39
2.3 <i>Chinese Perception of Political Transformation in CEE</i>	47
2.4 <i>CEE as the Global South</i>	50
2.5 <i>The 16+1 Format as a Relational Tool for Building a Network of Bilateral Strategic Partnerships</i>	54
2.6 <i>Conclusions</i>	61

3	Relational Turn in Sino-Czech Relations	68
3.1	<i>Czech Foreign Policy and China's "Core Interests"</i>	68
3.2	<i>Creating a Basis for a Relational Turn</i>	72
3.3	<i>Party and Local-Level Relational Networks</i>	79
3.4	<i>Czech Business Interests and Foreign Policy Reversal</i>	83
3.5	<i>CEFC as a Relational Anchor of China's State Interests</i>	85
3.6	<i>Drivers of China's Economic Engagement in the Czech Republic</i>	90
3.7	<i>Conclusions</i>	93
4	Defending China's Core Interests: Mixed Responses in the Czech Republic	101
4.1	<i>Manipulating Relational Networks During the Dalai Lama's Visit to Prague</i>	101
4.2	<i>Protecting Chinese Business Interests in the Case of 5G Security</i>	104
4.3	<i>Safeguarding Local Ties: The Prague-Beijing Partnership</i>	111
4.4	<i>Mitigating Czech Parliamentary Diplomacy Toward Taiwan</i>	114
4.5	<i>Leveraging Pandemic Diplomacy in the Service of the Chinese Communist Party</i>	116
4.6	<i>Creating a "Correct Perception" of China in the Czech Republic</i>	120
4.7	<i>Conclusions</i>	122
5	Reversing Course: The Unraveling of China's Relational Approach	130
5.1	<i>China's Economic Engagement: From Great Expectations to Disillusionment</i>	130
5.2	<i>Renewed Challenge to China's Core Interests</i>	137
5.3	<i>Disruption of Relational Networks</i>	141
5.4	<i>Limits of Public Opinion Management</i>	147
5.5	<i>Conclusions</i>	153
	Conclusions: Limits of China's Relational Power	161
	Index	169