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Department of Government and Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Historical Legacies & Contemporary Realpolitik of Macao in Sino-Luso-Global Interface

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Abstract:

Macao's politico-administrative development, economic strategies, and external relations in the post-colonial era are path-dependent. Their evolutionary courses can be traced back to Macao's vital positioning in the Portuguese/Iberico overseas empire as the Far Eastern frontier hub for maritime trade, an outpost for exporting Catholicism and Lusophone institutions, and a jewel symbolizing its glorious contribution to the trans-mission/-fusion of Western civilization to East Asia.

Meanwhile, Macao has been instrumental for the Chinese government in carrying out various sensitive undertakings that are impossible or inconvenient within the jurisdictional boundary of Chinese national authorities, and also for foreign countries to extend their political influence and economic interests to China's doorstep. The discussion of these historical legacies will focus on the politico-administrative system as shaped by the overarching "one country, two systems" formula, the regulatory framework for casino capitalism, and the hub/platform bridging functions of Macao in linking the south/southwest China region, Greater China, and the Lusophone world of over 200 million people in four continents.

