

Abstract

This research argues that the imposition of the NSL between 2020 and 2024 in Hong Kong has significantly undermined human rights and fundamentally altered the territory's political, legal, and media landscapes, specifically in terms of freedom of speech and assembly, media independence, and the rule of law. While the EU employs various mechanisms to address these human rights violations, the effectiveness of its responses is limited due to its complex relationship with China, especially regarding contrasting human rights values and economic ties. This dynamic highlights the challenges of upholding human rights principles in the face of a rising China. I argue that the detrimental impact of the NSL necessitates a more assertive and collective international response that prioritises human rights over economic interests.