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**BEYOND ECONOMICS THE EVOLVING DIMENSIONS OF
CHINA–AFRICA RELATIONS IN POLITICS, CULTURE, AND
SECURITY**

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Abstract

In addition to economic exchanges, the future of China-Africa relations will encompass a variety of political, cultural, social, and military interactions. The trajectory is growing more complex as a result of shifting geopolitics and the growth of African countries, even if there are still significant economic ties. By funding peacekeeping efforts, expanding its military, or playing a more active role in resolving regional conflicts, Beijing may improve its diplomatic ties with certain African nations. Interactions across cultures are expected to be crucial in fostering mutual understanding, with deeper cultural integration resulting from increased collaborations in education, language learning initiatives, and tourism. However, there are still problems, such as concerns about deal transparency, debt sustainability, and environmental effects; therefore, it needs to get past these challenges and implement a comprehensive, inclusive approach that goes beyond economic considerations in order to create a relationship that is full and advantageous to all parties. However, the other aspects of China-

African kinship—military, political, educational, and infrastructure—will be the main subject of this paper. The other elements that are connected to the economic connection will be covered in detail in this article. Constructivism theory is the concept underlying this issue, and a mixed technique would be employed to gather the pertinent data in order to better comprehend it.

Keywords: *China Interest, Africa Concerns, Military, Political, Educational, Infrastructure.*

INTRODUCTION

Africa is without a shadow of a doubt the most abused and neglected continent on the planet, but it is now at least in a positive position since it is moving away from being a slave to the West and toward bettering itself. After fifty years, Egypt is the first nation on the continent to forge international relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC) in order to fulfill its national development objectives! China is a rising power that has influenced the world and has been investing in emerging and poor nations to increase its commerce globally. Thus, the Belt and Road Initiative, also known as the ancient Silk Road, is a massive project that the People's Republic of China has planned to connect Asia to Europe and Africa by pipelines, roads, railroads, and other means. Initiative for the Belt and Road, Therefore, for improved communication and trade, the infrastructure in these pertinent nations has to be in a suitable state. (Tiezzi, undated) Beijing is making such large investments in these nations as a result. In addition, \$62 billion has been spent in Pakistan through various loans, grants, and subsidies as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a significant initiative. It can, however, be shown in several ways. While pro-Westerners saw it as a danger to their domination and a means of becoming a dominant nation in the globe, pro-Chinese people saw it as an expansion for progress. On the other hand, Beijing's global growth is entirely opposed to the establishment of a superpower. Strategies are used to undermine the growing authority since no power is ever prepared to relinquish control.

LITERATURE REVIEW

From under \$20 billion in 2001 to \$120 billion in 2011, the amount of commerce with the African continent grew rapidly as China expanded its global economic footprint (Multinational Corporations and Foreign Policy, 2025). Oil accounted for 71

percent of Africa's trade with Beijing. The three state-owned Chinese oil companies—China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), and China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec)—have either acquired shares in existing African operations or entered into exploration and prospecting agreements with major oil-producing nations such as Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Angola, Sudan, Gabon, and Chad. Furthermore, China is not perceived as a friend or an enemy in Africa; rather, each nation prioritizes its own interests and development, which is viewed as advantageous to both sides (Aurangzeb et al., 2025). To strengthen these economic ties, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and other Chinese trade and investment promotion service centers have been established across Africa (Zeng, 2015). Additionally, China grants zero-tariff treatment to a wide range of African goods, promoting mutual trade benefits (Ali et al., 2025).

Chinese participation in African studies and language programs has also increased due to Beijing's emphasis on people-to-people communication for deeper understanding. Scholarships have been awarded to African students wishing to study in Chinese institutions, while China continues to encourage both domestic research on Africa and international research on Chinese language and culture (Uddin et al., 2025). This educational exchange represents a significant opportunity for Africans to gain access to learning that was historically limited. Without question, education is the foundation of empowerment and human rights, and Beijing recognizes the importance of strengthening Africa's vocational institutions (Aurangzeb et al., 2025b). Additionally, Africans in China now have expanded opportunities for technical and media training through scholarship programs designed to build human capital and meet Africa's developmental needs. In this way, Beijing not only helps satisfy fundamental demands within African markets but also secures a long-term role in the international economic order, leveraging its efficiency in producing demand-driven goods (Ali et al., 2025).

About a million Chinese had relocated to Africa by 2014. In addition to \$60 billion in grants, loans, and special funds, China's skillful use of its many capabilities includes innovative kinds of assistance in the fields of architecture, financial services, industry,

agricultural modernization, commerce facilitation, poverty alleviation, and peace. Africa may benefit much from China's development experience in terms of infrastructure and support services, which are crucial for raising productivity and reducing poverty. Chinese companies, such as StarTimes, have also established media operations in Africa. Additionally, China has increased its media presence in Africa through a variety of channels, including news agencies, radio, and television.

The Chinese government controls all of these media organizations. The Democratic Republic of the Congo would benefit more if China assisted in rebuilding the state and strengthening its institutions. What is more? by obtaining the authentic or original source of news, it would undoubtedly aid in study on any certain topic. Authentic information must be obtained in order to detect any issues. Certified news aids in the explanation, comprehension, and prompt resolution of the problem. China is not interested in losing its investment or its citizens' lives. She does have a desire for financial gain.

In 2017, the China Tourism Academy [CTA] reports that 797,800 Chinese traveled to Africa. The research indicates that Chinese individuals are interested in visiting and learning more about their new acquaintances. Similarly, Chinese travel to Africa is now the largest trend, according to Chris Mears, Chief Executive of the African Travel & Tourism Association [ATTA]. Many nations make their money from this business, or it might be said that a sizable portion of their GDP is dependent on this lucrative sector. Singapore's tourist sector accounts for a sizable portion of its GDP. In a similar vein, Saudi Arabia, like many other nations, makes money from tourism.

The African countries should take advantage of this fantastic chance. In 2018, OTA reported that the purchase of tour items relating to Africa had increased by 70%. The Chinese, on the other hand, are equally terrified of many of these; as a result, they go in groups, and the majority of visitors are older and seasoned travelers. China appears to be doing a great job of keeping its population safe and continuing to gather information that will be used for future studies. In fact, Beijing meticulously researched every facet of Africa before making investments in the particular

region where she might reap the most rewards. As China believes in develop home friendship abroad.

In the past, the greatest way to learn about the important nations and foster positive ties between them has been through travel. China-Africa interactions and networking among their political and commercial leaders are pursued through the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). China is aware of its demands from Africa, but African nations have not yet established a shared framework for engaging in more robust and knowledgeable negotiations with China. thus they do not share a hemoculture. Every nation has its own concerns, history, and interests. Even after being freed from colonial rule, Africans still fear new imperialism because of their painful past experiences.

Whether the economic support is a win-win scenario or a net debt trap is unclear to them. For Africans, it is a challenging situation since they see the clearest example of a debt trap in Sri Lanka's Hambantota port, but they are also concerned about missing the opportunity to grow through suitable policies. While speaking at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in South Africa in 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping declared that the two nations' connection has impacted the growth path. China will also continue to participate in UN peacekeeping missions in Africa and assist those countries in strengthening their military, counterterrorism, riot prevention, customs, and immigration control capabilities, among other areas.

China gained popularity and influence on the African continent as a result of these actions. Which does the Western world not accept? They are accustomed to taking advantage of their country's resources and giving them peanuts in exchange. France receives colonial taxes from fourteen African nations, including Mali, Niger, Chad, Gabon, and others! Furthermore, western countries adhere to the Makaweli model, which requires weak governments to rely on it in order to preserve control. Africans are unable to progress because of this mentality. However, the recent developments in China could offer them some respite.

Between 2003 and 2006, China sold guns to Sudan for \$55 million. With Chinese assistance, the Sudanese government built an armory facility in Khartoum during the height of the conflict. President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe turned to China for

military assistance when the West imposed sanctions. In reaction to a US-EU embargo, Mugabe bought fighter jets and military vehicles from China in 2004. Additionally, China pledged to send 280,000 volunteers to Egypt during the Suez Crisis. Furthermore, Rhodesian independence fighters were trained in China as a result of the deteriorating relations between China and the West.

In the early 1970s, China dispatched 112 military instructors to Zaire to provide training to the National Front for the Liberation of Angola, or FNLA. In 2001, China gave Nigeria \$1 million to upgrade its military facilities. Despite Zimbabwe's dangerous instability and turmoil, China delivered an estimated \$28 million in arms to the country between 2005 and 2007 (SIPRI, 2010). China built a weapons facility for Zimbabwe in addition to developing light weapons. The militants of Eduardo Mondlane's Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) employed Chinese guerrilla warfare tactics after receiving free weapons from China. China sent \$1.3 billion worth of weapons to Africa in 2003.

Therefore, things appear suspicious because of the military's engagement in the African region. This is the primary cause of its fear in the West. Both the new innovators and the new influencers are detrimental to the supremacy of the Western world. In addition to being a permanent member of the UN Security Council and the world's largest supplier of weapons, the USA also makes significant financial contributions to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Thus, govern the world in accordance with its own desires. The second-largest economy's actions openly challenge Washington's dominance.

Similarly, Beijing has an interest in other regions of the world, particularly in weaker countries, in addition to Africa. She has made investments in a number of Asian nations, including Pakistan, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a massive project that spans the whole nation of Pakistan. In this way, the Gwadar port in Pakistan and the Chinese region of Kashgar would be connected by improved commercial infrastructure. The South China Sea route, which is around 12,000 kilometers long, will be shortened to just 3,000 kilometers. Beijing therefore expands its economic agenda for everyone around the world. It is a novel approach for a newly emerging global power. In essence, China continues to expand

economically and takes her conflict seriously. For instance, the South China Sea issue involves several countries, but instead of inciting fear, the Chinese choose to go from east to south. China and India have several territorial disputes along the same border, yet they still trade billions of dollars after conflicts.

This raises the crucial question of why the world's most impoverished continent is of concern to the superpowers. The continent is renowned for the development of human society, but when Europeans colonized the region in the 16th century, people were forced into slavery and fell under Western rule. The continent has remained undeveloped. Arable land, water, oil, minerals, forests, and animals abound in this second-largest natural resource. In fact, it owns significant amounts of oil, natural gas, gold, and platinum in addition to 30% of the world's mineral reserves. Furthermore, two-thirds of Africans work in agriculture because of the country's bountiful soil.

In addition, the African nation of Congo is well-known for exporting timber, particularly mahogany. Additionally, because Victoria State is known for its world-class fishing, over ten million people are employed in the fishing industry. This is because the African continent is encircled by many oceans and seas. And what else? In addition to having a wealth of other valuable minerals, Africa handles 40% of the world's gold. Finally, this region has huge oil and gas deposits, similar to what Angola, Libya, and Nigeria are renowned for. Unfortunately, illicit mining, logging, wildlife trafficking, uncontrolled fishing, and environmental degradation have cost Africa 195 billion dollars in damages as a result of bad governance. Indeed, good governance plays a crucial role in the country's development. Japan is a country that was bombed at the end of the Second World War in 1945. The two major cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, were completely destroyed; thus, the catastrophic consequences are still present. But owing to good governance and the best policies, Japan is on the list of developed nations. This is the best example for African nations to learn from history and come on the development path.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ANALYSIS OF THE FUTURE OF CHINA-AFRICA RELATIONS

The constructivism approach emerged at the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s. The concepts of realism and liberalism failed;

hence, this approach played a significant role in discussing the relationships between the USA and the USSR. The popular article by Alexandar Wendt, *Anarchy is what state make of it* ' developed the concept of constructivism. It deals with how ideas, norms, and identities are established and constructed. Indeed, constructivism believes in subjectivity rather than objectivity, and everything is constructed by men or state. Therefore, through different ideas, the state creates amity or enmity with other states.

There is neither a permanent friend nor a permanent enemy in the global scene; nothing is permanent. Depending on the circumstances, dynamics are changed. Every nation exclusively concentrates on its own national objectives. Therefore, a state's relations with other countries are determined by its actions and conversations. Yes, a country chooses its friends and enemies. (African China: Friend or Enemy?, n.d.) The finest example are France and Germany, which have had a hostile relationship throughout human history and share borders with other nations. They even engaged in two major world wars. However, once the Second World War ended in 1945 and they saw the terrible effects of the conflict,

They changed their behavior and established business relationships. Both are now well developed, and remarkably, there are no border security problems. Between them, they may move freely and safely. In a similar vein, the original economic boundary between China and Africa has promise. The relationship between China and African nations completely altered, but France and Germany were in the same scenario. Africa is a developing country that is hampered by its newborn baby problem, whereas Beijing is regarded as the world's most powerful economic center (The American Century comes to an end as China becomes the world's greatest economy, n.d.). Positive sentiments are evident on both sides overall.

FINDINGS OR ANALYSIS

China wants to break free from the dollar's hegemony and change the global order. Therefore, a new currency is planned to be introduced through the BRICS platform. This organization includes South Africa as a member. Sandrey (2013) China appears to be concentrating on its growth route, but the situation is more complicated than it first appears. Because Beijing plans to utilize

BRICS—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—as a new platform to launch new currency. The entire global situation will change as a result of this new currency. This is a significant issue that the Western world cannot ignore. (Weisbrot, n.d.) Without a shadow of a doubt, China plays such a pivotal role in developing an undeveloped continent through education, communication, infrastructure, and military assistance. However, these steps back up China's economy and influence. Not only this, but it also helps in becoming a superpower or curbing its existence. Indeed, Beijing, along with many other countries, is fed up with serving the American interest while compromising its own national interests. America plays quite swiftly, imposing sanctions on those nations that are either not in favor of its own national interest or not in favor of its ally's interest. America claims to be the father of all nations, and he plays a vital role in prevailing peace in the world, but in a practical scenario, it is totally opposite. Hence China's intention to change the entire world order and trade with nations freely without the interference of any global power.

The superpowers are currently engaged in a race to exert influence on the African continent. The new cold war between Beijing and Washington is thus the talk of the town. This is the height of the rivals' chip and tariff warfare. A continent rich in natural resources is something that no one is prepared to lose. Although changing the situation takes time, the globe has had enough of the American lobby in their nations. On the other hand, China is bringing various nations together with its economic and soft growth. Africans appreciate American assistance, but they equally value Chinese investment initiatives.

The 54 nations that make up the African continent are divided; some support Chinese governance, while others support American policy. For example, Ethiopia fully supports the economic model and influence of China, but Kenya supports American good governance.

America provides aid to African nations, or it is a strategy to keep them impoverished and under control while China develops their infrastructure and economy. This is known as a debt trap since these countries are unable to repay the substantial loan.

In exchange, America disregards national sovereignty and meddles in domestic politics. Nonetheless, it appears that China still

adheres to a non-interference policy. However, the Chinese government's control over Sri Lanka's Hambantota port due to nonpayment of the loan is an unavoidable event. This is a worrying circumstance! The IMF is owed 4202 billion dollars by the African nations, and they also owe China about 62 billion dollars in public loans. African national policy and ingenuity will determine the continent's future. Whether to continue being governed by either authority or to select a suitable course for growth.

CONCLUSION

Africa is portrayed favorably by the Chinese. In fact, Beijing's primary goal is to achieve economic development and sell its commodities to every country in the globe. She is interested in all of the nations that stand in the way of Africa's economic objectives. Paths must thus be cleared in order to accomplish those important goals, but sadly, the situation in African nations is appalling. Nevertheless, they are denied their fundamental rights and amenities. However, because of its century-long state of plunder, China prioritizes a policy of "noninterference in domestic affairs."

One hour must be dedicated to either stopping the expansion of other power or preserving your own efforts. Africans should carefully assess the opportunity and how to take use of it, regardless of whether it is viewed as a good or bad thing. Since Singapore is the finest example of creating policies that are suited for her nation, it is true that the policy is at issue. Although she is little, it is at the top of the developed world. Africa must thus raise its level of education, infrastructure, economy, and so on. Nonetheless, South Africa has taken the initiative to shake hands with China and join the BRICS.

The world has completely changed; we live in a technology age when artificial intelligence is consuming every aspect of existence, yet this continent has been living in abject poverty or without access to fundamental necessities. Making the right choice and starting along the path of development takes hours. For the impoverished continent, China is currently the bright spot. The legitimate actions have the power to alter the entire universe. China and African countries benefit from the scenario, while Western nations find it worrying.

China and African countries appear to have bright futures or improved perceptions. Their relationship has not yet been the subject of any rivalry or complications. Both sides are successfully carrying out their agreements, and everything is moving forward without a hitch. But no one can ignore the obvious: American assistance, which prevents African countries from picking a side and forces them to act strategically and seize the greatest possibilities. It's time to see how any actions turn out, but history is replete with examples of how to avoid the worst case scenario. African states must work together to meet the challenges of the new era. This is the most effective way for children to grow and lessen the impact of the outside world.

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