



SELÇUK ÜNİVERSİTESİ
SOSYAL VE TEKNİK ARAŞTIRMALAR
DERGİSİ

Çağdaş Çin-Afrika İlişkileri: Çin-Afrika İlişkilerinin Tarihsel Eğilimleri ve Dinamikleri

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Öz

Çin'in Afrika'daki siyasi ve ekonomik kazanımları endişe verici bir hızla artıyor. Bunlar ne kadar olumlu olsa da Çin'in Afrika'daki müdahalesinin bir kısmına yönelik yaygın eleştiriler var. Afrika devletleri de benzer şekilde Çin'in bu eğilimine yanıt verdi ve çoğu ekonomik kalkınmadan siyasi katılıma kadar çeşitli Çin desteğinden yararlandı. Ancak bunlar çoğunlukla sözde demokratik olmayan devletler tarafından benimseniyor. Çin'in herhangi bir yabancı ülke ile ilişkilerini nasıl yürüttüğüne dair temel bir yönü var. Bu makale, bu politikaları açıklamayı ve ilgili taraflar için ne kadar etkili olduklarını görmeyi amaçlamaktadır. Makale, bilimsel yazılardan, devlet yayınlarından, makalelerden ve ayrıca web sayfalarından erişilen nitel verilerle desteklenmektedir. Konunun kapsamı geniş olduğundan, kaynakların gerçekliğine ilişkin bir dizi zorlukla karşılaşmıştır. Benzer şekilde, konu içerik açısından zengindir; bu iki bölgenin paylaştığı ilişkilerin bir arada yaşamasının bazı bölümleri dışarıda bırakılmıştır. Sosyal ve politik yönleri dışarıda bırakmadan ekonomik ilişkilere çok vurgu yapılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler

Afrika, Çin, Ekonomik Kalkınma, Siyasi Katılım

Atıf Bilgisi

Abdallah, Y. E. (2023). Çağdaş Çin-Afrika İlişkileri: Çin-Afrika İlişkilerinin Tarihsel Eğilimleri ve Dinamikleri. *Selçuk Üniversitesi Sosyal ve Teknik Araştırmalar Dergisi*, 21 (1), 41-53.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.59768/sustad.2023.4>

Makale Türü	Araştırma Makalesi
Geliş Tarihi	15.05.2023
Kabul Tarihi	17.06.2023
Yayın Tarihi	26.06.2023
Değerlendirme	İki Dış Hakem / Çift Taraflı Körleme
Etik Beyan	Bu çalışmanın hazırlanma sürecinde bilimsel ve etik ilkelere uyulduğu ve yararlanılan tüm çalışmaların kaynakçada belirtildiği beyan olunur.
Benzerlik Taraması	Yapıldı – iThenticate
Etik Bildirim	sosyoteknik@selcuk.edu.tr
Çıkar Çatışması	Çıkar çatışması beyan edilmemiştir.
Finansman	Bu araştırmayı desteklemek için dış fon kullanılmamıştır.
Telif Hakkı ve Lisans	Yazarlar dergide yayınlanan çalışmalarının telif hakkına sahiptirler ve çalışmalarını CC BY-NC 4.0 lisansı altında yayımlanmaktadır.

Contemporary Sino-African Relations: Historical Trends And Dynamics of China-African Relations

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Abstract

Chinese political and economic gains in Africa have been increasing at an alarming rate. Despite the fact that some of these have been favourable, China's presence in Africa has received considerable criticism. African states have similarly responded to this Chinese trend with most of them enjoying Chinese support ranging from economic development to political involvements. These however are mostly embraced by the so-called undemocratic states. China has a core direction on how they carry out their relations with any foreign nation. This paper aims at explaining these policies and see how effective they have been for the parties involved. The article is supported by qualitative data accessed from scholarly writings, the government publishes, articles, and also from web pages. Because the subject is broad in scope, a range of challenges was encountered relating to the authenticity of the sources. Similarly, the topic is rich in content; some parts of the coexistence of the relations shared by these two regions have been left out. Much emphasis has been directed toward economic relations without leaving out the social and political aspects.

Keywords

China, Africa, Economic development, Political involvement

Citation

Abdallah, Y. E. (2023). Contemporary Sino-African Relations: Historical Trends and Dynamics of China-African Relations. *Selcuk University the Journal of Social and Technical Researches*, 21 (1), 41-53.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.59768/sustad.2023.4>

Article Type	Research Article
Date of Submission	15.05.2023
Date of Acceptance	17.06.2023
Date of Publication	26.06.2023
Peer-Review	Double anonymized - Two External
Ethical Statement	It is declared that scientific and ethical principles have been followed while carrying out and writing this study and that all the sources used have been properly cited.
Plagiarism Checks	Yes - iThenticate
Conflicts of Interest	The author(s) has no conflict of interest to declare.
Complaints	sosyoteknik@selcuk.edu.tr
Grant Support	The author(s) acknowledge that they received no external funding in support of this research.
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Introduction

The Western powers, particularly the United States of America and the European Union, have long controlled the African continent. However, during the past 20 years, Chinese influence has increased to a point where it can now compete with these Western nations. China demonstrated that not all societies were more adapted to the western model, in contrast to the Westerners who only built their relationships with African nations on democracy. The announcement of "China's African Policy" in 2006 was a daring move on the part of the People's Republic of China (PRC), since it revealed a core foreign policy philosophy.

From the onset of its foreign policy approach, China has always walked through the path of its five principles of approach (Ma and Ravni, 2004). These include respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity; non-aggression; non-interference in each other's internal affairs; equity and mutual benefit; and, finally, peace and coexistence. China has always felt that it had a shared history with Africa, even as they work to create an identity based on their past. This took place in the form of colonial-era oppression. China showed that, in spite of its tragic historical backdrop, there was still a possibility for growth in terms of both influence and economic stability. The South-South geographic location of China and Africa is another similarity. Because of this, China has felt qualified to create ties with Africa.

China's rapid expansion into Africa has also generated discussion in the international media, among economists, and among policy analysts over the past decade. The distinct economic strategy for Africa satisfies the continent's demand for money for infrastructure development. Studies also highlight the importance of China's economic interest in Africa and the influence that Chinese enterprises and the government have there. However, these pursuits and actions have come under fire as damaging because they are perceived as the result of China's aggressive pursuit of natural resources and disregard for the rule of law in non-democratic nations. Additionally, they have been praised for building the framework for long-term economic growth through infrastructure investments and income generation.

China's 'going out' strategy and rediscovery of Africa coincided with the continent's deteriorating economic performance due to war, poor management, and structural adjustment measures. China provided the 1990s unipolar world with a workable alternative in terms of advancement in politics, society, and the economy. African governments continue to value China as an alternative in a multipolar world because of the complicated donor policies and high costs of multilateral development programs. In a period when the developed nations have succeeded to produce unparalleled wealth and opulence, China has first-hand knowledge of what it means to be impoverished. The Chinese people, both young and old, still clearly recall that reality and the bad experience associated with this period.

The majority of discussions have focused on the fact that Chinese policies toward Africa are subpar compared to those of their Western counterparts. No definite evidence exists to support these claims, though. People criticize the Chinese trading system in Africa for being mostly consumer oriented. By providing reasonably priced, high-quality products, this business model benefits African consumers. The inability of African industries to compete has a similar effect on unemployment. Although this is true, the same can be said about commerce between Africa and North America or the European Union, two trade blocs that openly provide subsidies and impose taxes that reduce the competitiveness of African exporters and manufacturers.

1. Social and Political Interests

Geopolitical ties between China and Africa have roots that date back to the bipolar Cold War era. China had targeted the newly independent nations of Africa as important friends. China also believed that it and Africans had a shared history of being oppressed by capitalists and imperialists, which gave rise to sympathy. The 1995 Bandung Conference was one key and maybe the first official diplomatic encounter between these two (Parenti, 2009). Due to the demands of the international environment, China's Africa policy was characterized by an anti-colonialist, anti-imperialist, and anti-revisionist position. The Bandung Conference also marked the intensification of South-South cooperation and the first time China had diplomatic relations with a number of African nations. (Acharya, 2016).

A paradigm put out by Chinese officials in the 1950s and 1960s has unduly defined China's development strategy towards Africa. These advances were founded on the Eight Principles for Economic Aid and Technical Assistance to Other Countries and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. (Berhe and Hongwu, 2013). During the 1955 Afro-Asian Bandung conference, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai developed the guiding principles. On the basis of these guidelines, China adopted a set of more detailed standards in 1964 to direct its aid and technical support to developing nations. China's interactions with developing nations would be based on equality and mutual benefit, in accordance with these Eight Principles for Economic Aid and Technical Assistance to Other nations. (Chin and Frolic, 2007). Additionally, priority would be given to respecting the receiving nations' sovereignty. China does not impose any restrictions on its assistance, in contrast to other donors. Chinese authorities have often emphasized that China believes non-interference to be a guiding principle in its development aid to Africa and that the method of aid conditionality espoused by donors is in direct conflict with this principle.

The 1971–1972 UN resolution 2758, which was to decide the status and recognition of statehood for the PRC, was a pivotal moment in politics. China had made an appeal to African nations in an effort to win their support for the legitimacy of the Chinese Communist Party both domestically and in international affairs (Gunawan and Roesa, 2017). The purpose of this was to further their agenda, particularly in multilateral forums. An important consideration in China's search for partners on the international scene, particularly the UN, was the strength of the African voting bloc. In the international arena and at multilateral forums, China continues to rely substantially on the diplomatic assistance and collaboration of African nations. China has therefore sought official recognition and links with Africa in order to legitimize the communist system, given the political significance of Africa. Given that Africa controlled more than a quarter of the UN's votes, China had realized the significance of supporting Africa.

China's expanding influence and presence in Africa have shaped a crucial aspect of international relations. China has displaced European, American, and Japanese diplomatic and capitalist soft power in many sub-Saharan African countries, winning influence in countries where Western governments were conspicuous by their absence. China's diplomatic offensive can be said to replicate its trade, and aid advances. Founded at the Ministerial Conference in Beijing in 2000, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) is a key institution for Sino-African relations. This was done in an effort to promote collaboration and solidarity based on equality, mutual benefit, consultation, and agreement. It also promotes the development of a long-term connection with intention. (Jerker, 2009).

Two key topics dominated the Bandung Conference in terms of the solidarity spirit and shared interests. These involved the creation of a new, just, and equitable system of international politics and commerce. This would increase China-African cooperation in many areas and advance the interests of developing nations in the twenty-first century. Second, in order to improve their standing in international affairs, China and Africa needed to strengthen their capacity for economic globalization and international competitiveness. China and Africa also sought to forge a cooperative relationship to enhance their negotiating position with the North for the establishment of a new, just, and equitable international economic and political order (Enuka, 2010).

Chinese geopolitical approach in Africa has also been guided by categorization according to importance or interest. First among these are countries experiencing transitions to democracy. China does not get actively involved in governance reforms. Therefore, in such states, China's role is limited. Any criticism of authoritarianism and moves towards liberal democracy would simultaneously reflect badly on China's domestic record. Countries that lack strategic resources but serve as useful markets and allies in geopolitical struggles have received significant aid. These include Kenya, Ghana, and Tanzania. In most of these cases, there is technical and infrastructural support, grants, and some joint ventures (Taylor, 2008). Due to their political clout both locally and internationally, South Africa and Kenya are regarded as regional leaders.

Second, there are countries that have abundant natural resources and have experienced high levels of investment and help. These nations include Sudan, Nigeria, and Angola. China's influence is likely to result in resource exploitation, with elites using the profits to undermine democracy and development. Here, priority is given to significant investments in infrastructure, generous aid packages, and high-level diplomatic involvement. The most contentious of these has been Sudan, where China has provided weapons to the government and its militias to quell dissent in Darfur and allowed the government to launch attacks from Chinese-run oil facilities. Human According to Human Rights Watch, China's activities in Africa not only

supported some of the worst human rights violations on the continent but also reduced the influence of others working to advance better respect for human rights. (Watch, 2006).

Third, as states emerge from conflict, China's peacekeeping interventions have been generally welcomed, but only if other economic activities do not enhance inequality. For example, in Liberia the Chinese contributed to peacekeeping efforts. However Chinese logging companies aggressively stripped forests. The present human rights conversation in China emphasizes a communitarian perspective on social solidarity and duties to others. Additionally, there has been a desire to enhance societal peace. China is regarded as being unstable as well. Consequently, there has been a desire to provide social stability a high priority. In a nutshell, it is a pragmatic nationalism-influenced rhetoric with a focus on development (Taylor, 2008). China is required to strike a balance between reform, development, and stability as well as to sustain a stable political climate and the rule of law. Nothing could be accomplished if there is no stability.

2. Economic Interests

The question of whether China's overall policy in Africa should be based on political or economic goals is one that is frequently debated. China's opening-up policy lies at the heart of the country's economic growth both domestically and internationally. Three stages of development can be seen in Sino-African ties. Between 1949 and 1979, China's political agenda, which cantered on assisting newly independent African nations, served as the primary driver of China's efforts in Africa. The second phase of the 1979 to mid-1990s focused on supporting domestic economic developments. This period saw a shift of policies to a mutually beneficial economic cooperation. The philosophy of utilizing domestic as well as foreign markets started to take hold in China's global economic relations in the middle of the 1990s (Sun, 2014). The success of the going out strategy can be attributed to the expansion of China's international business relations. The politburo had given this plan their blessing by 2000.

The third Forum of China and Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which was held in China's capital in November 2006 and brought together forty-eight African delegations and forty-one heads of state, was hosted by China (Meidan, 2015). This organisation was initially established in 2002 as a forum for group interaction and dialogue as well as a means of cooperation between developing nations, which is referred to as South-South cooperation. The 2008 global financial crisis substantially increased Africa's significance as an export destination for the Chinese. Africa emerged as the ideal alternative to replace the enormous gap left in China's exports since consumer demand for Chinese goods had plummeted in the Western economies. Chinese businesses faced little to no rivalry during this time while supplying textile, electronics, and other goods. Chinese products' affordable costs were a perfect match for the market demand in less developed African nations.

A trend emerging from as early as 1964 shows that loans from China have been given on an interest-free basis in the form of complete equipment and technical assistance. This was provided by Beijing and was to be repaid over an extended period of time with African exports to China, having no conditions attached. This pattern can be easily recognized in present China-Africa loans (Alden and Alves, 2008). Through commercial loans, export buyer's credit that is regular and preferential as well as concessional loans, the Chinese government has aggressively encouraged investment in Africa. In order to negotiate agreements with recipient countries that depend on commodities like oil or natural resources, China has also introduced the usage of the "Angola Model," a financing scheme supported by resources. Usually, this is followed by obtaining low-interest loans from China.

Since 2000 the FOCAC meetings have been held every three years. China pledged to strengthen its ties with Africa in 2015 in Johannesburg in eleven key areas: industrialisation, agricultural modernization, infrastructure, financing, green development, trade and investment, poverty reduction, public health, culture, people-to-people exchange, and peace and security. For these ten sectors of collaboration, President Xi Jinping promised US\$60 billion in loans, grants, and equity capital (Eom, Brautigam, and Banabdallah, 2018). Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Tanzania are just a few of the African nations that have attracted Chinese manufacturing companies due to their rising manufacturing potential and industrial zones. This change coincides with a change in the initial trade imbalance, with China exporting to Africa at a considerably lower rate than in prior years.

China has eliminated Africa's debt through the FOCAC process, facilitated wider market access, and offered a wide range of new prospects for constructive engagement. China's commerce with Africa is dominated by oil. The top ten list of Chinese imports from Africa also included refined copper, iron ore, cotton, diamonds, logs, cotton, platinum, cobalt, and diamonds. This indicates China's involvement in the extractive industry in Africa and is partly in line with China's economic expansion. While FOCAC has bolstered China's commercial ties to Africa, it has also given Beijing a platform to step up its humanitarian aid efforts in the continent. More than thirty African nations' debts totalling more than 2 billion US dollars have been forgiven by Beijing since the FOCAC was established in 2000. It has also trained more than 10,000 African personnel in both civilian and security sectors. A central element of the China-Africa relationship is the principle of equal rights and respect through which Africa can negotiate with China as equals, seeking mutually beneficial outcomes (Brautigam, 2009).

The Chinese Silk Road Economic Belt is another important development in Sino-African relations. Africa would profit more from the Belt and Road programme even though it was not initially the main region along the route when it was first suggested in 2013. This would result in more jobs being created, better local economic conditions, and a boost to Africa's industrial growth. Over the past ten years, China has increased its foreign direct investment (FDI) into African States. However, the growth has not been significant or in line with the volume or rate of Chinese FDI flows abroad. (Huiping, 2016). Kenya has been recognised as a significant maritime pivot point, which is good news. Ports on Africa's eastern coast, the Horn of Africa, as well as North Africa, are all part of the maritime route. With the help of this programme, a number of avenues for transferring products into and between Africa have begun to open up, particularly the ports in Djibouti and Lamu in Kenya (Farooq, Tongkai, Jiangang, and Feroze, 2018).

Despite all the positive efforts to establish stable and fraternal cooperation with Africa, China has been faced with opposition. This has stemmed from China's shocking labour rights record and environmental neglect in its investment projects. A cross-section of the international community blames China for elevating conflicts in some parts of Africa and for supporting oppressive governments against opposition parties or in clamping down on their citizens. Although some of these allegations are exaggerated, China is determined to play a leadership role by engaging African leaders on issues of corruption and good governance. Even though China pursues a non-interference foreign policy with regards to countries' domestic issues, it seeks to actively engage African leaders at regional and sub-regional levels on peace and conflict resolution (Hinga, Jun, and Yiguan, 2013). Importantly, China's investment in Africa keeps growing, and any future success is heavily reliant on the continent's political stability. The fact that China provides unrestricted development assistance to some African nations raises the possibility of poor governance, lack of accountability, and violence.

Low labor and safety standards, as well as the involvement of Chinese businesses in unethical practices, have also raised severe concerns. China-related electoral fraud has affected a number of African nations. These nations include countries like Senegal and Zambia. The problem of Chinese immigrants to Africa and its effects on regional labour markets have aroused outrage from the local populations. The amount of technology and expertise transferred from Chinese enterprises to Africa, despite the efforts of some African nations like Ethiopia and Nigeria, is still quite little. As a consequence, there have been three main reasons why the China-Africa partnership has failed. These are the legislative, regulatory, and enforcement weaknesses of African states. the Chinese propensity to conduct business without regard for environmental considerations, as well as unscrupulous commercial practises and transactions that are obviously at odds with the national interests of African nations. And finally, China's role of democratisation of Africa can be considered as a defamatory one (Maru, 2013).

3. Ideological Interests

China's approach to Africa is heavily influenced by ideology. One relevance lies in China's deliberate building of a modern connection with Africa on the basis of history. An interest-based foreign policy goes beyond this in terms of diplomatic coverage. There is a fundamental attempt to show how China's growth as a global force contradicts its self-imposed status as a developing nation. Improving ties with Africa is crucial for China's reputation. In contrast to previous power shifts, China sees itself as a leading state whose "peaceful rise" will neither harm the interests of developing nations nor undermine the international order. The self-conception of modern China's identity is the consequence of various threads. This featured a history of imperialism, a period of revolt, and ambitions for progress. (Jenner, 1992).

The rise of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to power in 1949 after a long civil war was a significant feature that gave its leaders a stable political, military and ideology. This set a concrete foundation upon which to build the new state system. According to Mao, the international system was divided into progressive and reactionary forces, and it was a historical imperative that the People's Republic of China side with the former. Throughout this period the People's Republic of China and its leadership maintained the belief that, domestic economic policies have altered dramatically from the original socialist commitment and events at home may have even spiralled out of control at times (Zheng, 2010). However, China's foreign policy has been shaped and guided by principles reflecting the relational character of Chinese foreign policy. This meant that it saw its own conduct as motivated by a strong commitment to ethical principles embodied in the 'Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence'. This shaped their perception of the creation of a new international order.

As expected, this idea was partially embraced by African leaders. They frequently base their reasoning for doing business with China on the understanding that China is an emerging world power with superior financial, technological, and political resources. The proclamation of South-South solidarity and cooperation was aimed at creating a narrative that seems to hardly differ from generations of North-South ties. The narrative of China's involvement with Africa therefore posed significant challenges to the country's self-perception and, with that its foreign policy. It is in this regard that China's promotion of history is of critical importance (Zeleza, 2014). It acts not only as a basis of the foundation for past relations but also as an assurance to African leaders. Despite the Chinese emerging superpower status, it seeks to retain the outlook and interests of fellow developing countries.

The People's Republic of China was established at the same time as the fight for African independence. The Chinese leadership then had a rare chance to forge a successful new alliance as a result of this. Beijing understood that newly independent nations in the old colonial world were both natural friends and a potential solution to its legitimacy issues, but they were both excluded from UN membership and without US recognition (Mohan and Power, 2008). The launching of the 'Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence' in 1949 was fundamental in establishing this relationship. These principles were particularly appealing to new states in a post-colonial setting. Beijing therefore aimed at establishing official contact with African countries after the Korean War and its first diplomatic process that would be shaped at the Bandung Conference of 1955.

The Bandung conference represented a unique opportunity for China to meet the new countries of Asia and Africa. Here, it would be able to portray its anti-colonial credentials, present itself as a model of self-reliance and appeal to Asian-African unity. Indeed, China's foreign policy towards Africa was since its inception, marked by these three main constants: the export of the 'Chinese model', the struggle against the superpowers and China's third world policy. Western nations have expressed great animosity towards China's pragmatic attitude. This is due to China's growing influence over African governments as well as its deflationary effect on western attempts to support human rights and democracy. China is similarly committed to dominating the markets and resources of Africa. What China expects from Africa has been made very plain. This includes market access, assistance for its efforts to isolate and recapture Taiwan, access to energy security, and resource commodities, among other things (Tessman, 2009). China's primary goal is still to protect its national interests through business relationships with Africa.

4. Security Interests

China does not view Africa as a severe danger to its internal security given the distance between the two continents. However, China's economic activities and presence has expanded rapidly in Africa. Therefore, Beijing has over the years only prioritized the physical security of its investments and nationals. According to incomplete data, at least 1 million Chinese live in Africa as of October 2012 (Sun, 2014). China's ability to adopt a strong security policy has been restrained. This is due to the strict rule that prohibits sending troops overseas. This is also mainly due to one of the foreign policy's five guiding principles, which is "mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Compared to its security interactions with its close neighbours, China's security activities in Africa are rather modest. China has depended largely on UN peacekeeping missions and regional institutions to address the instability and wars in African nations. The pragmatic strategy aims to protect Chinese interests in the area while strengthening Africa's capacity to provide security. Since 1999, China has supported UN peacekeeping

operations. These are primarily used in Africa. With nearly three quarters of Chinese soldiers stationed in Africa, China views peacekeeping as a beneficial contribution to achieving peace and security on the continent. (Berhe and Hongwu, 2013). Since 1997, China has only vetoed two resolution drafts: one for deployment in Guatemala and the other in Macedonia.

Over the past decade, China's role in peacekeeping and security has grown rapidly through the sales of arms, military cooperation, and peacekeeping deployments in Africa. Today, through FOCAC and support to the AU and other mechanisms, China is making a growing effort to take a systematic, pan-African approach to security on the continent. In 2012, Chinese President Hu Jintao launched the 'China-Africa Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Security' which was aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation with Africa. Following that was the 2015 UN General Assembly. President Xi Jinping of China promised the AU \$100 million in military help over a five-year period. This will help efforts like the African Standby Force and the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises, which are part of the peace and security framework (Kovrig, 2018). China is regarded as one of the countries that provide the most personnel to UN peacekeeping operations worldwide.

China has also taken unilateral military action in recent years to defend its interests and those of its citizens on the continent. For instance, the People's Liberation Army has been operating in the Gulf of Eden since 2008, and in 2011, it evacuated its citizens from Libya. Domestic political unrest has also led to major dangers to the security of Chinese investors and nationals. In addition to this, China has pursued a more defensive security objective targeted at safeguarding its citizens and current economic interests. China has increased the number of bilateral solutions it offers as a result of the lack of protection for its nationals and assets caused by military and foreign policy restrictions. Beijing has resolved this by taking measures in deepening cooperation with the African Union (Eom, Brautigam, and Banabdallah, 2018).

From June 26 to July 10, 2018, the first China-Africa Defence and Security Forum took place, ushering in a new, and more formal and comprehensive level of communication. Military cooperation and regional security were topics of conversation. China used this to demonstrate its ability to forge human connections, show off its technology, and solidify its status as a helpful partner. During this period, concerns were also raised about the demand in China and other parts of Asia for African wildlife and its products, including ivory, rhinoceros horn, and animal skin. This led to increased poaching, smuggling, and trafficking, and the proceeds from these activities frequently fuelled organised crime and bloodshed throughout the continent. China's import ban on ivory, which went into effect on January 1st of that year, was hailed as a long-overdue move, but it needed to be put into practise. (Kovrig, 2018).

Over time, there have been some signs that have prompted China to feel the need to enhance its security influence in the area. These include supply and demand, the expanding capabilities of its industrial and military base, and the interest of African nations in its reasonably priced weapons. These indications also include flexible funding terms, a somewhat unfettered attitude, and a lack of meddling in matters like governance and human rights. According to figures compiled by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China has overtaken the United States as the region's biggest supplier of armaments, contributing 27% of the region's imports over the four-year period from 2013 to 2017—an increase of 55% from 2008 to 2012. (Blencker, 2013). The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) may also be a driving factor, closely followed by economic interest.

Conclusion

The relationship between China and Africa has grown to be a key aspect of modern international relations for both sides and for the fast-shifting global political economy. The amazing expansion of economic cooperation—from aid to commerce to investment and other spheres—shows the breadth and depth of the relationship. It is noteworthy that Africa enjoys an unprecedented level of official contacts with all of the world's superpowers. Despite the extraordinary expansion of commercial ties between China and Africa, Chinese officials have given Africa a lot of thought. In terms of trade and investment, it's crucial to take note of the Western critics of China in Africa. China still views Africa as being less important than its neighbours in Asia, Europe, and the US. Moreover 50% of China's trade was with Asia in 2010. China and Africa are equally responsible for improving these ties. China must, however, put its talk of mutual benefits into action and pay more attention to African concerns if it wants the relationship to be one that is truly mutually beneficial for both parties.

Academics and academics have focused on the expanding Sino-African contact under the scope of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. The Forum has served as a forum for the development of China-Africa ties since its founding in 2000. China has forgiven Africa's debt through the Forum's procedures. Additionally, expanded market access has made a variety of new prospects for China's constructive involvement with Africa possible. As anticipated, there are undoubtedly difficulties and realities that prompt critical inquiries regarding potential threats that can jeopardize Africa's membership in FOCAC. As a result of the imbalance in economic power between China and individual African states, the relation tends to reflect on the dependency type of relationship and reaffirms the old model of state patrimonialism.

Importing Chinese labor, among other things, to finish organized Chinese infrastructure and mining projects prevents skill transfers and slows the growth of indigenous employment. Additionally, doing so fosters anger, as does undercutting regional businesspeople and manufacturers through the sale of cheaper Chinese goods or more astute business judgments. It has been urged that Africans and Chinese businesspeople should collaborate on an equal level to ensure that both parties benefit from this new strategic alliance. To make this happen, they must work together and refocus Chinese resources in ways that are equally beneficial to China and Africa. This calls for the urgent development of an African consensus. This would guarantee that a framework for effective regulatory oversight and monitoring is put in place to ensure that investment practices are carried out ethically and lawfully. The key benefactors of this collaboration should be their citizens, first and foremost. Africans across the continent can only make the most sustainable use of China's extensive and varied drive into Africa by organizing a unified response.

Specifically, African countries need to develop robust laws and strengthen their monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and institutional capabilities for labor, safety and environmental protection applicable to all investors domestic and foreign, including the Chinese. African social movements, civil society activists, and progressive intellectuals must ensure that African governments do not sell their countries cheaply and mortgage their futures due to corruption, ignorance, incompetence, misjudgements, misguided euphoria, and short-term thinking. China is undoubtedly giving Africa a fresh perspective on the global stage and has increased Western interest and rivalry in the area, both of which, in the most basic economic terms, increase the worth of Africa. Although China is restricting the scope of its ideological approach, it is highlighting a growing movement to challenge the dominant Western paradigm. Notwithstanding this, some African nations are leery of becoming overly dependent on China since they understand that while Chinese aid may not be subject to political restrictions, it does have economic restrictions.

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