

Department of International Relations and Africa Talks public debate

African Security and External Interference: exploring the role of a newcomer, China

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Tuesday 29 January 2013, 6.30-8pm, New Theatre, East Building

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**LSE Africa Talks! “African Security and
External Interference: Exploring the Role of A
Newcomer, China**

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1. Personal Comments on the Topic: a holistic approach is needed for a better analysis of China in Africa

- Interesting topic – Limiting this talk to Security issues will be an unjust exercise, we therefore examine this topic within development and security paradigm.
- We will therefore be focussing more on Security issues from an African Perspective and also be touching issues on African development
- Again, can we rightly describe **China as a newcomer?** Yes, we can and at the same time we can refer to China as **Game changer** in Africa Security and Development

2. Historical Background: Africa-China Relations

- The Relationship was defined along bilateral relations
- Ideologically driven
- Colonial solidarity
- Member of the Global South
- Both are Developing Economies
- Share similar international relations doctrine of non-intervention and non-interference in members affairs (During the OAU Era)

Reasons for China Sudden Interest in Africa

- Economic growth and expansion
- Africa's Energy resources
- West's Apathy towards African governments

3. China's Foreign Policy: Principles and Interests

- Equality
- Mutual respect and benefits
- Sovereignty and non interference

Interests and strategies:

- Major interests are Trades and Energy
- Adapts its Foreign Policy to its domestic development strategy
- State-controlled companies are supported in dealing with resource rich countries in Africa
- Use of aggressively diplomacy to get trade deals, debt forgiveness, and aid packages with some African countries
- Employs professional bodies, academic platform and cultural exchanges to deepen relations

African Security and Development Challenges: The Chinese (Intervention) Engagement

Question: What are the African security and development challenges

- Armed Conflicts
- Proliferation of SALWs
- Porous Borders
- Population (rural and Urban) Explosion
- Transnational organised crime
- Ethno- Religious extremism and Fundamentalism

African Development Challenges

- Infrastructural
- Technological
- Economic Development
- HIV/AIDS
- Leadership
- Environmental and Climatic Changes

Question: It is important to ask if China's sudden aggressive engagement in Africa is premised in assisting the continent to overcome its security and developmental challenges develop

Answer is a bit difficult but China's is engaging in African Security and Development Challenges

Question: On African Security Issues China is a complete newcomer and also a game changer.

- China has no history of engagement in African security
- There is a changing pattern of engagement especially on the issue of diplomatic making and peacekeeping,
- Using both Bilateral and Multi-lateral diplomacy more of a two-tracked diplomacy.
- Collaboration with AU (Support, technical and logistic , funding etc)
- Participates in Diplomatic peacemaking (Sudan and South Sudan)
- Engages in UN Peacekeeping Missions (substantial involvement in Africa Peacekeeping Mission)
- Plays neutral role in both inter and intra-state conflicts (based on its non-intervention and non interference FP)

Cont.

- China Partner with AU and PSC (AU House)
- China's training of African Standby Force Personnel
- Providing logistic and funding
- China is a major arm trader to many African countries
- China is a game changer in respect to its sudden interest in Africa while the West has shown little attention
- It is also a game changer in the way other emerging economies have sudden focus attention on Africa (Russia, India, Brazil)
- It has created a new perspective to which other major powers see Africa. (France President's speech in Algeria and Senegal reflected this)

China's Peacekeeping Engagement in Africa

Question: Why did China suddenly embrace UN Peacekeeping Mission and why focusing on Africa.

- Traditionally, China's peacekeeping policies started from outright rejection (1970s), to reluctant participation (1980s) to prolonged involvement in UNPKOs. (1990s- date)
- Beijing has clearly shifted its foreign policy to one that permits limited peace operations. From traditional peacekeeping (use of diplomat to resolve conflict) to Multi-dimensional peacekeeping (supports and contributes to UNMIS, MONUC, UNAMID and enforcement (supports for Bosnia and Somalia peace enforcement)
- But majority of Chinese insistence that the consent of the hosting state is required in each and every occasion, for a UNPKO to be considered legitimate by Beijing.

China's Peacekeeping Engagement in Africa Cont:

- China has participated in about seven peacekeeping Missions in Africa and has about 75% of its peacekeepers in Africa
- China is the largest contributor of peacekeepers to Africa among the UNSC and Second to France globally
- MINURSO, Western Sahara: 12 military observers
- UNMIL, Liberia; 563 troops; 4 police; 2 military observers
- UNOCI, Côte d'Ivoire; 7 military observers
- MONUC, DR Congo; 218 troops; 16 military observers
- UNMIS, Sudan; 444 troops; 18 police; 12 military observers
- UNAMID, Darfur, Sudan 321 troops
- UNAMEE, Ethiopia and Eritrea, 200 observers
- As at 2012 China has well over 5000 military, police and civilian personnel in Peacekeeping mission in Africa

China's Growing Influence in Africa

Question: why is China relations growing in Africa and what does this portend to other actors in the continent ?

- African leaders prefer the non interference FP philosophy of China
- Africa leaders accept China mutual respect, partnership and non imposition of economic paradigm on the continent.
- China feels comfortable with Africa's weak governance structure despite been 'democratic'
- China's economic growth and energy needs require her to be pragmatic and resolute in seeking friendship
- Africa's development is in dire need of intervention which China can provide with minimum conditionality
- China has technical expertise and technological knowhow which serve as alternative to the West

China's growing influence Cont

- China has economic and financial muscle to compete with any nations
- Dwindling interest and poor economic reality of the Western nations
- Visible China development intervention in Africa (visible projects in many African states)
- China is the world's second largest economy and world's second largest military
- The volume of Africa investment has surpass \$166b surpassing that of US, Britain and France. For example, as at the end of April, 2012, Chinese direct investment in Africa reaches USD 15.3 billion,
- There are more than 2,000 Chinese enterprises in 50 African countries, and 75% of the investment goes to finance, manufacture, trade, agriculture and transportation sectors

China's growing Influence cont:

- China power of the media has spread to Africa
- China has the largest peacekeepers among the members of the UN Security Council
- China supports its Africa diplomacy with subtle academic institution and cultural exchange

Question: What does it portend to other Actors?

- Aggressive demand for natural resources
- Stiffer competition among actors
- New focus on Africa continent
- Likely return to old hegemony - satellite and periphery alliances

China in Africa's Security and Development: An African Perspective

Questions: How is China engagement viewed in Africa and why is Africa growing?

- The resource Grab theory
- Exploitation and China's slavery
- The scramble between the West and China
- Inorganic development
- Rogue state syndrome
- Deceptive Security engagement

Sustainability Of the Relations: Now and in the Future

Question: Is Africa – China relations in the context of security and development sustainable.

- Sustainability depends largely on the concepts of mutual respect, benefit and development
- China's philosophy and quest for more energy is likely to promote its sustainability
- While there are many fragile political order in Africa, the cost and return on investment is high besides many government in Africa appear stable and 'democratic'
- Africa's growing economy is largely influence by FDI China is the largest investor
- China's spread in Africa can also serve as a mean of sustainability.

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- THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO STAND AT THE PODIUM OF THE PRESTIGIOUS LSE. IT IS AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME AND LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE ENGAGEMENT.

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From Non-interference to Constructive intervention? Defining the good intervention

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Is China's Africa policy in transition?

- A new kind of strategic partnership between China and Africa.
- Deepened and strengthened China-Africa ties are the new developments of globalization.
- The persistence/continuity to maintain the “non-interference”.
- Change: the need to explore the further advancement of China's relations with Africa; in particular, the degree to which “constructive intervention” (necessary, conditional, legitimate) can occur in specific situations.

The meaning of “constructive intervention”

- Chinese intervention is not traditional intervention – military and unilateral ones by great powers and superpowers but the responsibility undertaken by a re-emerging great power for providing initiatives, solutions, rules and arrangements. It means China constructively and comprehensively participates in the peace, security and stability in Africa.
- The principle of multilateralism by stakeholders.
- To support more African solutions to African issues

Two issues

1. “Initiative on China-Africa Cooperative partnership for Peace and Security”: “We should promote peace and stability in Africa and create a secure environment for Africa's development. China will launch the 'Initiative on China-Africa Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Security,' deepen cooperation with the African Union (AU) and African countries in maintaining peace and security in Africa, provide financial support for AU peacekeeping missions and the development of the African Standby Force, as well as train more security officials and peacekeepers for the AU,” Hu Jintao, 20 July, 2012 at the FOCAC meeting in Beijing.
2. “Preventive diplomacy”

Broadly defined Chinese “constructive intervention”: soft power as means of intervention

- Soft power matters.
- Chinese development experiences are attractive.
- Other dimensions of Chinese soft power

Global governance

- The United Nations and its Security Council
- The African Union
- Climate change
- Development cooperation
- trade
- IFIs and G20
- BRICS

Conclusions

- China began to improve and refine its Africa policy to re-adapt to a changing Africa and globe.
- The co-existence of “non-interference” and “constructive intervention”
- How to invent and implement “constructive intervention”?
- The coordination and cooperation between China’s updated Africa policy and the West

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