Chapter 15: The China-Africa connection: an ambiguous legacy?

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Extract

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China’s new Premier Li Keqiang visited Africa from May 4 to May 11, 2014, taking in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Angola, and Kenya, as well as the headquarters of the African Union in Ad...
Consequently, this “Chinese invasion” has left many tongues wagging, with many experts questioning China’s real plans for Africa: For example, some say China is willing to fund rogue African governments in order to gain access to Africa’s vast mineral resources. – Economic Growth. For starters, even the most-seasoned economic and political analysts have problems deciding whether this booming relationship between China and Africa is positive. Be that as it may, there are a few wins that we ought not to close our eyes to. Those who support Africa’s trade relations with China argue that the Asian giant is strictly business-oriented, preferring to “genuinely” help Africa realize real economic growth rather than creating a dangerous dependency on foreign aid as its traditional partners have done. China has become Africa’s largest trade partner and has greatly expanded its economic ties to the continent, but its growing activities there have raised questions about its noninterference policy. People from China and Burkina Faso work for a Chinese company in Equatorial Guinea. Abdelhak Senna/AFP/Getty Images. Written By. Eleanor Albert. Updated. Last updated July 12, 2017. Summary. China is the African continent’s largest trading partner and source of foreign direct investment. Africa in China’s Foreign Policy John L. Thornton China Center and Africa Growth Initiative. During the past decade, China’s rapidly growing presence in Africa has increasingly become a topic for debate in the international media and among economists and policy analysts. While China’s unique economic approach to Africa meets the African countries’ need for funding and infrastructure projects, the model has been widely criticized. Many Chinese firms investing in Africa are state-owned. This gives them a notable competitive edge when, for example, bidding procurement contracts in African countries, since the companies can obtain substantial subsidies from the Chinese government. The stakes in Africa are high due to the continent's rich abundance in raw materials. Africa is estimated to contain 90% of the entire world supply of platinum and cobalt, half of the world's gold supply, two-thirds of world manganese, and 35% of the world's uranium. It also accounts for nearly 75% of the world's coltan, an im China-Africa cooperation in environmental protection can be strengthened through FOCAC. The primary challenge in this area is a lack of institutionalized involvement of environmental experts. Strengthen the Mechanism: establish a Chinese inter-ministerial coordinating committee led by a vice Premier; reform the time frame of the Ministerial Conference; increase the transparency of the Forum and participation by civil society organisations; Strengthen Interactions within Africa: increase the interaction between China and Africa through active engagement of African countries and regional organisations; enhance the functions of the African Union; increase.