

Research on International Cooperation between China and African Countries under the Background of the Belt and Road Initiative

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Abstract. Thanks to the continuous implementation of the "Belt and Road Initiative," China and Africa are building stronger and more comprehensive strategic partnerships, constantly exploring the development potential of Africa and making Africa develop rapidly in many aspects. The continuous improvement of the cooperation mechanism has brought new opportunities for the development of the African region. Solve the problems existing in China-Africa cooperation from multiple angles and lay the foundation for deepening China-Africa cooperation. Only further strengthen the economic and cultural exchanges between China and Africa, and cultivate the institutions of African countries and shape African theories through the concept of international relations with Chinese characteristics. China and Africa will be more in line with the strategic plan for cooperation and development.

The Significance of International Cooperation between China and Africa in the Context of the "Belt and Road"

As early as the colonial era, Western countries began to colonize Africa and plunder African resources. Through nominal "development cooperation," they ensured Africa's "no development" in order to consolidate their interests in Africa. Since China put forward the "going out" development strategy, China's relations with Africa have become increasingly close. China has developed mutually beneficial cooperation with Africa in various areas of Africa such as politics, economy, culture, security, etc., and is committed to helping Africa integrate into the international community. Since the end of the Cold War, the African continent was once regarded as a "desperate continent." In the eyes of Western countries, Africa used to have not only a low strategic position, but also a collection of war, disease, and poverty. For this reason, Western countries never really paid attention to Africa. However, China has found Africa as a "continent of opportunity" in this universal consensus, and has helped and established various kinds of cooperation. China has always insisted on non-interference in the internal principles of African countries. Adhere to the unpaid nature of aid to African countries, and do not seek any economic benefits in financing investment with Africa. China has always adopted an equal and friendly attitude toward Africa. In the 21st century, China and Africa are building a stronger overall strategy. The partnership has continuously explored the development potential of Africa and enabled Africa to make rapid progress from multiple levels and multiple perspectives. Western countries have begun to compete for the goodwill and wealth of Africa. For example, the United States and the European Union, as well as many emerging countries rushing to invest in Africa, such as India, Turkey, Brazil, South Korea, etc., are vying to resurrect or re-establish their own mechanism of cooperation with Africa and developing relations with Africa. This has undoubtedly helped Africa get diplomatic options and a new perspective on national development.

Provide Experience for the Development of African Countries

Obstructing African countries to improve public governance, economic development and trade cooperation is mainly due to the colonial history of Africa and the complex land system problems

formed by many ethnic tribes. There are many sub-Saharan lands that have not been effectively developed. Most of Africa's rural land is not registered, and it is easily looted or requisitioned and almost uncompensated. If agricultural production and land tenure problems are not addressed, it will lead to more serious poverty problems. In the early days of reform and opening up, rural development played an important role in emancipating and developing productive forces and achieving self-sufficiency. Taking Xiaogang Village as an example, Professor Zhang Zhenke, director of the Institute of African Studies at Nanjing University, talked about the rapid development of rural areas after the reform and opening up. This comes from the long-term emphasis of the central government on agricultural issues and the incentives and incentives for rural and peasant policies. Second, open area construction. The transformation of China's land relations has created a positive interaction between the government, farmers and social capital, and has also brought the greatest freedom and convenience to government land. Professor Sun Hongqi believes that the economy of developing countries needs the government's main guidance, planning and services, and needs to bridge the gap between the government, capital and the masses. Therefore, the realization of land ownership system reform and the integration, planning and effective use of land resources in African countries will be a long and historic journey.

In addition, African countries have unbalanced resources, numerous domestic parties, and poor coordination. Private ownership has led to less government economic resources, weaker intervention capabilities, a series of external and international environmental changes such as the shrinking international markets of developed countries and trade protectionism, making it difficult for China's reform and opening up experience in Africa to be replicated. Professor Li Zhisheng, director of the African Research Office of the Institute of Western Asian and African Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that "whether China's promotion of capacity cooperation with Africa or Africa's real poverty alleviation lies in whether African countries can achieve integration between countries." It is achieved through party politics. In African countries, whether it is the ruling party or the opposition party, in the process of political competition, tribal standards are the standard for judging right and wrong, not from the overall interests of the country. Therefore, the violence of partisan struggle, the small and scattered structure of political parties, and the strong interference of external forces in elections are all higher than the "national concept" and have become the factors of political instability in African countries. Professor Chen Xiaohong, director of the African Studies Center of Hunan Normal University, summed up the characteristics of party politics in African countries by taking the example of Lesotho in South Africa, and put forward valuable opinions for African countries in governing the country: "Political order is more valuable than democracy; rationalizing political parties and the military Relationship; the endogenous driving force of political development is national psychology and public demand; the exogenous motivation of political development is international relations. In China, the Communist Party of China has conducted extensive consultations with other democratic parties. At this time, Professor Sun Hongqi also believes that the connotation of democracy is not a universal right, but a broad negotiation. The multiparty system itself is not terrible. The key is how to deal with multiparty relations. "The important focus of China-Africa cooperation research should become the "decolonization" of the construction of African international relations theory. China has confidence in the theoretical roots of establishing international relations theory with Chinese characteristics. The process of "decolonization" in Africa is the political field has basically been realized, and the theoretical self-confidence of economic, ideological and cultural independence still needs more time to explore. Only further strengthen the deep-seated exchanges between China and Africa in economic and cultural aspects, and establish the institutions of African countries and shape African theories through the concept of international relations with Chinese characteristics. China and Africa will be more in line with the strategic plan for cooperation and development.

Promoting Africa's Industrialization and Modernization Economy

Africa is a market with great development potential such as independent geography with a vast land area and abundant natural and human resources.

The Belt and Road Initiative not only shares infrastructure with African countries, but also opens up a broad “invisible path” for cooperation in the areas of health, education, agriculture, services, infrastructure, trade and capacity building. The South African Business Daily reported that Chinese political party cadres, government employees and university students were invited to China to learn about the worldview in Beijing or the rest of the world. The China-Africa Defense Security Forum, held in Beijing, and the Chinese e-commerce platform represented by Alibaba provided the leap-forward development of African countries. In the past three years, Alibaba International’s trading volume in Africa has increased by 188%, 389.9% and 62% respectively. On the basis of the close relationship between the Chinese economy and the African economy, China has also opened its market to Africa and promoted it. The industrialization and modernization of Africa has enhanced the status of African countries in the global market. The “One Belt, One Road” initiative has established a voluntary and cooperative development platform for China and Africa, and built a “One Belt, One Road” international cooperation summit forum. A series of cooperation mechanisms, such as the International Development Cooperation Agency. It fully considers African countries. The willingness of the family to choose cooperation has provided Africa with a wide range of choices. Professor Tian Ze, director of the “One Belt, One Road” African Institute of Hohai University, pointed out that we should adhere to the principle of joint consultation and joint construction and learn from each other about infrastructure construction in the world. Standard experience to jointly build an entrepreneurial system and process innovation system for the international frontier. China attaches great importance to strategic planning for cooperation with African countries. The “One Belt, One Road” initiative is highly compatible with the African Union's 2063 agenda, and there is huge space for cooperation. West African countries are also particularly active in responding to the “Belt and Road” cooperation. China has fully utilized the role of market mechanisms in investment and has given African people the right to development and decision-making, further embodying the principles of China-Africa cooperation, sharing, sharing and common development.

Promote the Development of South-South Cooperation

The cooperation between China and Africa can be said to be an example of South-South cooperation. China has always been the main mobilizer and participant in cooperation between developing countries. The development of China-Africa relations under the “Belt and Road Initiative” has not only promoted the Central African countries. The political economy and culture have developed in a more rapid direction, and have greatly promoted the internal cooperation of developing countries. This demonstration effect and pulling effect have made the development of China-Africa relations more than its own international contribution. The promotion of South-South cooperation by China-Africa relations is first of all to promote the development of investment relations between the countries of the South, and to promote the internal cooperation mechanism of the entire southern countries. Since the South-South cooperation has been proposed, there has been no the main reason for the substantial development lies in the fact that the countries involved in South-South cooperation are developing countries, and their level of development is relatively low. There are not many outstanding advantages to promote each other’s development, with the relationship between China and Africa. The development, especially the gradual deepening of China-Africa relations since the “Belt and Road Initiative,” has driven the rapid development of relations between emerging countries and Africa. There have been certain methods and models for the development within the countries of the South, which have made the advantages of both sides visible. That is to say, before the development of emerging countries and the rapid development of China-Africa relations, Africa's resource development and economic exchanges have not made substantial contributions to Africa, and more are used by Western countries to realize their own interests. Need, only after South-South cooperation has been fully developed, Africa's resources and economic exchanges can bring returns to Africa itself, and truly bring tangible benefits to developing countries.

The development of China-Africa relations not only promotes the development of internal

mechanisms of South-South cooperation, but also demonstrates the development concepts of developing countries and makes South-South cooperation more comprehensive global significance. South-South cooperation is based on the principle of equal exchange. In the eyes of some Western countries, the intention of South-South cooperation is nothing but a plunder of resources. This is contrary to the true purpose of cooperation between China and Africa and even between developing countries. In the "Belt and Road Initiative" initiative, African countries have won the China-Africa cooperation concept and the mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation relationship without any political conditions. As is known to all, China's cooperation in infrastructure construction, economic and trade cooperation and humanities exchanges in Africa will enhance the independent development capabilities of African countries. This is proved by the facts. This has played a very good guiding role in the concept of cooperation among developing countries, promoted the international community's understanding of South-South cooperation and demonstrated the benign interaction of solidarity and cooperation among developing countries.

Overview of Economic Development in Africa

Geographically, a country in West Africa, North Africa and South Africa has a total gross domestic product of more than \$200 billion. In addition, only one country in East Africa has a GDP of more than 200 billion US dollars. Although there are more than \$2,000 in GDP in northern Africa, there are a large number of countries with a total GDP of less than \$10 billion, while southern Africa has a better overall development than the northern region (except for a few countries) because of the country's small And the population is small. When the total GDP is less than 10 billion US dollars, the total GDP of other countries basically exceeds 10 billion US dollars. In addition to a variety of subjective reasons, there are also very important and significant reasons for the development of North Africa. It is the world's largest desert, the Sahara Desert, spanning 11 countries and stretching 9.2 million square kilometers (China's land area is 9.6 million square kilometers).

The most difficult problem in Africa today is that most countries have a per capita GDP of less than \$1,000, which means that individuals earn less than \$3 a day. In this case, it is conceivable that the income and living conditions of the country's nationals are extremely harsh. This issue requires donations from the international community to help solve short-term survival problems. At the same time, it develops industries in the region to solve long-term economic problems and guides Africa to the path to prosperity.

The Existence of China-Africa International Cooperation under the Background of "Belt and Road"

The Difference between China and Africa's Values is Likely to Create a Barrier to the "One Belt, One Road" Humanities Exchange

There are major differences in religion, language and culture between China and Africa, and the resulting differences in values, which can easily cause misunderstandings and gaps between China and Africa. Because of this, despite the rapid and rapid development of China-Africa relations in recent years, the negative interpretation of the relationship between China and African countries originating from the West is still spreading in Africa. The so-called "China threat theory" and "China's neo-colonialism" "China plunders Africa." "Voice" and "China's support for African autocratic state" and other "murmurs" appear from time to time, posing challenges to China's national image and its influence in Africa. This is related to the strong position of the West in the international discourse power, and it is also closely related to the recognition of Western values and Western culture by the intellectual, public opinion and citizen organizations in African countries. Therefore, Africans are more inclined to accept Western views rather than Chinese ones. This makes it easy for Western media to erect an invisible "wall of discourse" between China and Africa, distorting the true image of African elites and people. Cognition. As the author visited the

French-speaking Leuven University in Belgium in 2013, the Cameroonian scholar Jean Nke Ndihi of the School of Development of the School of Politics, Economics and Social Sciences pointed out in his discussion of China-Africa relations: “Politics The economic and trade exchanges cannot cover all of China-Africa relations.” The problem of China-Africa relations now is that the Chinese people have not truly integrated with the African people. The development of the relationship between the two requires more than just coming and going. What is important is the communication of the mind. Language is not an obstacle to spiritual communication, just like between two people. If there is communication between the souls, even if the language has obstacles, they can perceive each other, and if the minds are not connected, even if there is no obstacle in the language, there is nothing to say. In contrast, France, which shares a common Christian faith with Africa, has a history of close cultural exchanges and cultural exchanges with Africa. It is relatively easy to develop relations with African countries. The success of cultural relations may be even more than political, economic or military. Christian culture has shaped the values of Africans. The resulting barriers to cultural exchanges between China and Africa are more concealed from the security risks of war and turmoil, but in the long run, its impact is more durable and profound. This religious humanistic risk may be a deeper factor that constrains the “Belt and Road” forward.

The Overall Investment Business Environment is Poor

With the rapid development of China-Africa economic cooperation, the economic relationship between China and Africa has expanded from the original low-level development to the level of upgrading and strengthening protection. By the beginning of 2017, Chinese companies have invested in 52 countries in Africa. More than 3,200 non-Chinese companies. However, with China's deepening of economic and trade cooperation with Africa, the local and micro level of cooperation presents a greater risk.

First of all, local regions and countries in Africa are still turbulent, political crises appear from time to time, the government's administrative awareness is poor, work enthusiasm and coordination are weak, resulting in continuous corruption, which not only affects the benefits of investment in Africa, but also raises investment costs. It even jeopardizes the safety of investment in China.

Secondly, the economies of African countries are fragile, infrastructure development is imperfect, and they rely heavily on external aid and financing support. The transportation is underdeveloped, the power development is backward, the upstream and downstream industrial chains are not matched, the economic structure is single, the financial market of African countries is low, the financial products and services are lacking, the financing costs are high, and the risks are high, so that Chinese enterprises are facing their own construction funds. Difficulties caused by development. In addition, Africa's foreign exchange earnings and reserve capacity is insufficient, there is a general shortage of foreign exchange, strict control over foreign exchange, foreign exchange income is subject to large fluctuations in commodity prices in the international market, exchange rate changes and currency depreciation are under greater pressure, leading to non-trade investment. There is a risk of not being able to collect foreign exchange in time, and there is a high exchange rate loss for non-investment.

In addition, the international community's assistance to Africa has declined slightly, and the level of public debt in Africa has increased, which has increased the risks and costs of investing in Africa. In addition, the legal environment for investment in Africa still needs to be further improved. African investment laws are constantly changing. The regulations on taxation and business operation rights in African countries' legislation do not provide a relatively relaxed environment for Chinese investors. The disputes between Chinese and African companies in the investment process are not perfect. The investment dispute resolution mechanism has caused the law enforcement agencies to be extremely random and inefficient. Finally, in terms of labor, although Africa has a huge demographic dividend and low labor costs, the quality of the labor force is low, professional technology and management personnel are lacking, and the investment cost for non-enterprises is increased due to basic training for workers. And the immigration department has gradually raised the barriers to entry for Chinese workers.

Trade Frictions Sometimes Occur

As China-Africa economic and trade exchanges become more frequent and trade levels increase, the possibility of trade friction between China and Africa is also increasing. The economic backwardness of African countries limits the speed of economic cooperation between China and Africa. In addition, China's imbalance in the distribution of African investment countries has led to a concentration of trade frictions between China and Africa, such as South Africa and Egypt, South Africa and Egypt. Countries that have initiated the most anti-dumping investigations on Chinese products are also countries with frequent trade disputes with China, which impose high taxes on related Chinese companies and products, thereby forcing Chinese products to withdraw from the market. The reason is mainly the similarity between the African countries and China in terms of industrial structure. Secondly, the Chinese enterprises have a low sense of social responsibility and corporate responsibility in the process of entering African countries, and there is a disorderly competition for non-export products, resulting in the trade friction between China and Africa has intensified.

Countermeasures for China-Africa International Cooperation under the Background of "One Belt, One Road"

Strengthen Humanities Exchanges and Cooperation to Reduce Conflicts

Promoting the construction of the "Belt and Road," if there is no cross-cultural or even ethnic and religious communication, it is difficult to achieve the goals set forth by the initiative, and the humanities field is precisely the shortcoming of China's current foreign exchanges. On the whole, the risk of African Christianity in the implementation of the "Belt and Road" initiative is mainly reflected in religious and humanistic risks. To this end, the author makes the following recommendations.

Firstly, strengthen research on Christianity in Africa. First of all, Chinese scholars should do a solid foundation study of the history of Christianity in Africa, conduct an in-depth and systematic investigation of the introduction and localization of Christianity in Africa, the types and characteristics of Christian local churches in Africa, and their respective claims. Second, strengthen the study of Christian status, political and religious relations, religious policies, and inter-religious relations in key countries. From the political and social environment in Africa, we grasp Christianity in the real world, not just the doctrinal question in the philosophical sense. Thirdly, strengthen the comparative study of African Christianity, Islam and traditional African religions, and deepen the understanding of African Christianity by comparing the commonalities and individualities of the three. Only in this way can we positively influence the positive effects of Christianity and evade its adverse effects on China-Africa relations.

Secondly, strengthen cultural exchanges between China and Africa, especially in the field of Christianity. On the basis of the operation of existing projects such as the Confucius Institute, medical team, and think tank cooperation, we will promote non-governmental exchanges, expand channels for humanities dialogue, and deepen the mechanism of the China-Africa civil forum. In addition, cultural exchanges must transcend Chinese characteristics and seek a consensus between the two cultures of China and Africa, especially traditional culture, to realize values. In 2017, China and South Africa established a humanities exchange and cooperation mechanism, which can be used to integrate dialogue and cooperation with South African Christian organizations into the framework of the China-South Africa Humanities Exchange Mechanism, and use this as a fulcrum to promote communication between China and Christian organizations in other African countries.

Thirdly, strengthen cooperation between China and Africa in the security field. Specific to the security of Christianity, the development of cooperation plans between the Chinese and African sides in the prevention and control of Christian extremist forces, Christian anti-government armed forces, and Christian terrorist organizations. Once these extremist forces touch China's interests in Africa, they can respond quickly and effectively.

Multi-angle and Multi-faceted Peacekeeping Cooperation Based on AU

Firstly, support African regional and sub-regional organizations and relevant African countries to contribute to peacekeeping and stability. Under the premise of the increasingly complicated security situation in Africa, Africa has made the primary goal of ensuring self-sufficiency in securing funds and building a rapidly responding armed forces on security issues, with the aim of achieving a complete “autonomous security” in Africa. Therefore, in the process of continuously deepening China-Africa cooperation under the “Belt and Road Initiative,” it is necessary to emphasize the cooperation between China and Africa under regional organizations and sub-regional organizations such as the African Union. In early December 2015, the Chinese government promulgated a new document in Johannesburg. In terms of improving the security and peace of African countries, it fully supported African countries to solve their own problems in their own way and actively explored how China is selective. Help African countries solve key and difficult problems, exert unique influence on African security and peace issues, and make outstanding contributions.

Secondly, the implementation of non-security assistance projects, there are technical difficulties, there are also various personnel and funding difficulties. In response to these difficulties, China has decided to establish the China-Africa Peace and Security Cooperation Fund. In implementing the China-Africa Peace and Security Cooperation Partnership Initiative, China will provide assistance to the establishment of the overall security responsibility mechanism in Africa, and at the same time deepen military cooperation. Increase cooperation with Africa in personnel training, logistics equipment, peacekeeping operations, health care, humanitarian relief, etc., and vigorously support Africa in responding to various security threats.

Thirdly, improve the non-dimensional peacekeeping model and strengthen the exchange of ideas on the governance of China and Africa. In response to the political instability in Africa, partial instability and the lack of governance capacity of African countries, we must actively participate in peacekeeping operations under the UN framework, send more civilian personnel to Africa, and send more combat troops. According to data released by the United Nations, in July 2018, China sent about 2,500 people to participate in UN peacekeeping operations, of which 2,000 people were on the African continent, accounting for about 80% of the total peacekeeping population. It is necessary to strengthen the ability to respond to African terrorist attacks and carry out projects on capacity building in African countries under the “Belt and Road” context. China and Africa have differences in security concepts, Africa attaches importance to “human security,” and China pays more attention to “sovereign security.” Or “national security,” for this reason, we should increase exchanges of experience in governing the country between China and Africa. Strengthen security cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations such as the AU, and support regional security and stability construction in African countries from multiple angles and aspects.

Improve Relevant Laws and Establish a Safe and Effective Risk Aversion Mechanism

Firstly, strengthen planning and guidance, strengthen risk prevention and control, and conduct risk assessment. We must pay attention to the risks and frictions in non-economic cooperation, collect relevant information, assess risk levels, and improve the investment dispute resolution mechanism of China-Africa bilateral investment agreements to protect Chinese enterprises in Africa while conducting economic cooperation with African countries. Related interests. In addition, the cooperation between the facility and the industrial park construction is a hot spot for China-Africa cooperation, and it is also the main goal of enhancing China-Africa cooperation under the “Belt and Road” initiative. To this end, it is necessary to plan the cooperation model and method between China and Africa and improve China’s Non-investment level. In terms of infrastructure cooperation, it is necessary to increase the docking efforts and investment with infrastructure construction in Africa. Before the industrial park, it is necessary to consider the risks of investment and establish overseas from the political, economic and security fields of African partner countries. Risk identification mechanism. Central African countries can establish bilateral coordination mechanisms to assess and prevent possible risks.

Secondly, the Chinese government should strengthen guidance and supervision and establish a

multi-party cooperation linkage mechanism. In terms of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation, it is necessary not only to strengthen communication and cooperation with African governments, but also to ensure the development of economic and trade cooperation from the government level through communication and coordination with African governments, and increase security investment in China-Africa economic cooperation. Cooperation between the League and sub-regional organizations to accelerate the expansion of African integration and strive for the early realization of the goal of Africa's integration as mentioned by the AU.

China and African countries have great development complementarities, especially in terms of infrastructure construction and fund raising. China does have certain advantages. Because infrastructure construction is the primary area of "One Belt, One Road" construction, whether it is from the perspective of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation or to promote the construction of the "Belt and Road," it is necessary to further strengthen the coordination between China and African sub-regional organizations.

In the face of frictions arising from China-Africa economic and trade cooperation, the government should strengthen supervision, introduce relevant laws and regulations, establish and improve early warning, response and dispute resolution mechanisms for trade frictions, and clarify the responsibilities of governments, enterprises, and various social organizations, especially The responsibility of Chinese enterprises is to establish and improve the laws and regulations governing the operation of Chinese companies overseas, and to encourage Chinese companies to adhere to a good international image and to fulfill their concerns and concerns.

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