

CHINA IN AFRICA: WHAT CAN BE LEARNT?

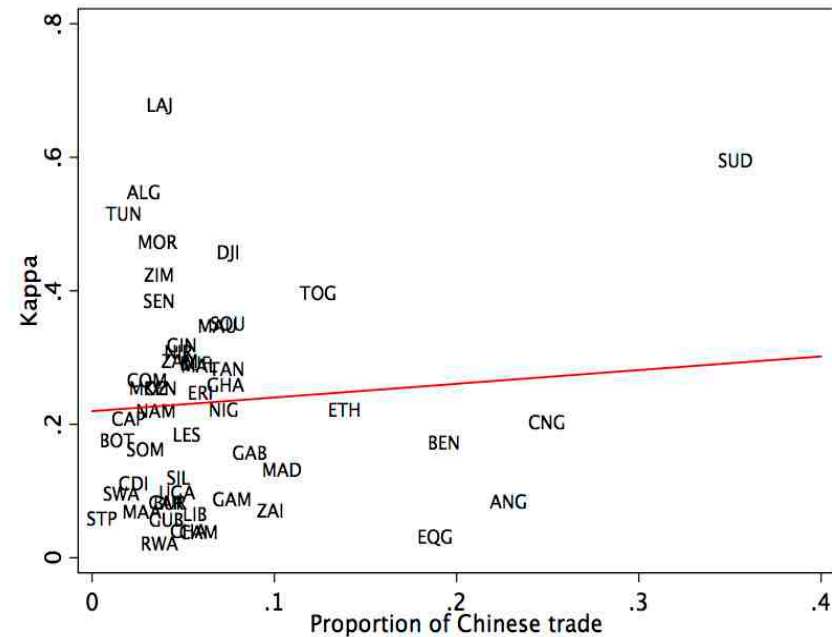
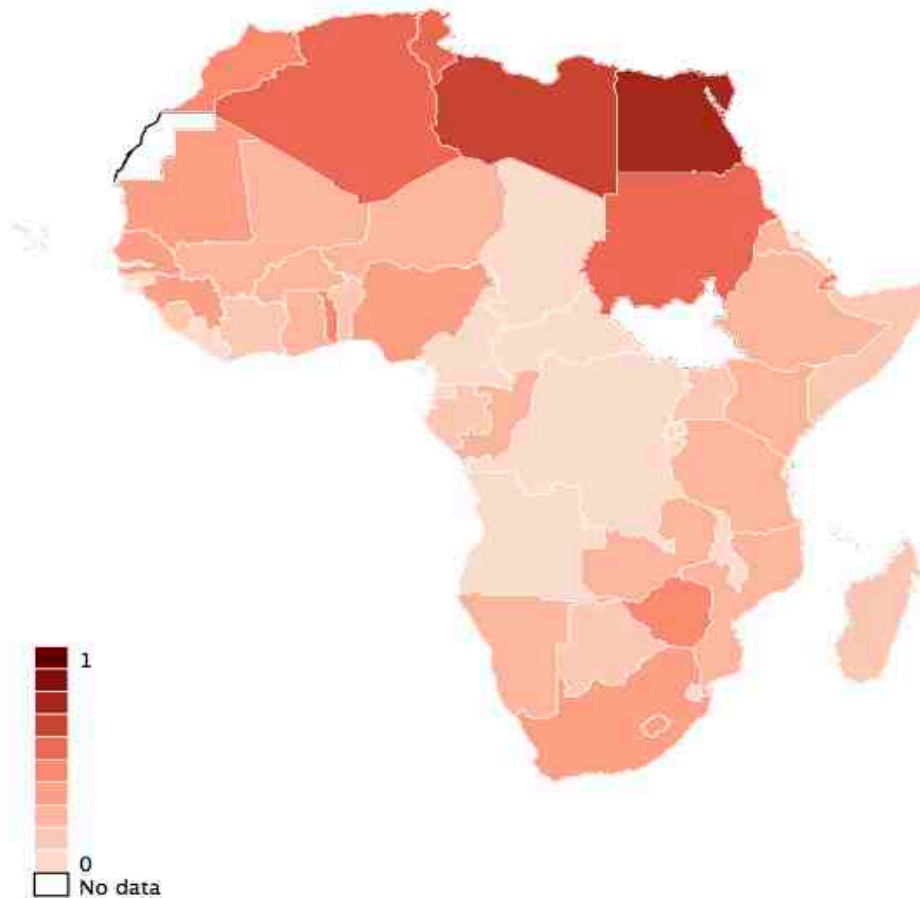
Pádraig Carmody, TCD

Background

- China now Africa's single biggest single trading partner.
- More than US \$200bn in bilateral trade
- US, UK and France biggest foreign investors on stock basis.
- Profile of stock changing

Voting Agreement in UN General Assembly

Voting agreement with China
2001–2008



Kilamba Kiaxi, Angola - China International Trust and Investment Corporation



Principles and Modalities of Engagement

- “Non-interference” – “Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence”
- “Hard Shell” Sovereignty
- “Win-Win” Cooperation – business emphasis
- “Angola model or mode” – resource for infrastructure swaps – 70% of loans to Chinese companies. Paid back in oil, copper, fish, cocoa etc
- Multiple modes of engagement
- Special economic zones (less than 10) or “pseudo-economic zones”?
- Duty free access for around 500 products to Chinese market – “soft power” but often resources

ZCCZ

赞比亚中国经济贸易合作区
ZAMBIA-CHINA ECONOMIC & TRADE COOPERATION ZONE



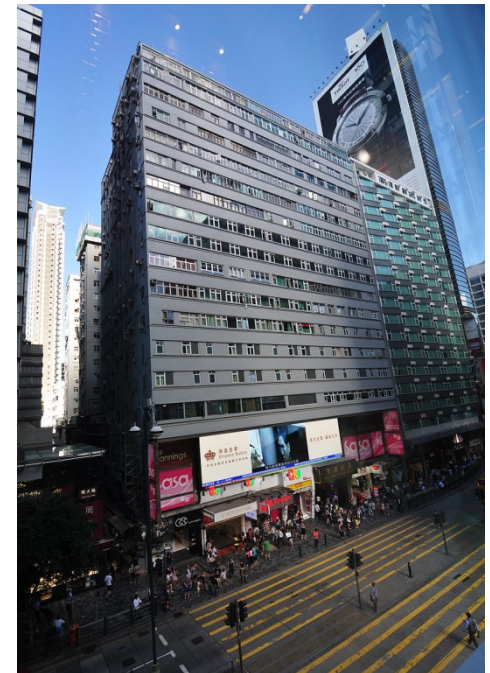


Zheng He voyage to East Africa - 16th Century



Impacts of current engagements

- Majority of fastest growing economies in the world in Africa (but Chinese slowdown).
- Resource intensive-growth and deindustrialising impetus.
- Strengthening of extant regimes – new sources of loans, trade and investment, “no questions asked policy”
- Deepening translocalisation. Chungking Mansions (2008- 20% of phone deals)
- Power inequalities but interdependence and reverse dependence.



Strategies and Networks

- Flexible hegemony or flexigemony – Chinese actors and state tailor strategies to histories and geographies of particular countries they are engaging with but;
- with the goal of ensuring resource and market access
- Focus on relative agency of African elites vis-à-vis China or power of China partly misplaced.
- Bargaining relations in new actor-networks.
- Power relations between citizens and state widening across much of continent as domestic and also international sovereignty strengthened.
- Many positives – faster economic growth, poverty reduction etc
- Also negatives – support for authoritarian regimes, environmental impacts.

A New Colonialism?

- Largely a replication of colonial trade relations but
- South-South Cooperation more than just rhetoric
- Independent African states – greater role and power for domestic (gatekeeper) political elites
- Where do most of China's exports go?
- “China bashing” for domestic political purposes and fear of destabilisation of the concept of the West
- China-Africa is a part structure of globalisation