

SINO – AFRICA RELATIONS AND AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT: A REVIEW OF NIGERIA'S EXPERIENCE FROM 1999 – 2020

Ogbe Oghenetega Collins¹, Orhero Abraham Ejogba²

^{1,2}Department of Political Science, Delta State University, Abraka

ABSTRACT

China's increasing presence in Africa has drawn mixed reactions from the academic and the media. It has been argued that China is sapping Africa's manufacturing potential and also extracting Africa's resources without any significant benefits to Africa. Thus China is seen as a contributor to Africa's underdevelopment and deindustrialization. However, some have seen China as Africa's partner for development. They see China's presence in Africa as beneficial to China and Africa. As a result, there is no agreement as to whether China's increasing presence in Africa is sustainable to Africa or whether the relationship is unsustainable. Although the relations between China and Africa are widely covered in the media, empirically the area has been under researched. The historical design was used to organize and analyse secondary data derived from books, articles, journals, government/official documents and internet sources related to the study. The study adopted the Dependency theory, as the crux of its argument. Dependency theory is a school of thought in contemporary social sciences that seeks to contribute to an understanding of underdevelopment. Findings revealed that the China Africa relations has been asymmetrical where the economic and trade balance has been more in China's favor. On the basis of the findings, the study recommended among others, the need for Nigeria to re-examine the Nigeria-China relations, particularly as China is seen today as a scrambler, an invader and the 21st-century colonizer. The Nigerian state must look inwards taking note of the peculiarities of the country's economic trajectory and seek renegotiation of terms of loans, trade and investments.

Keywords: SINO – AFRICA, RELATIONS, DEVELOPMENT, REVIEW, NIGERIA AND EXPERIENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

Though the thriving economy of China and the nation's interest in Africa, and especially Nigerian oil assets has significantly animated monetary success in oil-rich African states, the issue of pay dissemination addresses a significant worry for a practical and evenhanded turn of events. As requirements are anyways, there has been some headway relative with other non-modern countries (Demiryol, 2019). Issues of pay dissemination in oil-rich nations thrive; fundamentally considering the way that new confirmations suggest capital flight is generally intense in oil-rich African nations. Therefore, while minimal expense progression plans from China are welcomed, it may not be practical in the occasion, gathering wage is unevenly scattered, advancement isn't traded, the Dutch infection sets-in, and the world-class advance themselves only (Ergano & Rao, 2019). Given the developing Western doubt, the inconsistent relations encompassing the Sino-African nexus should above all else be deserted for a basic comprehension of how the relationship is helping Africa. Debt Management Office, Nigeria (2020) set that more accentuation ought to be put on figuring out how China is changing Africa by sending out enterprising abilities and monetary dynamism to comprehend why it is a normally accommodating significant relationship that is plausible later on (Fernholz, 2018). Regarding the challenges that emanate from Sino-African relations that affect development in Nigeria, it is proper to say that many have seen and criticized China-Nigeria relations as an unequal one. Some even see it as a tool of modern slavery' (Hess & Aidoo, 2015). A few Western media turned overwhelmingly anti-China after the 1989 Tiananmen Occurrence, but a few African countries did not act upon Western countries' purposeful publicity. These prevailing circumstances immensely affected China-Nigeria relations and development in Africa until the new rebirth now. One of the grounds of criticism is that China is not operating in line with the best standards of practice in its relations with Nigeria and Africa at large. There are many reports of China not operating in line with best practices in their relations with African states, particularly in Nigeria. These conditions bode ill for development in Nigeria and Africa in its entirety and therefore call for the need to carefully explore how we can best benefit from our relations with China. This growing relation between China and Africa has been accompanied with intense scrutiny. There has been a lot of interest from academia, the media, development agencies and western governments, negative and positives views have been expressed. In the midst of the aforementioned problems, the question that deserves our attentions amongst others are: Do Chinese loans aid or impede Nigeria's quest for sustainable economic development? Has the Sino-Africa relations yielded any meaningful gains? What are the challenges inherent in the Sino-Africa relations? Unfortunately, these questions have only been addressed in contemporary studies by few researchers. Therefore, this research seeks to fill the gap in knowledge by reviewing the Sino-Africa relations and the challenges emanating from such relations with Nigeria as a case study between 1999 to 2020.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of the study is to carefully examine Sino-Africa relations within the purview of how this relationship has promoted the economic development of Nigeria from 1999-2020. Specifically, the study aims at:

1. Examining the role of Chinese loans in Nigeria's path to sustainable economic development.
2. Examining the threats and opportunities Chinese trade and investments poses for Nigeria's homegrown industry and small businesses.

3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study shall be guided by the following research questions:

1. Do Chinese loans aid or impede Nigeria's quest for sustainable economic development?
2. What are the threats and opportunities Chinese trade and investments poses for Nigeria's homegrown industry and small businesses?

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

Sino-Africa Relations: The Chinese Economic Vantage and Advantage- China's unprecedented fast-paced progress in the last few decades can be partly attributed to its increased influence on many countries as it established ties with the country's political leaders as part of its foreign policies (Binnatli, 2019). She has since surpassed the United States for over a decade as Africa's largest trade partner as her increased economic presence in Africa is felt in areas such as trade, aid, and investments (Carslake, 2018). And though China's interest in Africa began as a quest for ideological conquest and supremacy, it has since swerved since by its economic motives and gains and it is not unfair to say that this relationship has a hand in China's emergence as the second-largest economy in the world. Evidently, her foreign policy which is streamlined to economic cooperation and absent political interference unlike the West seems to be bearing fruits. Many scholars acknowledge that China's engagement in Africa has mainly been economic in nature; trade, aid and investments. Alden and Alves (2008) assert that China's engagement in Africa is rooted in domestic economic and political changes in China. Africa, being a potential emerging market was viewed as a market to tap into. Taylor (2010) further supports this argument, as he maintains that China's expansion into Africa was propelled by its need for raw materials and energy for China's ongoing economic growth, and for new export markets for Chinese producers, Rotberg (2008) also sustains that China's quest for sources of energy and raw materials such as copper, oil, etc., which African nations can supply, drove it to the continent. Sino-African relations, although primarily economically motivated, is also driven by international political factors. For instance, as a prerequisite for Chinese relations to be established with any African country, said the country needs to have cut off diplomatic ties with Taiwan – the One-China Principle. This is relevant to China, due to its need to rally support in the international realm and delegitimise Taiwan. China's attention to sub-Saharan Africa enables the country to form alliances with the developing nations. Taylor (2006) contends that African countries are influential in the United Nations. Africa is therefore important to China, to provide a large support base to push through their ambitions. the Chinese leadership, to attempt to project China's presence and reputation abroad. China's foray into Africa in the manner of establishing economic and trade ties was necessitated by their critical need for the sustainability of their fast-growing economy even in the face of finite resources and a huge and booming population (Ajayi, 2020). It has therefore resorted to getting resources from Africa, which as it is, is rich in natural resources which are important raw materials for China's manufacturing industry. Africa on the other hand is still underdeveloped and seems to need development aid from the developed countries as well as a favourable market for its resources.

Understanding China's Economic Growth: Drivers, Challenges, and Prospects and Projections-It is indisputable that China's economy in general impacts the rest of the world (Fan et al., 2009), just like other major economies such as that of the United States. This effect that China has on the rest of the world, and now specifically on Africa makes its economic growth of concern to many including it since it has the world's largest population. China experienced a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of about 2.2 % in 2020 and 2021 GDP growth is put at about 8.0 %. The GDP which refers to the overall market value of all produced goods and services in a particular country per annum is a crucial indicator of a country's economic muscle and growth. China's GDP growth grants them a position amongst leaders in the ranking of countries with the largest gross domestic product worldwide. Her GDP growth places her second only to the US and it has grown over the past years and is witnessing a gradual repositioning from an economy hugely reliant and conditional on the manufacture of industrial goods to a primarily service-centred economy (Textor, 2022). This is evident in China's GDP across the economic sector as the service industry was seen to outperform that of the manufacturing as regarding GDP contribution. Aside from GDP, the balance of trade represents another key indicator of economic assessment. A country balance of trade is a measure of the relationship between the imports and exports of a nation. Unsurprisingly, due to manufacturing being a key pillar of the Chinese economy and something it

is famous for, China attained a trade surplus between 2010-2020 with a total trade balance of about \$535 billion in 2020. Her influence on the world economy and trade as well as her population which is the highest in the world means China is often forced to ensure that there is stability in the Growth of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Perkins & Rawski, 2008). Despite all that is said and done about the economy of China and its relations to the rest of the world, the fact that it is a country to watch in terms of global growth and influence is sure enough (Gbadamosi & Oniku, 2009). Having been ranked by the world bank back in 2017 as the country with the highest Purchasing power parity (PPP) and with an economy only second to that of the United States in terms of nominal GDP, China's economic rise or fall could heavily impact other countries, especially those that rely on importing goods from it or exporting to it. As a major manufacturing powerhouse, China is the main supplier of manufactured goods to developing countries, especially in Africa. There are already doubts on the sustainability of the Chinese economic growth rate, especially considering the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) forecasts that had cut the annual GDP growth rate in China to 6.2%. The cut was because there are uncertainties regarding the outcome of the trade wars between China and the United States that might see restrictions put on the Chinese's side. The other uncertainties lie with the labour force in China as there is fear that any demands to raise their wage rate to meet the global standards (Melber, 2010) and the inevitable consequences of an ageing workforce might slow down the economic growth.

Sino-African Relations: The Africans Economic Vantage and Advantage-There is an ongoing debate about the impacts of China's presence in sub-Saharan Africa. There is no doubt that sub-Saharan Africa has found itself in a potentially economically beneficial position from this cooperation. Scholar like Mardell (2019) view the infrastructural development executed by China in Africa as an opportunity for Africa to attract investors and potentially diversify the economic sectors of African countries. Cropley (2009 cited in Mardell, 2019) further asserts that poor infrastructure emerges as a major constraint on doing business in the continent. Infrastructure deficit had stifled trade regionally and internationally; an inconvenience to economic development. Furthermore, it doesn't allow local companies and citizens to gain capital and experience. The contracts overwhelmingly benefit Chinese corporations (Manero: 2017) China's economic presence has undoubtedly spilt over into the political. Mardell (2019) mention that China's involvement in Africa's construction and infrastructure sectors has been effective in building relations and increasing influence with African governments. Some scholars also posit that China is increasingly gaining economic and political clout in Africa. Langan (2017) states that it is particularly so in countries where there is a relative dependence on Chinese aid and investment, such as has in Angola and Zambia. Some scholars have subsequently accused China of neo-colonialism, due to its economic and political influence in Africa. Langan (2017) argues that China's use of aid and trade to sway African elites towards certain policies, to advance their interests can be viewed through the lens of neo-colonialism. China's attention to Africa has further been perceived as opportunistic— exploiting weaker states in its quest for natural resources, by using economic leverage for their profitability, with little consideration for Africa's needs. It is however difficult to believe that when more Chinese aid is being allocated to African countries, whose economies are resource-dependent irrespective of the political climate in that country. This highlights that China is possibly merely resources-driven in sub-Saharan Africa, and its engagement in a country's development is motivated by its natural resources. China's unconditional aid and trade, in their resource-led African policy, has according to Langan (2017) helped in the maintenance of neo-patrimonial regimes in political power. China's economic interests are at the expense of popular sovereignty (Langan 2017). This situation has resulted in scholars such as Kolstad and Wiig (2011) stating regarding Chinese and western intervention that, 'exploiting resources and weak institutions appears to be the name of the investment game in Africa'. This highlights that certain African elites are culpable in the underdevelopment of their countries. Neo-patrimonial regimes appropriate public resources for their benefits. In this context, China propping up said such regimes in return grants them access to the country's resources, as was the case in Angola during the Dos Santos presidency (Langan 2017).

The Dark Side of the Sino-African Relationship: Instances and Synopsis of the African Experience- China operation in Africa in areas of investment and trade has continually raised an eyebrow as questions are continually asked of the legitimacy, legality, and ethicality of some of the former labour, banking, trade, and investment practices in Africa. There are several complaints that China has taken over the major sectors and drivers of the economy of African countries. Furthermore, significant issues have been raised regarding Chinese firms exploiting their host country labour force, showing contempt for its local workers, etc. Also, Chinese corporations default on compliance with environmental standards, engage in corrupt practices and condone manifold abuses of the rights and safety of the African workforce. For instance, a 2011 report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) indicted Chinese labour standards in the Zambian copper mines. The report accused the largest Chinese copper corporation in Zambia, China Non-Ferrous Mining Corporation (CNMC), of deliberately violating the rights of Zambian labourers through failing to implement proper health and safety standards, punishing those who sought to practice their collective bargaining rights, and

discriminating against Zambian workers to favour Chinese managers. The report titled, “You’ll Be Fired if You Refuse,” is provocative in its assessment of Chinese, SOEs. The 2011 report has been cited by scholars including Yan Hairong and Barry Sautman as well as appearing in numerous reputable newspapers, such as the BBC, Time Magazine, and The New York Times, as conclusive evidence that China is taking advantage of African miners. It is suggestive of China’s readiness to make greater profits by fair means or foul and displays the same in collaborating with authoritarian regimes as well as condoning undemocratic governance and human rights abuses (Cornelissen et al., 2015).

4.1. Sino-Nigeria Relationship

There have been a few spaces of key association among China and Nigeria. Verifiably put, Nigeria and the People's Republic of China set up formal strategic relations on February 10, 1971. Since 1971, the connection between the two countries has waxed more grounded because of the global separation and Western judgment of Nigeria's tactical Regimes between 1966 with a short regular citizen executive between 1979–1983, moved by segregation and ban, pummeled on the progressive military junta in Nigeria by the Western forces. Nigeria needed to look towards the Middle East and Asia for companions to foster her colossal regular and HR. It is within this context that we intend to discuss Nigeria’s relationship with China (Zhao, 2016). It is widely acknowledged by both China and Nigeria that their cooperation and relationship have spanned over 40 years but it was recently in 2005 that the countries witnessed an all-around development in their bilateral relationship through strategic partnerships in some areas of mutual interest. This is seen in closed cooperation in international and regional affairs, economic and trade cooperation, human and cultural exchange, space science and technology, infrastructural development including road, railway rehabilitation, and the construction of housing units, bridges, etc. At international fora like the United Nations, the Chinese government have supported Nigeria’s bid for a seat at the Security Council in addition to supporting each other at the climate change discussion at Copenhagen by generating support to take a common position. China has been visible in several African countries assisting with their efforts at development. At the political sphere, the late President Yar’Adua urged the Chinese leader to support Nigeria’s aspiration to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and called on China to “bring its influence to bear” on the resolution of African problem especially ‘Darfur’. Responding to Yar’Adua’s request, China proposed the establishment of the Nigeria-China Joint commission on trade and investment and promised to work with all, the UN and the Sudanese government to achieve a permanent resolution of the crisis in Darfur (Zhao, 2016). The Chinese-Nigeria symbiotic relationship has seen many arguments in various political, ethnic, and regional fares in the country, with the stands that it gives room for more corrupt practices as it has only succeeded in making politics in the country more appealing than what it should be. China also pledged to invest USD 267 million to build Lekki free trade zone near Lagos which the Federal Government has assured will resume full operations next year. Some of the Chinese enterprises that are involved in the construction, telecommunication oil and other sectors are Chinese Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC), Huawei, ZTE, Viju, Star Times, etc. However, Nigeria exports to China largely include food, animal, crude oil, chemical products and manufactured goods. This is elaborately and succinctly discussed by Ogunkola et al (2008). Ogunkola et al (2008) show that the main export commodity between 2000 and 2005 was mineral fuel and lubricants which represented USD 273.7 million out of USD 307.3 million (Zhao, 2016). In contrast to Nigeria’s top 10 export commodities, the top 10 import commodities from China are all manufactured goods. Top on the list are electrical and machinery equipment parts, followed by vehicles, nuclear reactors, machinery and mechanical appliances. This relationship shows that while Nigeria was largely exporting raw materials, China was exporting finished goods into Nigeria. Currently, China has over USD 8 billion about N1.2 trillion worth of investment in Nigeria (Brautigam, 2013). However a major plus for the Chinese investment in Nigeria economy is the setting up of factories here in Nigeria. China can adapt to climatic and environmental changes so it is easily noticed how Chinese professionals are engaged positively in Nigeria..

Nigeria’s Benefits in the Sino-Nigeria Relationship-When the Western countries were reluctant at providing the Nigerian army with military hardware to combat the menace of the Niger Delta militants, it was China that came to Nigeria’s aid. In the aspect of Health, China supported Nigeria with 46 million Yuan aid for the purchase of anti-malaria medicine and training of Nigeria health personal on malaria control and prevention. In addition to this, the Chinese Government has also trained Nigerians on traditional Chinese medicine. In China, the practice of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has become so advanced that the Nigerian government need to study such institutions and prepare reports on such practices and how beneficial it could be to Nigeria (Zhao, 2016). In respect of space science, technology, the relationship witnessed the launching of NICOMSA 1, Nigeria first communication satellite in early 2007. Also is the situation that saw Huawei and the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Science and Technology come up with an MOU that enables a relationship that helps facilitate the company to technology infrastructure. Both nations

according to MSNBC (2007) cited on Wikipedia (2011) also signed a USD 311 million agreement to develop cooperation in communication and space programs. An analysis of the relationship shows that the establishment and successful launching of Nicosat 1 and II can enhance or telecommunication in addition to several other uses that satellite technology could be deployed for, it will assist the country the creation of jobs, satellite technology will also attract Nigerian space engineers to participate in the process of establishing and launching of this technology into the orbit. Similar discussions have also emerged in the place of human and cultural exchanges in Nigeria-China relations. This is responsible for the Chinese investment in human resource development in Nigeria to the tune of N670 million for the training of 50 Nigerian officials and medical personnel in comprehensive malaria prevention and control. Also is the scholarship initiative which provides young people in the country with an opportunity to study in China. Some institutions in Nigeria have established linkages with China in order to showcase the Chinese culture, landscape and innovation.

Sino-Nigeria Relationship: Areas of Concern for Nigeria- There have been some concerns in areas of labour practices and market strategies in China-Nigeria relations. There has been an accusation against Chinese employers on maltreatment of Nigerian workers. Although the veracity of these accusations is yet to be succinctly authenticated, some Chinese firms pay low wages and engage Nigerians to work for them in poor working conditions. Some workers, work for 11 hours a day and earn paltry sums. Many workers in factories have had accidents in the process of production without compensation and the majority of the workers are engaged as casual staff. In Abuja, one Mr Maaji Meriga, a 62 years old casual worker and father of six, with CCECC nearly lost his manhood while spraying the ground around Karamajiji village near Abuja Airport. When another Chinese ask him to fill two drums, he turned off the spraying machine and opened the side tap and began to fill the drums when one Macho China popularly called old soldier' kicked Mr Meriga from behind on his scrotum and testes. Later when he reported to the personal manager Mr Austin he was ordered out of the premises without medical attention. This lack of respect for Nigeria labour laws made the TUC chairman lament that: "there are a lot of Chinese firms in Nigeria...one of our challenges is how to make Chinese companies in Nigeria respect Nigerian law and workers' rights..." (Zhao, 2016). From the few examples above there are clear signals that these ugly developments should be addressed and the Chinese official should respect their host communities. These raises immediately the role of the Nigeria Embassy in China and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade to organize orientation programmes about Nigerian customs and traditions and how the Chinese should behave while in Nigeria for Chinese Businesses. While such training is being conducted for the Chinese farmers who were brought into Nigeria by the Obasanjo's regime, similar training and orientation are missing for Chinese businessmen. Therefore, such training should be given to Chinese workers generally.

5. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study adopted the Dependency theory, as the crux of its argument. Dependency theory emerged in the late 1950's in response to concerns of the gap between rich and poor countries and that economic growth in the advanced industrialized countries did not lead to growth in the poorer countries (Ferraro 2008). Studies carried out by Raúl Prebisch, the then Director of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (UNECLA) and his colleagues suggested that economic activity in the advanced countries does not benefit the poorer countries but often resulted in serious economic challenges in poorer countries (Ferraro 2008). Dependency theory thus became an important tool to analyse development and underdevelopment in the international political economy (Namkoong 1999). The theory states that generally well off countries take gigantic amounts of assets from poor nations to fuel their economic improvement. As per Andrews-Speed and Dannreuther (2011), China's relationship with Nigeria and Africa everywhere can be seen according to this point of view. The battle that the current monetary connection between Africa and China will bring about Africa copying its previous North-South dependence with the end goal that the financial heading of a country is constrained by the development and advancement of the other which the previous is in a roundabout way subject to actually. Expanded participation with China will likewise bring about Nigeria's, and surely Africa's expanded financial obligation, which may be harming the landmass in the long haul. Nations of the world have been emphatically isolated along monetary flourishing. Nations that are monetarily light and politically consistent are named created nations and, then again, countries that are financially in a switch are named agricultural countries or generally suggested as 'underdeveloped nations'. Relating this hypothesis to this work, it is legitimate to say that it will assist us with understanding why Nigeria and numerous other African nations generally rely upon China in their relations. It is because of the neurotic issues demonstrated by this hypothesis that Nigeria and numerous African nations are helpless today and thus regularly loosen up their necks for advances and helps from China, which frequently finishes in their double-dealing. The aggravation, all things considered, is that the idea of China-Nigeria relations has some cruel conditions appended to them that wind up making this nation underdevelopment and remain cover strings of China and other created countries. It is legitimate to say that the idea of China-Nigeria relations has

enormously incorporated Nigeria, actually like other Third World nations, into the worldwide financial framework that has influenced advancement measures as well as our sway as a country. It is on the strength of this acknowledgement that we would be better prepared to control the negative sides of Nigeria-China relations through proper systems and approaches for advancement to flourish in this country.

6. RESEARCH METHODS

The study adopted the historical research design. This design is because the study is that which appraises the events of the past or the current manifestations having historical links, bringing out the underlying fundamentals of historical investigations. To generate relevant data needed for this study, emphasis was placed on the qualitative method. The study therefore depended on official documents as well as those of the ministry of foreign affairs. This was supported by data from sources such as textbooks, journals, articles, seminars, conference papers, and magazines as well as other written works that dwell on Sino Africa relations. The secondary source of data was utilized for this study. The sources of data for this study include the internet, magazines, textbooks, journals and seminar papers that focus on foreign policy and regional leadership. This study is descriptive in approach and deductive logic was adopted to provide us with a balanced platform for the conduct of critical analysis. Publications that relate to Sino Africa relations and development will be obtained from textbooks, journals, articles, the ministry of foreign affairs and other official documents etc. Also, an interpretation of the works of other researchers would be carefully evaluated to delineate concordance, inconsistencies or lack of uniformity.

7. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents data secondarily sourced from extant literature as well as the analysis of the same through looking for trends and patterns to the end that the research questions posed in this research study are studied. This approach will provide a holistic finding that meets the research objective.

7.1 Overview of Sino-Africa Relations

8. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Do Chinese loans aid or impede Nigeria's quest for sustainable economic development?

Chinese lending to low and middle-income countries like Nigeria is a popular subject of conversation, some have argued that China's model is "debt-trap diplomacy" while others have said that China's contracts are intentionally vague to encourage dependency and undercut borrowers' sovereignty (Fernholz, 2018). Yet others say there is not enough evidence to substantiate the "loan shark" title and that the narrative around the Sri-Lankan case cited often as evidence of China's disingenuous strategy is mostly false and misunderstood (Jones & Hameiri, 2020). Several news reports of China taking over projects and facilities in sovereign states aid the perception of China as a loan shark (Liang, 2018), although China has denied such allegations in these countries and such intentions in Nigeria (The Nation, 2020). With China being the largest bilateral lender for public sector loans across the African continent and the terms of China's lending largely unknown, concerns around infrastructural projects like the railway revival and the possibility of a Chinese takeover are rife (Usman, 2021). Recently released data on China's lending practice has allowed analysts to examine these loans and among other findings, these loans appear to "give Chinese lenders an advantage over other creditors" (Usman, 2021). The loan provisions also contain unusual confidentiality clauses and other clauses that allow the lender to terminate the agreement and demand full repayment upon default to other lenders (Gelpert et al., 2021). Nigeria's growing loan liabilities, its struggle to finance its budget, and the heavy burden of debt servicing on the country's loan-funded budget are cause for worry. Over 80% of Nigeria's total bilateral debt stock as of Q3 2021 is owed to China including the loans financing the resurgence of Nigeria's rail transport (Uduu, 2022). While the details of loans offered to Nigeria by the Chinese EXIM Bank are not known, the terms are likely no different from the terms captured in the analysis of their lending patterns (Rail Technology, 2020). The fact remains that such loans and investments have not been able to address the state of insecurity that currently engulfed the country (Ikenga. & Agah, 2020)

2. What are the threats and opportunities Chinese trade and investments pose for Nigeria's homegrown industry and small businesses?

The Sino-Nigeria trade has also increased as China's growing economy requires more raw material resources from Nigeria; including crude oil to propel its industries. China is also taking advantage of Nigeria's huge population, which is estimated at around 150 million people to generate extraterritorial markets for China's manufactured goods. Due to its huge population, the most populous country in Africa, rich in natural resources, Chinese investments in Nigeria have become a trending issue in the 21st century as more than 200 Chinese companies are currently operating in Nigeria, thus making the country the largest recipient of Chinese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) – about \$15 billion out of its \$26.5 billion investments in Africa as of 2016. Despite the functional relationship between Nigeria

and China, the benefits of the socio-economic interaction between the two countries have been subjected to diverse opinions by scholars and analysts, in which Chinese investments in Nigeria attracted resentment and criticism. Concerns have been raised specifically over the impact of Chinese investments in Nigeria's economic security, which is substantially affected by the dumping of inferior Chinese industrial products into the country, lack of technology transfer from China to Nigeria, and fewer opportunities for the survival of Nigeria's investments in China, visa and employment restrictions to Nigerians to explore business opportunities in the country (Ogunsanwo, 2018). Enuke (2010) also argues that the FDI from China has heightened Nigeria's dependence on the Chinese economy, thus undermining its economic security. Norris (2016) criticizes Chinese firms in Nigeria for being "closed" as they hardly employ highly skilled local experts. According to the Nigeria Labour Congress the conditions of employment of Nigerians in Chinese firms neither conform with the Nigerian Labour Laws nor to that of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The Union equally contends that technology transfer from Chinese FDI to Nigeria is insignificant because most of the Chinese firms bring into the country finished products and complete the equipment with Chinese technicians. However, the quest for oil and gas by the Chinese seems to be of importance in the resurgence of the current wave of relations. Consequently, Chinese nationals are not immune to the spate of social unrest in the Niger Delta; the area where oil and gas are located in Nigeria. Some of the Chinese oil workers have been abducted by the militants, who are agitating for a more equitable distribution of resources in the country. The findings indicate that Chinese investments in the oil and gas sector have taken the lead over the years. Nigeria's exports to China include crude oil, beverages, animal skin, and art materials, which total around \$12 billion. It can be deduced from the foregoing that Chinese investments in Nigeria are huge and growing, while Nigeria's investment in China is far smaller, partly because of its inability to compete with Chinese products in China, thus undermining its economic security against China's dominance. Nigeria needs to build up its internal capacity to measure up to the competitive environment in China.

9. CONCLUSION

Regarding the study's findings, it is concluded that there are uncertainties surrounding the benefit of Chinese loans, trades and investments, and official development assistance to Nigeria's sustainable economic development. Nigeria exclusively imports more from China than from USA and India combined, with little exports in return. China only imports unprocessed agricultural items like cotton and timber and minerals like crude oil from Nigeria.

China is only interested in exporting its manufactured goods and least interested in adding any value to the processing of our primary products exported to China as raw materials. In 2016, almost every Nigerian economic sector has been invaded by China, including the rail system, hydrocarbons, telecommunication, agriculture and roads. As the market is flooded with cheap Chinese products, local manufacturing firms have folded with untold consequences for the weak Nigerian industrial sector. As Nigeria struggles to produce low technologically domesticated products like textiles and detergents, the Chinese products present stifling competition.

10. RECOMMENDATION

1. Re-examination of the Nigeria-China relations, particularly as China is seen today as a scrambler, an invader and the 21st-century colonizer. The Nigerian state must look inwards taking note of the peculiarities of the country's economic trajectory and seek renegotiation of terms of loans, trade and investments.
2. The Nigerian state can learn from China what the latter did. China's economic zones that attracted foreign investors were established close to the country's centres of research principally to encourage technology transfer. Besides cultural and language barriers, Nigeria's inability to locate its economic zones near its industrial and knowledge centres is a big problem. There is no synergy between Nigeria's institutions of learning (the academia) and the industry.

11. REFERENCES

- [1] Alden, C., & Alves, A. C. (2008). History & identity in the construction of China's Africa policy. *Review of African Political Economy*, 35(115), 43–58. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03056240802011436>
- [2] Binnatli, A. (2019). Advantages and disadvantages of the contemporary relationship between China and Africa. *Historia i Polityka*, 28(35), 37-43.
- [3] Brautigam, D. (2013). China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation. White Paper 2013. 23 September. <http://www.chinaafricarealstory.com/2013/09/china-africa-economic-and-trade.html>
- [4] Carslake, P. A. (2018). Sino-African relations: The economic and political influence of China in sub-Saharan Africa [master's thesis]. University of Leiden.

- [5] Cornelissen, S., Cheru, F., & Shaw, T. M. (2012). Introduction: Africa and international relations in the 21st century: Still challenging theory? In S. Cornelissen, F. Cheru, & T. M. Shaw, *Africa and International Relations in the 21st Century* (pp. 1-17). Palgrave Macmillan.
- [6] Debt Management Office, Nigeria. (June 18, 2020). Facts about Chinese loans to Nigeria. <https://www.dmo.gov.ng/facts-about-chinese-loans-to-nigeria>
- [7] Demiryol, T. (2019). Political Economy of Connectivity: China's Belt and Road Initiative. <https://doi.org/10.5281/ZENODO.3267663>
- [8] Enuke, C. (2010). The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC): A framework for China's re-engagement with Africa in the 21st century. *Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences* 30(2), 209-218.
- [9] Ergano, D., & Rao, S. (2019). Sino-Africa bilateral economic relation: Nature and perspectives. *Insight on Africa*, 11(1), 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0975087818814914>.
- [10] Ferraro, V. (2008), 'Dependency Theory: An Introduction; in Giorgio Secondi (ed), *The Development Economics Reader*, London: Routledge, pp. 58-64.
- [11] Fernholz, T. (June 28, 2018). Eight countries in danger of falling into China's "debt trap". Quartz. Retrieved on May 19, 2022, from <https://qz.com/1223768/china-debt-trap-these-eight-countries-are-in-danger-of-debt-overloads-from-chinas-belt-and-road-plans/>
- [12] Gelpert, A., Horn, S., Morris, S., Parks, B., & Trebesch, C. (2021). How China lends: A rare look into 100 debt contracts with foreign governments. CEPR Discussion Papers 16331, C.E.P.R. Discussion Papers. Available at: https://docs.aiddata.org/ad4/pdfs/How_China_Lends_A_Rare_Look_into_100_Debt_Contracts_with_Foreign_Governments.pdf (Accessed: May 20, 2022).
- [13] Hess, S., & Aidoo, R. (2015). The political staleness of China–Ethiopia relations. In S. Hess & R. Aidoo, *Charting the Roots of Anti-Chinese Populism in Africa* (Vol. 19, pp. 79–107). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-17629-1_5.
- [14] Ikenga, F.A. & Agah, B. (2020). Insecurity and the state of the nations. *International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation*, 24 (7), pp. 189-202
- [15] Jones, L. & Hameiri, S. (August 19, 2020). Debunking the myth of 'debt-trap diplomacy': How recipient countries shape China's belt and road initiative. Chatham House. <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2020/08/debunking-myth-debt-trap-diplomacy/summary>
- [16] Langan, M. (2017). *Neo-colonialism and the poverty of development in Africa*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- [17] Liang, L. H. (September 11, 2018). Sri Lanka hands over port to China to pay off debt. *The National*. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/asia/sri-lanka-hands-over-port-to-china-to-pay-off-debt-1.684606>
- [18] Manero, E. (2017). China's investment in Africa: The new colonialism? *Harvard Political Review*. <http://harvardpolitics.com/world/chinasinvestment-in-africa-the-new-colonialism/>
- [19] Mardell, J. (2019, February 12). Traveling 60,000 kilometres across China's belt and road. *Merics*. <https://merics.org/en/analysis/traveling-60000-kilometers-across-chinas-belt-and-road>
- [20] Melber, H. (2010). China in Africa: Any Impact on Development and Aid?. In J. S. Sørensen, (ed.) *Challenging the Aid Paradigm. Rethinking International Development Series*. Palgrave Macmillan, London. https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230277281_9.
- [21] Namkoong, Y. (1999), 'Dependency theory: Concepts, classifications, and criticisms', *International Area Review*, Vol. 2, No.1, pp. 121-150.
- [22] Norris, W. J. (2016). *Chinese economic statecraft: Commercial actors, grand strategy, and state control*. Cornell University Press.
- [23] Ogunkola, E. O., Bankole, A. S., & Adewuyi, A. (2008). *China-Nigeria economic relations: AERC scoping studies on China-Africa Relations*. Nairobi: AERC (mimeo).
- [24] Ogunsanwo, A. (2018). *China's policy in Africa*. London: Cambridge University Press.
- [25] Rotberg, R. (2008). *China into Africa. Trade, aid and influence*. Brookings Institution Press.
- [26] Taylor, I. (2006). *China and Africa. engagement and compromise*. Routledge.
- [27] Taylor, I. (2010). *The international relations of Sub-Saharan Africa*. Continuum.
- [28] The Nation. (August 7, 2020). \$3.121b loans: China won't take over Nigeria, says Embassy. *The Nation Newspaper*. <https://thenationonlineng.net/3-121b-loans-china-wont-take-over-nigeria-says-embassy/>
- [29] Usman, Z. (June 2, 2021). What do we know about Chinese lending in Africa? *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. <https://carnegieendowment.org/2021/06/02/what-do-we-know-about-chinese-lending-in-africa-pub-84648>
- [30] Zhao, S. (2016). *Chinese foreign policy: Pragmatism and strategic behaviour* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315705767>