

China and Africa Development Relations

Edited by
Christopher M. Dent



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China and Africa Development Relations

China is among a number of large developing countries or new powers on the ascendance in the international system, all of which are deepening their economic relations with Africa. However, China is the largest and most powerful of this group. It has sought closer economic relationships with other developing country regions and continents such as Latin America and Central Asia, but it is with Africa – the continent that hosts more developing countries than any other – that China has fostered the closest links.

This book provides an overview of how the China–Africa relationship has evolved over the last few decades and examines whether it presents a new paradigm of ‘development relations’ in the international system. The contributors investigate what is particularly special about the emerging development partnership between Africa and China, and how it may evolve in the future. The contributors focus on various development capacity issues – infrastructural, industrial, technocratic, institutional, human capital, sustainable economic practices – and consider various debates on ‘development’ and development ideologies, including whether China’s practices in Africa pose a challenge to Western conventions on development assistance.

China and Africa Development Relations will be of interest to students and scholars of African studies, Chinese studies, international development and development studies.

Christopher M. Dent is a Professor in East Asia’s International Political Economy at the University of Leeds, UK.

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Travis S.K. Kong

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Agricultural processing in Sichuan
Susanne Lingohr-Wolf

**54 Law, Policy and Practice on China's
Periphery**
Selective adaptation and institutional
capacity
Pitman B. Potter

**55 China and Africa Development
Relations**
Edited by Christopher M. Dent

**To John Pugh, who has touched and graced the
lives of many, including mine**

Contributors

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Wissenbach joined its Social Development Unit before moving to his present role in the Directorate-General for Development. In 'The EU, Africa and China: Towards Trilateral Dialogue and Co-operation', published by the European Commission in October 2008, he argued for a multilateralist approach to Africa, emphasising the common interest in a peaceful and stable Africa.

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White Rose East Asia Centre

Preface

This book is based on a White Rose East Asia Centre (WREAC) research project. Established in 2006, WREAC is an international Centre of Excellence on China and Japan funded by the Britain's Higher Education Funding Council, the Economic and Social Research Council and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, following a successful £4 million bid under the 2006 Language-Based Area Studies initiative. The White Rose East Asia Centre is a joint endeavour between the University of Leeds and the University of Sheffield. The National Institute of Chinese Studies and the National Institute of Japanese Studies together constitute the White Rose East Asia Centre.

A WREAC research workshop entitled 'China and Africa Development Relations' was held at University House, Leeds, in February 2009. Organised by the book's editor, Professor Christopher M. Dent, the event brought together a number of distinguished scholars to discuss current developments in China–Africa relations, and how they might evolve in the foreseeable future. Subsequently revised papers presented at the research workshop form the basis of this book. There has been growing public interest in the China–Africa development relationship, and this book looks to establish new empirical and conceptual understandings of the complexities of this relationship.

I would like to express my special thanks to a number of people. Firstly, to my chapter authors who not only have written top-class chapters but too helped minimise my editorial burdens by their prompt and efficient responses to my queries. A big thank you also to Jenni Rauch who provided excellent administration support and encouragement throughout this project. I would too like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Stephanie Rogers and Leanne Hinves at Routledge for their fabulous help and encouragement through the book's development. Finally, an extra special thanks as always to all my family for their love, patience and support. This book is especially dedicated to John Pugh, a great man who has touched and graced the lives of many, including my own, and who celebrates his 90th birthday on the eve of this book's publication.

Christopher M. Dent
Leeds, February 2010

Contents

<i>List of tables and figures</i>	xi
<i>List of contributors</i>	xii
<i>Acknowledgement</i>	xvi
<i>Preface</i>	xvii

PART I

China, Africa and international development 1

1 Africa and China: a new kind of development partnership 3

CHRISTOPHER M. DENT (UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS)

2 China–Africa relations and the European Union: ideology, conditionality, *realpolitik* and what is new in South–South co-operation 21

UWE WISSENBACH (EUROPEAN COMMISSION)

3 China and the geo-political imagination of African ‘development’ 42

MARCUS POWER (UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM)

AND GILES MOHAN (OPEN UNIVERSITY)

4 Chinese soft power, insecurity studies, myopia and fantasy 68

SHOGO SUZUKI (UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER)

PART II

Country case study perspectives 85

5 The end of abstraction: China’s development relations with Sudan 87

DANIEL LARGE (SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES)

6	Chinese development co-operation and Africa: the case of Tembisa's Friendship Town	103
	CHRIS ALDEN (LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS) AND ANNA YING CHEN (SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)	
 PART III		
	Resource sector perspectives	119
7	China's structural demand and commodity prices: implications for Africa	121
	MASUMA FAROOKI (OPEN UNIVERSITY)	
8	China's energy diplomacy in Africa: the convergence of national and corporate interests	143
	CHI ZHANG (UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM)	
 PART IV		
	Conclusion: China, Africa and development relations	163
9	China, Africa and conceptualising development relations	165
	CHRISTOPHER M. DENT (UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS)	
	<i>Index</i>	181

Tables and Figures

Tables

2.1	Rankings for China's bilateral trade with African countries	25
2.2	Ranking of African exporters to China	26
2.3	EU and China in Africa at a glance	27
7.1	China's importance for commodity-exporting developing countries, 1990–2006	131
7.2	Africa's share of global production and reserves (per cent share)	132

Figures

7.1	Quarterly index of commodity prices in nominal US\$, 1949–52	123
7.2	Monthly averages of UNCTAD commodity index, 1970–75	124
7.3	Monthly averages of UNCTAD commodity indexes, January 2000–June 2009	126
7.4	Per cent increase in global demand for metals accounted for by China	126
7.5	Per cent share of costs of minerals/extractive sector in industrial production and per capita income (purchasing power parities (PPP)), 2004	129
7.6	China's exports and imports from Africa in US\$ million, 1990–2008	133
8.1	Sudan's net oil exports/imports, 1990–2007 (thousand barrels per day)	151
8.2	Distribution of China's oil imports from various regions, 2008	152
8.3	Distribution of China's oil import from Africa, 2008	153