

China in Africa: Neo-Colonialism or Partnership?

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Abstract

This presentation explores whether China's African activities constitute neo-colonialism or a mutually beneficial partnership. Using a mixed-methods approach, we analyze quantitative data on trade, investments, and economic indicators alongside qualitative insights from interviews with African policymakers, business leaders, and civil society representatives. We begin with a historical overview of Africa's colonial past to draw parallels and distinctions with modern Chinese engagements. The analysis covers trade volumes, investment patterns, and the financial terms of Chinese loans and aid, providing a comprehensive picture of economic interactions. Interviews reveal diverse perspectives on China's influence, highlighting both opportunities and challenges. Benefits such as infrastructure development and job creation are weighed against concerns about debt dependency, labor exploitation, and environmental impact. Findings suggest a dual narrative: while China's non-interference policy and infrastructure projects are positively viewed, issues of debt sustainability and economic sovereignty persist. The presentation concludes with policy recommendations for African leaders and stakeholders, emphasizing transparency, equitable terms, robust governance, and sustainable development practices. This discussion aims to deepen understanding of China's role in Africa, ensuring that the relationship fosters sustainable and inclusive development.

Keywords: Neo-colonialism, Economic Partnership, Infrastructure Development, Debt Dependency, African Agency