



### **China's Debt to Africa: A Balancing Act Between Development and Dependency**

China's financial engagement with Africa has increased significantly over the past few decades, making it one of the continent's most influential economic partners. This relationship, characterized by extensive loans and investments, has fuelled infrastructure development across Africa but has also sparked intense debate over the risks associated with rising debt levels. Critics warn of potential economic dependency and "debt-trap diplomacy," while proponents argue that Chinese financing has been a crucial driver of Africa's modernization. As of 2020, Chinese lenders accounted for approximately 12% of Africa's external debt, which had grown more than fivefold since 2000, reaching \$696 billion. Democracy in Africa.

### **Maps showing China's growing influence in Africa distort reality – but some risks are real**

Global power dynamics in Africa are shifting, with China eclipsing the influence of the US and France. China has become Africa's single largest trading partner. In response, media and policymakers in traditionally dominant states are increasingly using maps drenched in red or stamped with Chinese flags to depict Beijing's expanding footprint. One map reproduced by a US congressional committee, for instance, showed Beijing's influence and reach across the continent in red stripes. But these visuals oversimplify a complex reality. This is an issue I explore in a new study. For over a decade, I have researched the interactions of sub-Saharan Africa with other states like Turkey, Arab Gulf states, Japan and China. The Conversation.

### **South Africa's trade deficit dilemma with China**

South Africa's total bilateral trade with China soared from US\$1.34 billion in 2000 to US\$34.18 billion in 2023. But because South Africa exports primarily raw materials to China, and imports mainly manufactured items, the upswing has been overshadowed by a persistent trade imbalance that favours China. The surge in trade was driven by complementary economic needs, strategic partnerships and policies under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), set up in 2000 and BRICS, launched in 2009. Institute for Security Studies.

### **Chinese TV shows welcomed in Africa**

Sixteen confident women stand in a circle, each with her own distinct charm, while in the middle of the stage, a bachelor nervously prepares for his moment in the spotlight. The mood shifts when one of the women invites him to join her for a dance, sparking cheers and laughter from the audience, while the hosts keep the atmosphere buzzing with playful banter and suspense. This is an iconic scene from Hello Mr Right, a Kenyan version of the popular Chinese dating show If You Are the One. Since its debut in 2023, it has captivated audiences of all ages. "For Kenya, Hello Mr Right is the first dating reality show of this type," said Christine Gati, an avid fan of the show. China Daily.

### **Nigeria and the opportunity of the China "Two Sessions"**

During this week, a pivotal and significant event in China's political calendar would hold in the capital,

Beijing. It is the full sessions of the country's top advisory body, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and the National People's Congress (NPC), the country's top legislature and supreme organ of the state. Both bodies serve five-year terms and hold a plenary session each year. It is the convocation of these two bodies, which meet separately but almost at the same time that has become known as "Two Sessions". Blueprint Newspapers.

### **FM Gedion receives Chinese ambassador to Ethiopia**

Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gedion Timothewos, received the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Ethiopia, Ambassador Chen Hai, at his office, later today. On the occasion, both sides emphasized that the frequent exchange of high-level visits between Ethiopia and China has further deepened bilateral relations, making them more productive across various sectors. FM Gedion briefed the Ambassador on the peace and security situation in the Horn of Africa and the broader African continent. Ambassador Chen Hai, on his part, reaffirmed China's strong support for Ethiopia's efforts to promote peace and stability in the region. Fana Broadcasting Corporate.

### **China, America, and the Great Railway Race in Africa**

The Mukuba Express had been motionless for eight hours, stopped in a small village about 50 miles west of the Tanzania-Zambia border. "We will be going soon," a mechanic had told me, but the locomotive was derailed and repair equipment was miles away. I'd been aboard the train for two days, since I boarded the historic Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA) express train in the central Zambian town of Kapiri Mposhi. Despite the delay, life went on. Children played football at the side of the tracks, women sold mangoes, and dozens of cheerful passengers ate plates of fried greens and ugali in the restaurant car. The Diplomat.

### **Kenya-China trade ties strengthen as Canton Fair opens doors for businesses**

The 137th Business Conference for Promoting the China Import and Export Fair commonly known as the Canton Fair, which will be held at Guangdong Province of China is set to provide Kenyan businesses with an opportunity to explore a worldwide market, attract investors, and foster strong bilateral ties between Kenya and China. Speaking during the Canton Fair business conference at a hotel in Nairobi, Minister Counselor, Economic Commercial Office of the Chinese Embassy in Kenya, Zhou Zhencheng affirmed that the government of China is committed to fostering trade and investment between China and Kenya. Kenya News Agency.

### **Kenyan scholars hail China's "Ne Zha 2" for showcasing cultural heritage to global audiences**

The record-breaking Chinese animated film "Ne Zha 2" is raising the bar in immersing global audiences in the richness, beauty and authenticity of Chinese culture, a Kenyan teacher has said. Susan Wachira, a Chinese-language teacher at the Confucius Institute of Kenyatta University, Kenya's second-oldest university, said the highest-grossing animated movie globally is a masterpiece in presenting "the unexplored aspects of Chinese culture." "I have watched 'Ne Zha 1.' It showed a whole new dimension of Chinese culture that I had not explored before, especially its mythical aspects, and it is very captivating," Wachira said in a recent interview with Xinhua. Xinhua.

### **UPPA, Chinese Gov't Forge Partnership to Boost Media, Tech Innovation in Uganda**

The Uganda Parliamentary Press Association (UPPA) has initiated a partnership with the Chinese

government focusing on communication and technology, following a high-level dinner meeting with Chinese Ambassador Zhang Lizhong. UPPA President Samuel Ibanda Mugabi, who led a delegation from the association's executive team, described the meeting as a significant step toward collaboration and knowledge exchange. "This partnership has the potential to drive growth, innovation, and progress in Uganda, and we're grateful for the Chinese government's willingness to engage with us," Mugabi stated. Nille Post.

#### **Royal Air Maroc Cargo restores vital cargo link between Morocco and China**

Moroccan national air cargo carrier Royal Air Maroc Cargo has reinstated an essential Morocco-China trade link by operating a Boeing 787-9 to link Casablanca and Beijing three times a week, offering a weekly cargo uplift of approximately 30 tonnes each way. The scheduled direct flights will ensure fast transit times for cargo customers, offer complete tracking transparency, and enable them to plan long-term transport solutions. The first flight from Casablanca (CMN), Morocco, to Beijing's Daxing International Airport (PKX), took place on January, 20, 2025. Aviation Business News.

#### **Chinese doctor leaves lasting impact in Zimbabwe through traditional medicine**

After two years of dedicated service, Hu Sha, a traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) doctor, is preparing to return to China. Yet, as she bids farewell, she leaves a lasting legacy in Zimbabwe, where her work has touched countless lives. Despite occasional bouts of homesickness, the sight of her patients finding relief kept her motivated. "When I see my patients who once suffered smile again, when I hear a local child with cerebral palsy say 'thank you' to me in Chinese, I know all my efforts have been worthwhile," Hu told Xinhua. Xinhua.