

*Asians in Africa:
A comparative study of the Chinese
and Indian engagements in Africa*

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- China and India (and many other Asian countries) have a long history of engagement with Africa
- Major and accelerating economic engagement over the past 10-15 years
 - Strong commercial/corporate profile with state support and assistance
- Many similarities – and some differences

China's economic engagement

- Africa's biggest trading partner
 - From USD 10 billion in 2000 to USD 200 billion today
 - 2000 companies, One million chinese
- Investment
 - Expanding, but less dominant, many sectors
- Development finance
 - Export credits and loans
- Energy security + natural resources + going global
- Nearly all African countries are affected, but a few dominates

China compared: India's economic engagement

- Similar profile but less volume
- Trade grows by an annual average of 18.5% since 2000 reaching USD 68 billion in 2012
- Strong state support through export credits and loans
- Two-thirds of India's trade is with five countries
 - Nigeria (23%), South Africa, Angola, Egypt and Kenya (6%)

Achievements

- Africa is important in China's and India's global economic expansion, but not as critical as often believed
- Significant contribution to economic growth and development in Africa
- Contributed to strengthening Africa's bargaining position

Dimensions of power and influence

- Economic power
 - Size and speed
- Good will: mutual benefit and win-win, non-interference
 - Vulnerable, different approaches?
- Ideological identity: South-South co-operation

- Public diplomacy, dialogue
 - Delegations, visits
 - FOCAC, Africa/India Forum
 - Multilateral arenas
 - Cultural promotion

A note on Chinese soft power: Limited or no use is Africa policy documents. Seems more focused on getting others to appreciate Chinese values – changing negative attitudes/lack of intention to convert others

The case of development aid

- Both China and India have a long history of providing development assistance to Africa
- Volume: China – possibly more than USD 2 billion per year, India – USD 50 million (both figures exclude soft elements of loans/export credits)
- What do they do? Mainly bilateral projects/limited cooperation with other donors
 - China: Health, agriculture, education + important buildings and arenas for mass mobilisation + infrastructure – fragmented delivery
 - India: education (scholarships + training centres + IT)

- Education and training
 - focused on individuals (scholarships, training courses) in India/China
 - China: Major and impressive expansion
 - training courses in China for officials (major FOCAC programme: 30 000 in more than 500 different courses - 2013-2015)
 - Higher education/scholarships to China (70 000 since 1959, FOCAC committment of 2000 scholarships in 2006 to 6000 annually by 2015)
 - Basic education: 2006-2012: 150 schools (Japan 130 per year)

Governance and democracy

- China vs India?
 - From IBSA to BRICS
 - The attraction of the developmental state – the East Asian model?

Concluding remarks

- The attraction of economic power of South-South cooperation
- But lightyears behind MacDonald and Hollywood Blockbusters?
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