

## **ONE BELT ONE ROAD INITIATIVE OF CHINA FOR BUSINESS EXPANSION TO AFRICA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The one belt one road (OBOR) initiative is one of the most important projects ever try in term of shaping and developing behavior in the international system. Some scholars are looking at it as an optimistic view to help, develop and strengthen relations between countries and people and for our case between China and Africa. While China looking at it as a win situation, countries such as the United States looking at it as a way China using that for remove from Africa the natural resources they need for the growing and well-being of China and Chinese population. In this paper, the authors are looking at the relation between China and Africa but will be more focusing on trade flow, policy relations, and financial corporation that the OBOR initiative it bringing or can bring to Africa.*

**Keywords:** *Sino-Africa, OBOR, Trade flow, financial cooperation, Policy Communication, People to people communication, Facilities social connection.*

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## Introduction

One belt one road initiative (OBOR) initiative proposed by president XI JINPING in 2013 is a historical initiative of China to create a better environment to help people, business to connect all over the world by this initiative. The OBOR initiative its divide in 2 important programs “the silk road economic belt” and the “21st-century maritime silk road”. The 3 majors’ routes of the silk road economic belt are between China to Europe, Persian Gulf, and the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean, while the 21st-century maritime silk road is connected on waterways between countries who are members of the OBOR initiative.

Chinese influence is getting more and more important on the international stage especially from the middle east, East Asia, Latin America to Africa (Friedberg,2009).

At the meantime Sino Africa relations are growing more and more, it has a long history of friendship, trade and multi bilateral exchange. It starts at the time of Admiral Zheng later on the relation was intercepted for many centuries but restarted when the People Republic of China was created by the Communist Party in 1949. In 1956 after the Bandung Conference and the non -aligned

movement, the Sino Africa relations have become stronger. The authors, therefore, sought to look at Sino-African relations but focusing on the implementation of “One Belt, One Road” and what it has brought in the African continent.

The study on OBOR in Africa will give an understanding and hopefully answer some questions surrounding these relations.

During his speech in October 2018 in front of the Communist Party of China President Xi Jinping stated that ‘China champions the development of a community with a shared future for mankind’. This New Era of China’s development, President Xi continued, ‘will be an era that sees China moving closer to center stage and making greater contributions to mankind with a goal to foster a new type of international relations and build a community with a shared future for mankind’. The aim of this new type of international relations is to focus on the win-win cooperation and state-to-state relations based on communication, not confrontation, not alliance and on the partnership between China and African countries. In order to achieve this, China wishes, among other things, to promote coordination and cooperation with African countries and build a framework for featuring



overall stability and balanced development. China actively promotes international cooperation through the Belt and Road Initiative. In particular, some areas of cooperation are identified in this strategic international cooperation initiative: coordinating development policies; forging infrastructure and facilities networks; strengthening investment and trade relations; enhancing financial cooperation; and deepening social and cultural exchanges (Farooq, Hao, & Liu, 2019). Through this initiative, China hopes ‘to achieve policy, infrastructure, trade, financial, and people-to-people connectivity and thus build a new platform for international cooperation to create new drivers of shared development’. This paper seeks to look at the partnership between China and Africa through the One Belt One road initiative. It will help us to find answers about what the OBOR has brought to Africa and what needs to be improved for ameliorating relations between China and Africa.

### **Facilities Connection**

China and African countries along the route have jointly participated to the realization of some projects such as Ethiopia’s –Djibouti’s Railway which will be very advantageous in

term of transportation of goods and people between the two countries. The Tanzania – Zambia railway line; the East African railway which will include and connect Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, and Burundi. We can also add the Kano-Lagos railway line project in Nigeria, the Bengue railway line in Angola, the Belinga –Santa Clara railway in Gabon there are still a lot of railway projects going who are part of the OBOR initiative in Africa.

China also has been involving in the financing and construction port facilities in Gabon, Djibouti, Tanzania, Kenya and Ivory Coast. In the telecoms area, the Chinese government has urged Chinese telecom enterprises to expand their business (Farooq, Fu, Hao, Jonathan, & Zhang, 2019) in the international especially in Africa. Huawei company is one Chinese private company who have been working hard to ameliorate the communication in Africa, Huawei built 70% of the Long Term Evolution (LTE) mobile broadband network and more than 50000Km of optical cable networks over African countries. China Telecom helped in Tanzania to the construction of a key optical fiber transmission network, the result of this investment helped the country to upgrade his internet connection, it also helped for the creation and development of local ICT and



internet industries. Xu (2017) told us that the Inspur Group helped the taxation administration of Zimbabwe to update their systems and also provide over the past four years' tutorials to the local engineers and technicians. The spur group has trained over 10000 professionals from South Africa and Egypt.

### **People to People Communication**

Communication between people is very important especially between countries members of the OBOR initiative. In the African Case, the OBOR insists on respecting the cultural customs and history of Africans countries, to strength exchanges between people to China and Africa, protect cultural diversity and increase friendship between China and Africa. To do so the exchanges are focusing more on education, culture and health care. During the recent years we can see a large augmentation of Scholarships given by the Chinese government to African students with the goal of give them a good education and be in the future the bridge between their countries and China, Local government has been awarding young African people the Silk Road Scholarships with the aim to encourage educational and cultural exchanges. Cultural and people-to-people exchanges between

China and Zimbabwe achieved splendid results. In February, the "Cultures of China, Festival of Spring" art troupe made a visit to Zimbabwe, organized by the State Council Overseas Chinese Affairs Office. In August, the Shenzhen Municipal Singing and Dancing Troupe visited Zimbabwe and participated in the art performance of the 20th Session of the United Nations World Tourism Organization General Assembly and the inaugural ceremony of the Zimbabwean president. In November, the fourth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Legal Forum was held in Zimbabwe. The 13th Chinese medical team arrived in Zimbabwe and started its work. The Confucius Institute and five Confucius Classrooms in Zimbabwe enjoyed greater influence, with an enrollment of nearly 800.

People-to-people and cultural exchanges grew even closer (Aoyama, 2016). The China-Africa Friendship Association in Uganda was established in February. In August, the 16th batch of Chinese medical personnel arrived and started their work in Uganda. In November, a dialogue meeting between the mayors and governors of China and the East African Community countries was held in Kampala, capital of Uganda. In 2013, China provided 43 scholarships to Uganda. An art troupe from Shanghai and an art troupe of the Federation of



Returned Overseas Chinese of Liaoning Province gave performances in Uganda.

**Conflicts of Interest:**

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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