

An Analysis of Constraints to Economic and Trade Cooperation between the China-Africa Community with a Shared Future

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ABSTRACT

The constraints in the economic and trade cooperation of the China-Africa community of shared future that cannot neglect. The main constraints to the development of China-Africa economic cooperation include the imbalance of China-Africa economic and trade, the unitary commodity structure, and competition in the international market. There are differences in the political and legal values between China and Africa. Western developed countries restrict and exclude the economic cooperation between the Chinese and African communities, fabricate the China threat theory, and seek energy and political interests to disrupt the smooth development of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation.

Keywords-- China-Africa Community of Common Destiny, Constraints Economic and Trade Cooperation, Economic Development

domestic economy and trade but also cause huge losses to the African countries' domestic economy and trade and the whole world. This fully demonstrates that the constraints in the economic and trade cooperation of the China-Africa community with a Shared future cannot neglect. Furthermore, China and Africa must face up to these challenges to remove distractions and work together to promote common economic and trade development.

In this study, we made the analysis constraints on China-Africa economic and trade cooperation that is the main subject of this paper. The rest of the paper is as follows: In the second part, the main factor restriction of the economic and trade cooperation of the China-Africa community with is a shared future. In the third part, the China-Africa difference in political policies, law, and value. The fourth part explains the divergence and interference of western countries in the China-Africa economy and trade cooperation. And, the fifth had conclusions and suggestions.

I. INTRODUCTION

The proposal is a highly appropriate reference to the relationship between China and Africa made by previous Chinese leaders such as Chairman Mao Zedong and his premier minister Zhou Enlai in 1962, Chairman Deng Xiaoping, Hu Jintao and continue by the nowadays President Xi Jinping since the summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation(FOCAC) in Beijing the capital of China in 2018.

Among the many areas of cooperation between China and Africa, economic and trade cooperation occupies a crucial position(B Sautman,H Yan). As the whole world knows, China is the largest trading partner of the African continent, and the economic and trade cooperation of the China-Africa community of Shared future has been developing well and achieved remarkable results(Liu Hongwu, Lu Lingyu, 2013). Since 2019, the trade volume between China and Africa has continued to increase substantially.

However, recently, the day-on-day growth rate of China-Africa economic and trade has begun to decline and even registered negative growth a few months ago and continue to decline causes by new pneumonia provoked by a novel corona virus(Covid-19) began in Wuhan, China. Moreover, this outbreak affects and damages the Chinese

II. THE MAIN FACTORS RESTRICTING THE ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION OF THE CHINA-AFRICA COMMUNITY

A. Africa's Political Instability

The continent has long been a relatively volatile region of global political instability that causes many problems of poverty. Although, the political and economic situation in Africa is becoming more stable, there have been many local disturbances. In recent years, the outbreak of the international diplomatic crisis became a watershed for the deterioration of the situation in Africa. Anti-government demonstrations broke out in many parts of Africa. For example, the Central African Republic exiled President Francois Bozeze(2013) was wanted worldwide, and some of the African countries tried to oust him. Also, civil unrest occurred in some African countries. From 2013 till now, the Central African Republic mutiny resulted in a political deadlock of one country, and many masters' rebels who occupied 80% of the territory continue to make barbaries acts on the peaceful population. Same situation in Sudan when the former Sudan President El Bechir was the pursuit

and be used by the court because of many exactions his government did when he led the country. What is more remarkable is the recent situation between two leaders' rebel in Libya, where there is a large-scale armed conflict against which Britain, France, and the United States launched military operations.

African countries have many problems that are the cause of instability, and we are going to talk about the four fundamental reasons for the political instability in Africa. First, the political system is rigid, reform is lagging, corruption is rife, and public resentment is rampant (Greenhill 2000; Zhou 2017). Second, the national economy is in trouble, and the economy is sluggish. The high unemployment rate, high prices, and the massive gap between the rich and the poor have intensified the contradictions among the people (Mbaku 2010). Third, the deep-rooted ethnic and religious conflicts left over from the period of western colonial rule cannot weaken in a short time. Fourth, the political and economic interference by the Western countries in Africa.

Frequent turbulence in Africa has a significant negative impact on the economic and trade cooperation of the rapidly developing China-Africa community with a shared future. Political and social unrest in Africa has made riskier for Chinese companies to invest in Africa, which is likely to result in substantial property losses and poses a challenge to the Chinese government's economic policy of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs.

B. Trade Imbalance between China-Africa

Africa continent has enormous natural resources and the national resources are completely different, these resources are in highest speed development of China. Since 2019, China-Africa trade has advanced by leaps and bounds, the Africa continent sees its economy growth and life hood change successfully. Africa's exports to China is concentrated of the majority of these resources, the oil is the comparative advantages of exports commodities. According to the Ministry of Commerce of the PRC Statistics web: China in Africa has several important trading partners with a highest proportion of China's crude oil exports. However, this relationship showed an insufficient sphere of African countries because most of the exportations were concentrated in the field of energy. And, as the scale of economic and trade cooperation between China and Africa continues to expand and the impact of the internal instability and diplomatic crisis has led to increasingly prominent conflicts and frictions in investment and trade between China-Africa cooperation.

1) The Main Performance is:

Firstly, China's market development in Africa is not enough, and the geographical distribution of its trade objects is imbalanced. In terms of exports, China mainly exports manufactured goods to 12 countries, including Algeria, Angola, Cameroun, Congo, Egypt, Equatorial

Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Libya, Nigeria, South Africa, and the Republic of South Sudan. In 2017, China's exports to the 12 countries accounted for 46.81% of its exports to Africa, compared with 73.53% for the other 42 African countries. So, at the end of 2019, it accounted for 51.38% of China's total exports to Africa for 54 countries, meaning China's exports continue to increase and keep the African country economic at the high level. In terms of imports, China mainly imports raw materials, crude oil, copper, and iron ore from few countries, including Algeria, Angola, Cameroun, Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Libya, Nigeria, South Africa, and the Republic of South Sudan. In 2017, China's imports from the 12 countries accounted for 53.19% of its total imports from Africa, compared while the rest 42 African countries accounted for only 26.47%. At the end of 2019, 14 countries accounted for 58.50% of China's total imports to Africa, while the rest 40 African countries accounted for less than 19%.

Secondly, the commodity structure of China-Africa trade is too single, and trade friction is increasing. China's exports to Africa are manufactured goods, mainly mechanical and electrical products, textile products, clothing, and hardware products. However, some African countries have a poor economic foundation, weak technology, and backward manufacturing, so they are not competitive with Chinese manufacturers. To develop their economy, support the development of their national enterprises, and avoid the threat of foreign products to their market, some African countries have adopted an endless number of trade protection policies and measures, which has led to trade frictions between China and Africa.

In sum, the China-Africa economic and trade cooperation imbalance is considerable. The two parties should focus on the main points and try to solve it for better shared future cooperation.

Table 2.1 China's exports and imports to Africa in 2017 (Source China Statistical Yearbook)

Country	(USD 10000)				
	Exports	%	Imports	%	Total
54	9471762	55.51	7592715	44.49	17064477
42	4082428	73.53	1468187	26.47	5551817
12	5389334	46.81	6123528	53.19	11512660

Table 2.2 China's exports and imports to Africa in 2019 (Source China Statistical Yearbook)

Country	(USD 10000)				
	Exports	%	Imports	%	Total
54	10489386	51.38	9926493	48.62	17064477
40	4143062	81.00	968946	19.00	5551817
14	6355324	41.50	8957547	58.50	11512660

China mainly imports crude oil, natural gas, mineral products, and other raw materials from Africa to meet the current national production needs (Yiniucaijing 2018). First, for African exporting countries, the economic model that relies excessively on the export of one or more primary products is not conducive to the long-term stable economic development. The sharp drop in international oil prices in 2014 had a huge negative impact on the budgets of oil-dependent countries such as Angola, Congo, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea. Second, Africa's industrialization also needs enormous supplies of raw materials. Under the influence of western developed countries, some African countries' government officials believed that China is plundering and exploiting its natural resources, thus restricting the sustainable development of the African economy, which leads to frequent trade frictions between China and Africa (Sean Joss Gosse, 2018). Third, in the international market, trade frictions between China and Africa have occurred frequently. China competes with Africa in the international market for similar commodities, mainly textiles and mechanical and electrical products. China and Africa are developing countries with an abundant labor force. Both have a labor-intensive and capital-intensive industrial structure, but China is one step ahead and more competitive in the international market. Weakened Africa's export capacity, indirectly damaged Africa's relevant national industries, and affected the international enthusiasm for capital investment in Africa (Pádraig R. Carmodya, Francis Y. Owusu, 2007). In recent years, China has been subject to anti-dumping and trade protection from African countries many times, especially since the establishment of the European anti-dumping law (Jensen, N. M. 2003).

Although trade frictions between China and African countries involve a small number of countries and a small amount of money, they occur frequently and involve an expanding number of areas. They have a substantial negative impact on the economic cooperation of the China-Africa community of the shared future. China-Africa should pay attention to reinforcing their policy capacity for a better community shared future.

III. CHINA-AFRICA DIFFERENCE IN POLITICS, LAW AND VALUE

Generally, Africa is the last continent in the world to achieve political independence. From the beginning of the 15th century, when European settlers began to enter Africa, to the independence of Namibia, the colony in southwest Africa, in 1990 and the Republic of South Sudan independence in 2011, European colonial rule in Africa lasted for more than 400 years. Western civilization is deeply rooted in Africa, while China is the cradle of eastern civilization. The differences between China and African

countries in politics, laws, and values are the reality of the differences between Chinese and western countries' civilizations. Besides, there are 54 countries in Africa, each with its own unique historical development process and differences in politics, laws, and values.

In the economic and diplomatic crisis era, differences in politics, laws, and values between China and Africa have hindered the development of economic cooperation. The political and legal differences between China-Africa have caused unnecessary disputes with Chinese enterprises and African employees, made the cooperation more difficult for Chinese enterprises to operate in Africa. Moreover, it weakened the enthusiasm of Chinese enterprises to invest in Africa. Most countries in Africa have a multi-party system and copy western laws, especially labor laws, which are extremely elaborate and strict. Chinese companies that set minimum wages in Africa without being familiar with the law are prone to disputes and lawsuits.

The differences in values between China and Africa affect the perceptions of African people on the economic cooperation of China-Africa community of Shared future, thus causing some troubles to the economic cooperation of the China-Africa community of shared future. First, China has always been committed to non-interference in countries' internal affairs and developing economic relations with African countries based on equality and mutual assistance (Su Hang, 2017). However, some African government officials believe that China has interfered in the internal affairs of African countries while carrying out economic cooperation. They believe that China's economic assistance to Sudan supports the dictatorship and tyranny in that country and severely hinders the democratization process. Second, China's economic assistance to Africa is selfless and based on promoting China-Africa cooperation and seeking joint development (Western Medias: BBC, CNN, RFI etc.). In this case, some African government officials believed that China's economic assistance to Africa has significantly weakened Africa's capacity for independent development, making Africa more dependent on China for its economy and making Africa an economic colony of China.

The political, legal, and value identity differences between China and Africa limit the economic cooperation and development of the China-Africa community of Shared future to some extent. Both sides should keep communication and interaction mechanism from the government's diplomacy, elite foreign to the transfer of people-to-people diplomacy, both should try to understand each other and respect each other's customs, culture, politics, and law, promote China's enterprise localization, make it into Africa's social construction, achieve mutual benefit and the benefit of the African people (Xinhua, 2006, 2016).

IV. THE DIVERGENCE AND INTERFERENCE OF WESTERN COUNTRY IN THE ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION OF THE CHINA-AFRICA COMMUNITY

On August 23, 2016, the West Asia Africa Institute of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences published the "Africa beige book: its development report (2015-2016)", WHICH points out that China is continuing to promote a better relationship with the African countries'. At the same time, "also triggered by conduction, and the resonance effect of the western developed countries' and emerging powers special attention of China-Africa cooperation, encouraging them to impose retaliatory and hedge against China in the activities, in the Africa continent industry cooperation in the international competition pressure. For a long time, western developed countries have been imposing and inculcating their own values and institutional concepts in Africa(Olson, M. 1993). Faced with the rapid rise of China's influence in Africa, they have been responding more and more strongly. They have taken measures against Africa based on their respective traditional advantages to influence, divide and even interfere with the effective China-Africa cooperation.

In recent years, western developed countries have increased their investment in Africa. Investment and assistance, they have strengthened their control over Africa and squeezed China's market in the continent. It has slowed down the growth of China-Africa trade and affected the economic cooperation of the China-Africa community of Shared future. Western developed countries have taken advantage of many aid organizations established in Africa, such as the American Sub-Saharan Africa trade and economic cooperation forum. The Europe-Africa summit, England-Africa commission, France-Africa summit, and Tokyo international conference on Africa's development, to take various actions to limit and exclude the economic cooperation of the China-Africa community of shared future (Greenhill, 2010). At the sixth Tokyo international conference on African development in 2016, Japan pledged \$30 billion in aid to African countries over two years.

Western developed countries are ideologically fabricating the "China threat theory" to undermine China-Africa economic and trade relations. They always find excuses to accuse China of its investment in Africa and describe the economic cooperation of the China-Africa community of shared future as China's "racism" and "neo-colonialism" in Africa. They made the African authorities wary of China. Long-term colonial rule in Africa and the western developed countries, make always take advantage of the African people's ideology and discourse dominance. The lower cultural degree for most Africans parrot, leading

to the central African economic friction constantly, to economic construction and development of Chinese enterprises in Africa adds difficulty significantly.

The competition between western developed countries for energy and political interests on the African continent has made economic cooperation in a community of shared future between China and Africa more complex and volatile. In order to control Africa and obtain more oil energy and other strategic materials in Africa, the United States of American and European developed countries frequently visits Africa, has been using cooperation against terrorism as an excuse to expand political and military influence in Africa, so as to increase its control over Africa's oil-producing areas and strategic locations(USAID, 2016). In addition to the United States of American military base in Djibouti, the U.S. military has about 60 small bases in Africa, including barracks, outposts, port facilities, and supply depots, in 34 African countries. At the same time, England and France are relying on traditional forces and using the influence of their former colonial masters to expand their oil interests in Africa. Recently in 2019 in England, there was an England-Africa forum, and France held security summits with representatives from few African countries to reinforce their diplomatic priorities in Africa.

In terms, western developed countries intensify their competition for Africa, because Africa has an important role in the formation of a new global political and economic structure. All these excuses from the Western developed countries on the African continent are interfering with the rapid development of the economic cooperation of the China-Africa community of a shared future.

V. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This summary related the tremendous theoretical and practical value to study further the development prospect of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation under the vision of the community of destiny. China-Africa economic and trade cooperation has involved different levels and fields of the China-Africa relationship ranging from national exports and imports, investment, and aid that China always tried to do in the Africa. From the development of the China-Africa economic and trade cooperation from the perspective of a community of shared future is a relevant research field for China and African countries to achieve economic development, social progress, and national prosperity. China-Africa economic and trade cooperation and mutual benefit in economy and trade will not only show the needs of China's rapid economic development and promote the construction of African infrastructure and the integration of the African economy into the world economy. The cooperation between China-Africa has been fruitful and continues to be.

However, it has also faced many problems via western developed countries social politics and military instability in some African countries.

From the perceptive that this paper analyzes the economic and trade of the China-Africa cooperation of the community of shared future, China-Africa should focus on the real and trusted bilateral relationship and the frustration of the unbalanced on the trade export and import product. Moreover, China-Africa must reform its economic and trade policies that could promote fruitful economic and trade cooperation.

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