



UnitelmaSapienza

Università degli Studi di Roma

Master in

“International cooperation, finance and development”

China land grabbing in Africa : challenges to the traditional cooperation policies

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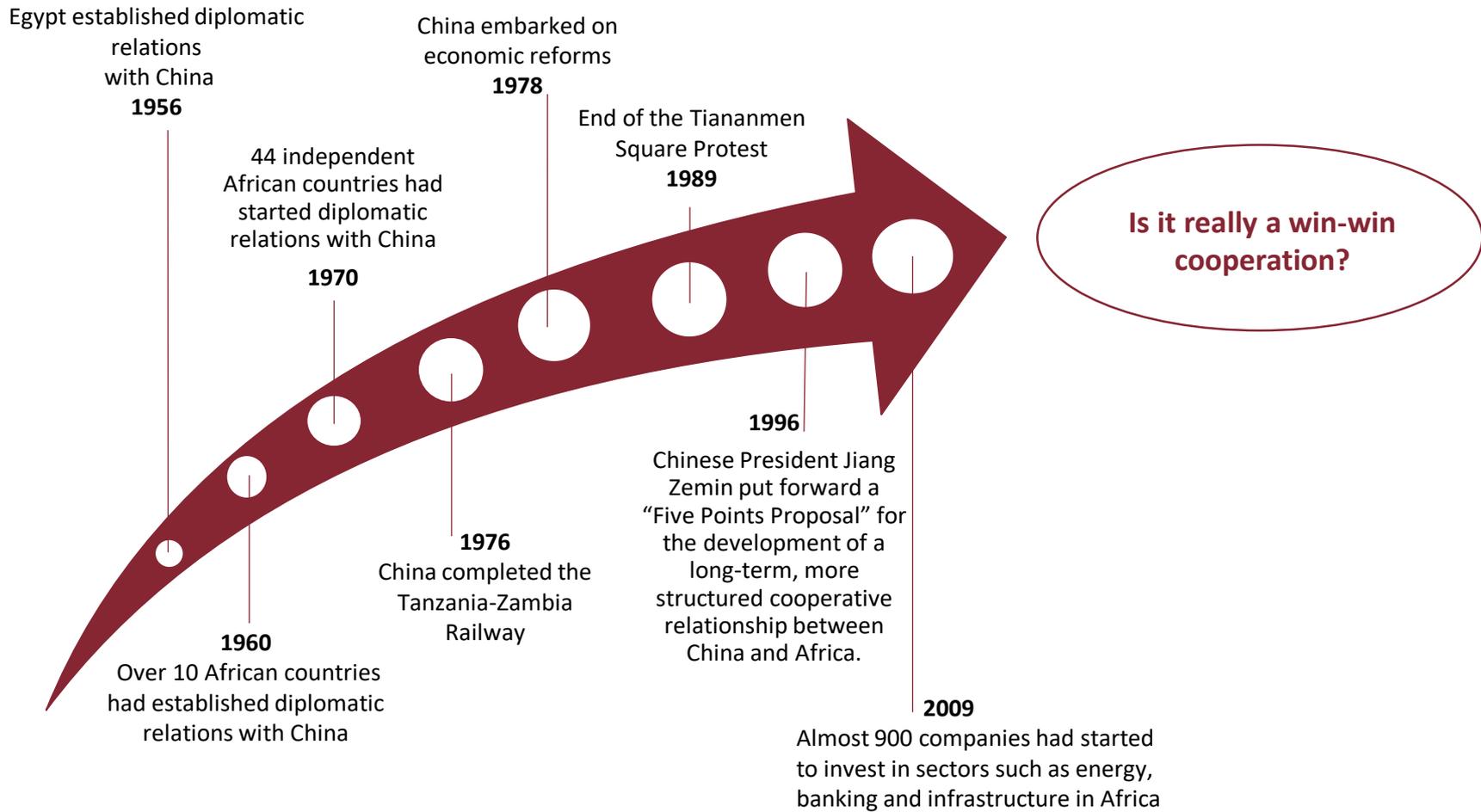
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Root of China- Africa cooperation



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China's perspective on boosting African development



Strategic diplomacy

Supporters in voting at the level of supranational bodies

International and valid diplomatic support



Natural Resources

Food supplies to support domestic growth

Ensure the exploitation of new oil fields



Commercial Benefit

Multi-fiber Arrangement (MFA) - 1974

Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) - 2000

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The Analysis of China's African Policy

Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence

Introduced by Premier Enlai during in 1954 They represent the foundation and guidelines for China's foreign strategy:

- Non-interference in others internal affairs
- respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Six principles of China-African Policy

Introduced soon after the Tiananmen Square Event in response to the new international environment towards China, aimed to:

- strengthen solidarity and cooperation with Africa
- seek for common development

Five strands of China-Africa Relations

Premier Enlai announced the 5 strands in 1963. They included, among else:

- a generous debt relief
- large-scale economic aid
- the goal of improving China's reputation on the continent.

Four points of proposal on China-Africa Cooperation

They have been established in a ministerial conference in Addis Ababa, in 2003 and mainly focused on:

- how to promote China-Africa friendship and cooperation
- jointly face the challenges of globalization

Eight principles of Chinese African aid

The 8 principles for Aid – established by Premier Enlai in 1964 - are based upon:

- equality,
- mutual benefit
- no strings attached,
- respect for sovereignty
- no requests for privileges

Eight measures to promote China-Africa cooperation

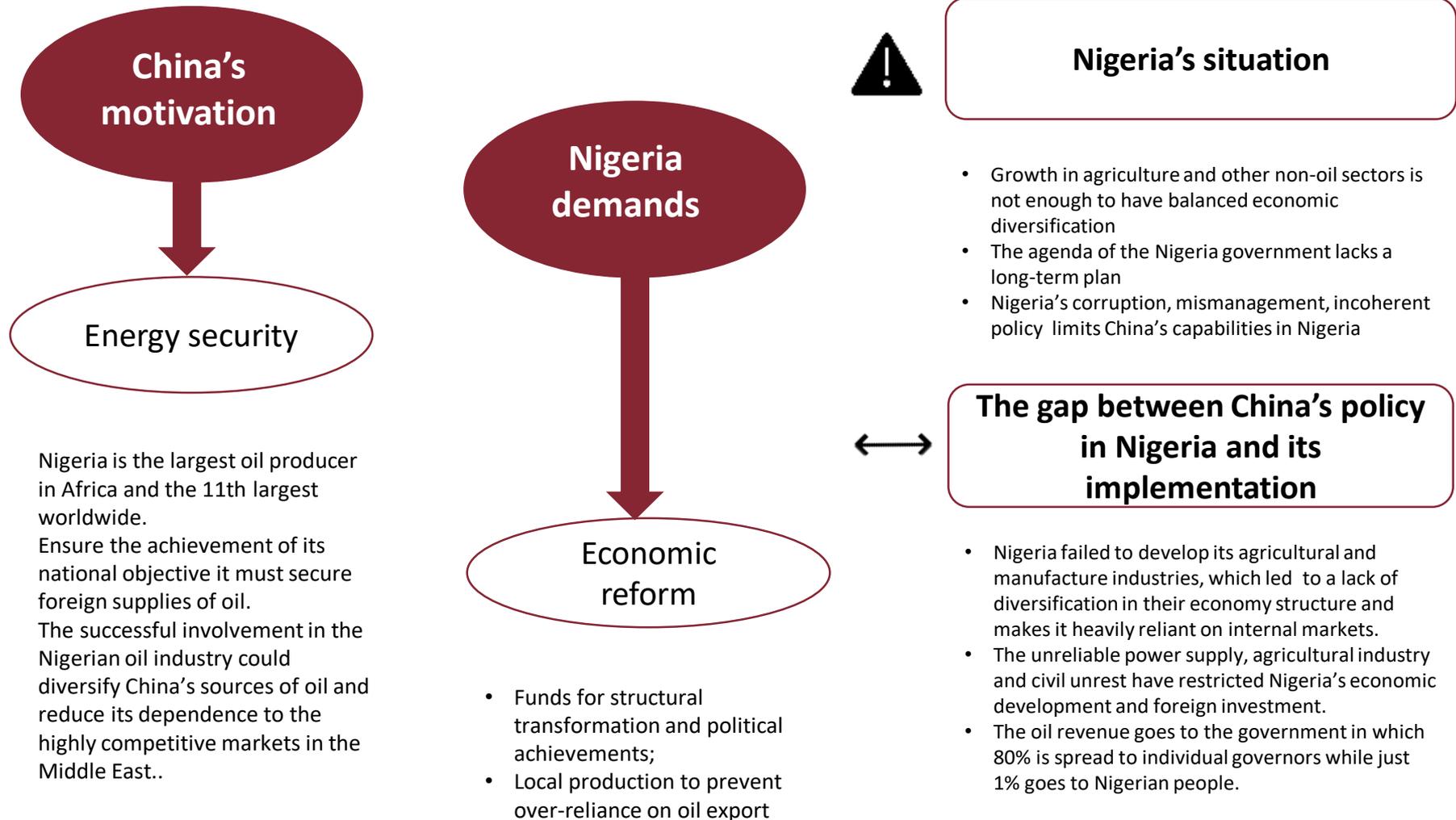
In 2009 President Hu Jintao announced eight measures to help African countries to accelerate their development by :

- reducing debts,
- providing economic assistance,
- reinforcing the strategic partnership

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China's responsibility in the Sub-Saharan region: the case of Nigeria



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Risks & Opportunities for Africa

Economic Growth

- The increase of Chinese capital inflow from the FDI, beneficiary states have a better chance to improve African economic performance.
- Relationships with foreign multinationals represent development opportunities for local companies.



Dependency

- Chinese companies operating on African soil use Chinese workers without always creating job opportunities and transferring knowledge.
- The growth of some African states exponentially depends on the volume of exports to China and this jeopardize the local production activities



Green Revolution

- 'Green technology' to develop agricultural production, thereby achieving harmony among the environment, economy and people.
- Minimizes the waste of natural resources;
- essential for the environmental sustainability.
- China could contribute to agricultural growth and poverty reduction.



Risks & opportunities

New Colonization

- The fact that China is flooding local markets with Chinese manufactured goods, sending workers to Africa, straining local economies with trade imbalances can leave in doubts whether this is a new form of colonialism.



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Western investment and incentives versus Chinese ones

West

- Western aid, grants, loans and contracts tend to come with conditions that most times deny any sort of independence of choice to African countries. Western nations have been the dominating power in all aspects of life in Africa. Western influence is noticeable in several fields.
- Western countries are not investing where Africa's governments and populations are at hungriest for development and help.

VS

China

- China consistently claims on being neutral without interfering in the internal affairs of countries where they operate. This makes the Chinese alternative more attractive for African countries because there is a feeling of respect and equality that facilitates interactions.
- Two-business-partners relationship, with the goal of exchange goods and services.



Conclusion

Considering the overall number of developing and non-western countries and considering the fact the way in which aid-offering and investor countries fulfill their international responsibility to recipient states is a continuously emerging topic, this thesis has used China's relationship with African countries to suggest a possible analytical framework for the evaluation of international responsibilities of donor and investor countries.

Thank you