

# Ambiguous Regimes: The path leading to China's inclusion in Africa

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*Abstract*— The idea for this project came after the COVID-19 pandemic. The resurgence of China-Africa relation in international politics during China's intense propaganda to divert attention from its domestic affairs has made the author research the critics addressed to China to help Africa fight the pandemic as its increasing influence in Africa politics. The subject was treated in many ways but not in a way that accesses the path that has led to China's profound implication in Africa. The study has shown that Western power had contributed to promoting China's economic and political rise in Africa affairs. So This made the author curious to develop an analytical framework to address this question "Why the West is such angry of China strong implication in Africa" and to scoop into the empirics explanation given the rapidly evolving relations between China and Africa, We focused the research on the failure of democratization consolidation, pragmatism realism and difficulty for Africa nation to legitimize their government. For thinking about Chinese activities in Africa, we demonstrated the need for greater nuance between the West's contribution to the democratic process and China's methods to make allies and show China's impact on Democracy. Hence this study analyses the steps that have led China in its position in Africa countries' foreign policy.

*Keywords*— Democracy, Authoritarianism, China, Africa, the West.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The process of the political regime has always been a complicated affair in Africa. Furthermore, the process of democratization has brought different outcomes raising questions. Nevertheless, when Jacques Chirac, the former French president, said it in 1990, "Democracy is a luxury for Africa," we think he was already pointing out the problem of the divergent path for the political regime in Africa with two different actors (the West and China-Soviet) in the arena of international relations.

Western Democracy has always shown respect to strict rules to Democracy in their countries, but when it comes to Africa, they have encouraged the contrary, leading with self-interest by tacitly promoting authoritarian regimes. Democracy in Africa is only drama; to emphasize, we will cite Jean Jaures, who said that " Democracy as the right hand of capitalism carries war within itself as the cloud carries a storm". In this regard, whether it is in Africa or the West, financial sovereignty is real power. Moreover, China has understood the concept.

Thus, the problem relates to China's increasing role in Africa is probably the difficulty or the contradictory conceptual goal to the West's traditional method to

formulate and justify the normative principles to international politics and economic reforms in Africa affairs.

From France to the UK and the USA, Democracy has never been the objective in Africa. Today, China is collecting on the West's work by finding more allies in a regime that they criticized while they were the ones promoting it in Africa. China has taken advantage of the West's constant involvement in Africa countries Affairs, resulting in preferences for China's economic and political policies. Due to the international financial institutions backing up the West intrusion in Africa's Affairs, China has been able to be in the just middle to take over both the financial and political systems. Nevertheless, as a creditor and debtor at the same time, it borrows money from financial institutions and lends it back to developing countries, increasing, therefore, its revenues. Unlike Western powers, China has strategically used the international financial system to support its interventions in Africa.

Consequently, it is not hard to understand why Western politics criticize every aspect of China's Africa activities, mainly because they have Africa supports. China's links to

Africa have created a discourse on how to characterize those ties.

From a theoretical perspective, China's rise is related to Pragmatism Realism. China focuses more on disillusioning Africa in the partnership they share with the West while assuring its national interest and struggle for power to adapt to the circumstance. Moreover, since the 1970s, China's foreign policies to Africa were a more pragmatic approach, where economic ties have become the standard practice and prioritized not to step into the West affairs, resulting in ambiguous regimes tendency in many Africa countries.

This essay focuses on the process that has favored the promotion of authoritarianism in Africa, while democracy concepts have been mixed up. In other words, to what degree an African country is more in favor of politically and economically tied its regime to the West or China.

A promotion that could not be effective without international financial factors; moreover, the issue here is to shell the steps that had promoted China's political and economic rise in Africa in a more theoretical way.

Therefore, in this paper, we attempt to throw this puzzle into focus. The argumentation will focus on the multiple rhetoric democratic slogan that the West uses to imposed themselves to Africa and international cooperation to bolster their particular type of rule. Then we will discuss the way China spawns its way in Africa politics. Furthermore, to finish, define an assumption giving a clear answer to the criticism regarding China's close link to Africa countries.

## **II. ACCESSING PRAGMATISM REALISM THEORY IN CHINA PROGRESSION IN AFRICA**

China's pragmatic approach in Africa relations results from long-standing cultivated relations since China has regained its seat at the UN's security council. While the West keeps criticizing China, Africans blessed the relationship. With soft loans, access to capital, delivery of service, and cheap goods, China has gained the African heart. However, all these would not be possible without many African countries' weak political and economic situation.

Weak legislation, inability to enforce international norms, and mostly self-serving government, China has seen an opportunity that the West has always criticized. China is not concerned with democratic rules or national interest. China is more concerned about dealing with governments, addressing both sides' reforms to readapt local needs to its foreign policy. Via a series of slogans such as "Win-Win

cooperation," "Non-interference," "China and its Africa countries are destined to be good friends," "China will always stand with developing countries," China and Africa relation have today reached a stage of growth unmatched in history<sup>1</sup> China was able to conceptualize its role and implication in Africa Affairs. In this regard, it has revealed itself as a pragmatic power. Contrary to the West that emphasized on financial or military oppression, China emphasized its soft power on economic incentives. China is clear about its intentions in Africa. International diplomatic support, the sustainability of the China-Africa relationship, while Africa needs China to supply an alternative finance source.

China has a more nationalistic mindset compare to the West. The West has strived to promote Democracy across the globe, but domestically, the reality of democratic rules continues to be contexted. The Chinese regime has proved itself to be directed to the State's survival and its people, hence its real power position. From this perspective, China's rising power is closed to offensive realism, emphasizing the USA and allies' pre-elaborate situation to offer developing countries an alternative opportunity to defy Africa's ongoing humiliation. According to John Mearsheimer, international relations result from an anarchic environment that forces States to maximize their power; China is in the process of changing the game by leading developing countries out of poverty. The Chinese realist of power and security implies liberal economic modernization, cultural integration to the world market, a technological legacy that emphasizes sustainable progress.

China's realist understanding focuses on its liberal economic model that canalize anarchy into institutions. Hence, giving Africa states the opportunity to become healthy and independent.

China's rise and increasing role in Africa emphasizes the role of African governments in the development process. Instead of just passing essential economic goods and economic development strategies like messengers to their people, China hegemony strategy implies a more state role as guardian of economic development. Furthermore, the rise of China places him as an example for developing countries. If Jeffrey Sachs and Wing Woo accord to say that the Chinese model can be adapted to development strategy in Africa, Philip Naughton and Ronald Mckinnon think the contrary. Democracy and the unclear political regime of many Africa countries are being restructured. While China fights for the sake of its honor and clears the

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<sup>1</sup>"Xinhua Net, Xi's quotable quotes on China-Africa relation, editor ZX2018-09-01. Xinhuanet.com

humiliation they faced during the past 100 years, Africa is still struggling to defend its culture and identity. The absence of democratic characteristics complicates the replication of the Chinese model. However, China thinks that the lack of government legitimacy, consensual among political parties, is why the State should reinvent its role, guide by China, to strike down development challenges. For instance, Chinese pragmatism realism is closed to the role of a development program where the government's role is to provide and deliver goods, service, improve education, and infrastructures to the people to gain legitimacy and continue the faceless protest. Consequently, Africa needs China's soft loans and cheap goods, as well as China needs Africa to continually revise its political allegiance to the West to promote the legitimacy of its rise as a global power.

Nevertheless, China remains a pragmatic hegemon, more concerned with economic achievement, and a capacity to adapt to the Africa government's development plans.

In conclusion, citing "Xi Jinping, China will adhere to the path of peaceful rise but will not sacrifice its rightful and legitimate interest"<sup>i</sup> It confirms China's conception of the balance of power based on negotiation over a code of conduct. Therefore, China-Africa relations can be pragmatic in specific contexts.

### **III. THE CHALLENGES FOR CONTEMPORARY DEMOCRATIZATION**

At the end of the year 1980s, many Africa countries faced a problem of political-economical regime identification. With two blocks: China-Soviet and USA-allies, the liberalization system has taken it over in the early 1990s. Many African countries suffered from the decolonization trap and found themselves obligated to follow the Western political system.<sup>ii</sup> Furthermore, this continued for decades until the rise of China. It has become more evident since countries such as authoritarian governments like Angola, Ethiopia, and Rwanda started to reluctantly engage with the EU on governance reforms in the early 2000s. One side, the Washington Consensus, supports free trade through WTO and NAFTA to reduce tariff barriers. The IMF is involved in free-market reforms as a condition of receiving loans, especially for developing countries. Here, free trade suggests that countries should specialize in goods/services where they have a comparative advantage. It may mean developing economies need to conform to producing primary products. Nevertheless, on the other side, the Beijing Consensus that is a pragmatic policy that uses innovation and experimentation to achieve equitable, peaceful high-quality growth, and defense of national

borders and interests, offered Africa countries a new vision and alternative to the Western conditionality in development projects.

The objective here is to replace the Washington Consensus's untrust vibe for developing countries in the free market for economic growth with a more sovereign state on capitalism's levers. Create an environment without political liberalization that restrains developing countries from acting according to the rules of globalization. It means giving a vital leading role to the ruling political party and population to control its development.

In response to the oppression that African nations have been subjected to since 1990, the Chinese way presented itself more bright than the Western one. Besides, in this logic, the political arena of Africa started to see some disturbances. It explains how the domestic political sphere can shape authoritarian governments' incentives to engage with the West or China.

Focusing on the qualitative and quantitative categories employed in the study in the recent regression of democratization, Robert Dahl explained this regression with political opposition, public participation, law-based, human rights respect that many African countries have to integrate domestic level. Emphasize with global variables, and it is difficult to understand the variant or mixture of the democratic process. It is also to assert that Africa countries are more subject to powerful influence beyond their borders. A continent with a record of poverty, Africa presents all the characteristics of a continent easily influenceable to promote authoritarian principles sustained by control over oil revenues and politicized security sectors. Also, democratizations dealt with structuralist theories that did not consider the social, economic, and cultural obstacles to democratization in developing countries.

The core power energy, trade, and economic interests lessen their willingness to push for significant democratization reforms. Further, development policy interests and objectives may also conflict with good governance support. Likewise, to show that development aid impacts economic and development growth, the core power pressure less to push for democratic reforms and use negative conditionality in countries with good economic performance and poverty reduction.<sup>2</sup> As leaders seek to retain political power, an economic preference is born between the core and political leaders. Hence, indirect resource transfer, like public services, enables political elites to corrupt the political genteel to support their regime

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<sup>2</sup> Del Biondo, Karen. 2011. EU Aid Conditionality in ACP Countries: Explaining Inconsistency in EU Sanctions Practice. *Journal of Contemporary European Research* 7 (3): 380–395.

and secure every political actor's interest. In this settlement, the government is the only recipient of development aid; thus, they control access and distribution. Moreover, it creates a political mafia here; the rules of democratization are jeopardized.

From Robert Dahl's perspective, the absence of opposition party, public participation, and law-based affected by global variables explain low Africa's democratic process.<sup>3</sup>

For instance, to get loans and cooperate with the West, Africa governments had to present good governance statistics, while the West prioritized control of security stability and cooperation on migration management over good governance (Democracy and Human rights).<sup>4</sup>

It is also to assert that Africa countries have always been subject to powerful influences beyond their border. In the case of francophone Africa countries, France always has and continued to dictate the behavior of politics and those countries' economies. For that purpose, rulers have learned how to manipulate the rules of Democracy. Limitation of the independent press, civic organization, and political parties, most African governments find the West's support to do so. In Togo's case, after Gnassingbe Eyadema passed away, constitution rules have been manipulated so that his Son Faure Eyadema could succeed to his father, and the artisan of this was Charles Debbasch, French former juridical advisor of Eyadema. He was the one that made sure of Faure's accession to power through constitutional amendment under the supervision of "France."

The absence of development projects and false promises of France, African political classes prefer to jeopardize the country's future over the Core Power support to retain the power. As Huber and Al explain in their book, offering some insights as to how economic development is also a point of the weakness of democratic consolidation in Africa, it affects the balance of class power and state society in a way that does not promote Democracy, lack of economic development increases the risk of a reversal of democracy efforts. Hence, the level of industrialization, education, urbanization, which are the determinant for promoting Democracy, has been taken in hostage by the West so that without their aid and intervention, Africa countries do not have the right to development. In this sense, forcing governments to ally with them and dictate

how to conduct their affairs only creates political exclusion only to promote authoritarian regimes.<sup>5</sup>

Countries in Africa that have moved to the democratic system are usually at the mercy of International Financial institutions and Western governments. In this reciprocal relationship where the weakest is pushed around by the powerful, there are least to process the resources for democratization, resulting in ambiguous Democracy (case of Togo, Burkina-Faso, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire ad Benin).<sup>6</sup> It is to emphasize that the divergence of the democratic process in Africa defines the degree to which a particular state is linked to Western countries or the gravity of the economic influence of the core power. The extent of regime linkage is defined by the specific gravity of ties to the core power country. The more is a peripheral country's aid per capita from the core, the more it will consolidate its political and economic regime achievement.<sup>7</sup> Hence, a peripheral state can resist core pressure only when it can drift revenues from local productions (case of Nigeria, Ghana, and Tanzania). Otherwise, higher is its aid per capita as a percentage from the core; lower is its ability to determine its political regime.

The extent to which a country is often at the mercy of International Financial Institutions, the more the country is dictated in the ruling. In that context, the dimension of linkage can be a determinant of choice of the regime when the economy (trade, credit, investment, bilateral and multilateral aid flows) is entirely dependent on the government behavior toward the core power. Alternatively, geopolitical linkage ties the core and peripheral countries to maintain a particular regime type to control a region. More, suppose the core power determines social and transnational civil society linkages such as migration, tourism, refugee, elite education, NGOs, and party organizations; in that case, peripheral countries find themselves constrained to promote policies that please the core power (case of francophone Africa countries). Democracy becomes illusory.

A high degree of political and economic linkage creates pressure, which generates Soft Power or the ability to shape preferences, raising the cost of authoritarianism.

<sup>3</sup> Robert Dahl (1971), "Participation and opposition", New Haven, Yale University, Pp.1-16.

<sup>4</sup> Kopstein, Jeffrey. (2005). "The Transatlantic Divide over Democracy Promotion," *the Washington Quarterly* 29 (2): 85–98.

<sup>5</sup> Evelyne Huber, (1996), "Options of Social Democracy in Latin America: neoliberal versus social democracy models". In *the Welfare States in transition, national adaptations in global economics*. Edited by Gita Esping-Andersen, London-Sage.

<sup>6</sup> Pierre Englebert and Monica Boduszynski (2005), "Poverty and Democracy in Africa" Oldenborg working paper series, Romana college, 01.

<sup>7</sup> Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way (2005), "International Linkage and Democratization", *Journal of democracy* Vol.16, No3, Pp 20-34

Then, if international pressure is low, democratization fails to be consolidated. Nowadays, many Africa countries are more controlled by a core power that can provide enough financial and development projects to the local economy resulting in the manipulation and functioning of democratic consolidation. It implies that China has benefited from this situation because of the considerable amount and development support it brings to Africa.

To support this argumentation, legitimacy as a citizen's aptitude to believe that it is right to obey and respect government rights is one of Africa's biggest challenges. In that context, China quickly finds a path into the World System base on pragmatic realism theory. In the absence of proper democratic procedures lobbied and covered by western NGOs and big firms based in Africa, most people in Africa do not have the right to raise voice against injustice and violation of their fundamental rights. Nevertheless, the variation in authoritarian regime types such as monarchies, military, one-party, and dominant political parties characterizing many African countries' political sphere is essential for the political and economic evolution in Africa's affairs. Furthermore, the authoritarian ruler can afford higher political liberalization levels and remain in power as long as possible. China needs such an environment, and the West is why China found an easy way in Africa.

The absence of nationalism favored divergence among politicians and citizens, allowing Western power to use it as a weapon to control political regimes. Another criterion of legitimacy is development strategies, which developing countries lack the most and the point on which powerful countries emphasize the more.

Therefore, in a legitimacy situation as a focal point of democracy consolidation, we can say that Africa fails to fill in a democratic nation's criteria. Additionally, the blame is to put on power countries that make us believe in the system as salvation and prosperity while China uses its faults to build allies and secure a core power position. As development objective is today linked to China's foreign policy objective, promoting its soft power has become a key component of its agenda. Thus, where the USA used coercive measures to promote Democracy, such as defining non-democratic countries as a treat to global security, China finds an opportunity to cooperate with such countries, resulting in weakening the perspective of democratic consolidation in most countries in Africa. To emphasize, China has focused its idealistic ambition into a proper objective sensitive to local politics, the culture, and the socio-economic situation. When the West wanted to dominate, they imposed equitability, accountability that involves the whole country, not just a government. China,

knowing that Africa countries were impoverished societies, increased by the absence of functioning democratic institutions, civil society, or an organized opposition, emphasized those points to constraints on cooperation with secret bilateral agreements, not legally approved projects, or biased legal norms enforce project cooperations.

In sum, China has redesigned the democratic system into a new form that better suits its foreign policy while considering other countries' foreign policy. Therefore, it might explain why its policy is more desirable today for many African countries than the West.

#### **IV. CHINA PATTERNING AFRICA POLITICS**

Since global growth and international business have led to a new form of hegemony where every country can benefit from each other, China has reshaped the Africa political regime system into a regression of democratization.

Further, globalization has shifted the balance of power between business and State since China rise. The abundance of Chinese businesspeople has generated pressure for a more limited role of Western power.<sup>iii</sup> Moreover, they learned to manage political ideas to bind globalization to their ends by manipulating discourse, especially in the wide-open information space established by the democracies.

Nonetheless, the necessary conditions, mechanisms, and scope for effective rule and norm established by Western democratic countries, the level of statehood, or interdependence with China differ considerably compared to the West and countries in Africa. For instance, in Kenya, massive investments in media infrastructure allowed China to scale up a multifaceted effort to shape the realm of its ideas. African editors are on the Chinese government payroll, under Chinese editors in Beijing to examine their decisions, stories before publication. China used the media outlet to spread messages abroad about alternatives to Democracy as models of governance while insisting in its positions of non-interference in domestic affairs.<sup>8</sup>

Those instruments that are democracy aid, sanctions, or budget-support suspensions specific to the democratic regime, the coherence and consistency of China not to use those instruments is one crucial factor that influences the success of China's inclusion in Africa.

The Chinese aid budget has increased by about 30 percent annually for the past ten years. Chinese loans to Africa

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<sup>8</sup> Emeka Umejei (2018) "Will China's Media Influence African Democracies?" *Power* 3.0, April 2, [www.power3point0.org/2018/04/02/will-chinas-media-influence-african-democracies](http://www.power3point0.org/2018/04/02/will-chinas-media-influence-african-democracies).

seems to exceed aid volumes (Brautigam and Hwang (2016).<sup>iv</sup> In the absence and regression of the EU and USA development aid, China has become an alternative cooperation partner, affecting African governments' incentives to engage with the West. For instance, in Uganda, EU diplomats have complained that they are losing influence.<sup>9</sup> Many African countries are vulnerable democracies facing challenges in controlling foreign direct investment or regulating accountability in public spending and supervising procurement oversight. These challenges are easily exploited by corrupt governments that use state-connected financial resources for reasons other than developing mutual economic cooperation. Those kinds of links usually lead to political manipulation outcomes for open democratic governance. For example, when investment and foreign assistance are part of a public discussion, it usually involves civil society in developing economies to strengthen the characteristics of democratic governance as citizen voice and participation as well as transparency, in the authoritarian-linked regime undermine liberal-democratic values and concerns, and corruption can flourish, and authoritarianism can find fertile ground.<sup>10</sup>

Like the British empire in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, China uses indirect control to manipulate Africa's political domestic event.

With China in the game, development does not require the consent and the active participation of diverse economic actors anymore; it structures business-government relations in a way that encourages collaboration instead of domination, without degenerate into collusion. As weak and controlled by external actors, developing countries see China's business association as an escape gate from the Western imperialism, thus, creating political linkage. The mechanisms by which core powers have subordinated business is eroding. The relationship between the West and the developing countries is being challenged. China uses the liberal system in its advantage by applying rules more suitable for Africa economies: the absence of market economy to promote its regime, emphasized on its institutions (China Development Bank, China Export-Import Bank, China International Trade and Investment Corporation, Etc.) as an alternative to the State one, shaping liberalization into its image to gain allies. China has made itself more adequate to democratic societies by

using many conventional soft power vehicles such as education research centers, media, and people-to-people exchange programs. Disguising the extent to which it controls these activities, and open civil society in Africa, public policies dramatically extends its economic interest in Africa. The Chinese government is experienced at using economic leverage to advance political goals, working through indirect channels to get to the final goal. In sum, China excels in using covert and deceptive means to work preexisting default in democratic societies. China has shown itself prepared to use economic leverage engagement as a tool of political coercion.

With the openness of free trade with Chinese characteristics, and decrease of the influence of the United States and the EU, dispersion of production process, the growing modality of capital, and multinational, China has diminished the West's control and gave more liberty in regime adoption. By increasing capital flow into the Africa market, increasing aids, and limiting most African countries producing their commodities products, China increases the dependence system. To boot, in that dependency, the governments willing to engage with China or the West prefer not to engage in political reforms. Moreover, improved financial cooperation and fading of international pressure give way to some Africa governments to reestablish authoritarian dominance. They are therefore promoting authoritarianism (the case of Benin).<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, in Cote d'Ivoire, the actual government established control over the economy, allowing him to control his opponents effectively.

Thus, China improved financial cooperation, help in-state reconstruction, induced therefore to less hostile international environment enabled many authoritarian regimes to stabilize their authority. With China criticizing the liberal democracy political conditionality that international institutions adopt to further universal democratic norms, they came up with non-interference in domestic affairs, a norm that enshrines respect for state sovereignty.

In that sense, sovereignty takes its place in domestic policy to give political organizations the necessary legitimacy to conduct international relations with external actors. China hence is promoting its form of democratization and rejecting the imposition of political and economic

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<sup>9</sup>Süddeutsche Zeitung, (2013) "Race against time and against others". Germans and Europeans can still tie their aid to conditions. However, both the competition from China and oil could significantly reduce Western values' weight, page 6.

<sup>10</sup> Jonathan Hillman, (2019) "Corruption Flows Along with China's Belt and Road," Center for Strategic and International Studies, January 18, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/corruption-flows-along-chinas-belt-and-road>.

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<sup>11</sup> Dirk and Preuss, Hans Joachim, (2019). Benin's stealthy Democracy: How Africa's model democracy kills itself bit by bit Kohnert, Institute of African Affairs, GIGA-Hamburg, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bonn. Online at <https://mpira.uni-muenchen.de/96831/>

conditionalities by global-governance institutions.<sup>12</sup> China accounts for challenging the Western decadence in colonization by promoting and investing in national culture, heritage, and religion. As part of these efforts, a country like the Benin Republic, an example of Democracy in Africa under the new president Talon, reshapes its political allegiance under a regime that better suits the political genteel. In fact, since April 28, 2019, an implicit one-party regime has been constructed under parliament support to control opposition moved. For instance, a change to the Charter of Political Parties adopted by the National Assembly in July 2018 (Présidence de la République 2018a) has been made. The same year in September has adopted the new electoral law (Présidence de la République 2018b). In response to that, the country has known infrastructure changes in road and railway construction led by Chinese investment.

In Senegal, the president Macky Sall is using political tactics to mask an authoritarian regime. In fact, since 2016, the electoral system rules have been changed, the opposition is oppressed, and structural reforms for national governance have been made. Consequently, Senegal ranks among China's highest debtor near Kenya, with 70% of external bilateral debt. Senegal is closing the privileged relationship with France. Also, China is using Senegal influence in Francophone Africa for connectivity and balance of power.

China's presence in Africa has allowed the continent to be more proactive in international economic fora.

China's increasing role in Africa affairs is usually assimilated with corruption, illegal means, and international norms violation. About Raluca Besliu's article in the globalist (December 2013), Chad and China Relation have evolved and demonstrated China's engagement in some African countries. Since 2000, China and Chad's relation has known a positive turning for both countries after the World Bank has withdrawn its funding following Chad's increasing defense and military expenditure. An opportunity was offered to China to help itself while offering Chad the possibility to counter the West conditionalities. China purchased the rights to massive oil exploitation.

Consequently, China built infrastructures, roads, hospitals, Etc. More, Chinese oil royalties have been invested in arming and training the Chadian army. With China as the leading partner, Chad could place itself as a major actor in

the military and peacekeeping scene. Also, France has to accommodate given Chad's position to maintain peace in the region. The Chadian president is backed by China, for economic reasons, and France to protect its interest as a former metropole.

## V. CONCLUSION

China's hegemony rise in Africa relies on many factors, such as covering state-directed projects as commercial or grassroots associations using local actors to manipulate domestic events, favorable loans, and no cooperation conditions. It is to assert that China's interest in Africa is expected compared to China's political space in world politics. China has been engaged in a steady and though modernization of the liberal world, and Africa is its laboratory. Nonetheless, its behavior toward developing countries remains unapprehended because its foreign policy does not prone ultimate power that imposes its will to the weak. Hence, its ability to distort the course of Democracy in Africa becomes easy.

Democratic institutions existed only on a manuscript, resulting in a pervasive political machine and the absence of consolidation. It was the point discussed in this essay, and the result shows that the West rooted china's path in Africa's domestic affairs. In this regard, the West fails to understand Africa countries' real needs and continues to stain China's effort in the continent with unsubstantiated claims like neo-colonization or illusory cooperation. Nevertheless, the truth is, China is just repeating the past with better tools, and the reality is that Chinese presence in Africa is real, and the people of many Africa countries will not say the contrary. Hence, China uses Africa and developing countries to disrupt the balance of power by adapting its needs. Also, filling the void created by Europe and the USA as a responsible powerful State should be. Nevertheless, the West claims cannot be ignored because every nation fights for their survival, and the Chinese government is just doing so without hurting anyone on the road of ascension.

Moreover, China has understood that Africa governments might be shored by political stability, so the focus was made on economic investment. China's considerable involvement in the Africa government's project places China in a strong position to influence political and economic development.

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<sup>12</sup> Thomas Ambrosio, (October 2008), "Catching the 'Shanghai Spirit': How the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Promotes Authoritarian Norms in Central Asia," *Europe-Asia Studies* 60, Pp1321-44.

## DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The author declares no potential conflict of interest concerning the research, authorship, and publication of this article OCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4613-1842>

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<sup>i</sup> At the Politburo meeting on January 28, 2013, Xi Jinping professed a firm resolve to defend china's national interest.

<sup>ii</sup> Western democracies emerged as the dominant center of military and economic power, and the United States and the European Union began to promote Democracy to an unprecedented degree. At the same time, deep economic crises deprived autocrats of the resources needed to sustain themselves in power. (Lucan Way, "Pluralism by Default: Weak Autocrats and the Rise of Competitive Politics," University of Toronto, unpublished)

<sup>iii</sup> into African domestic affairs, resulting in the African government's incapacity to be totally and thoroughly partisan of a regime (ambiguous regimes). It puts states in a limited position because they control and shape the direction of economic development.

(Western power tactic was to establish a company in Africa, with a headquarter in their country, uses the local government to do their bidding. The local population works for them but dictated and supervised by the core power. Chinese government method is different. They favored their population inclusion in African society by opening a business and working together with the local government while making African people think that they are not exploiting them.

<sup>iv</sup> Brautigam, Deborah, and Jyhjong Hwang. 2016. *Eastern Promises: New Data on Chinese Loans in Africa, 2000 to 2014*, CARI Working Paper #4 China Africa Research Initiative Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. Washington, DC: CARI. Chinese loans to Africa appear to exceed aid volumes significantly, and estimate that China provided about USD86.3 billion between 2000 and 2014. Chinese banks, such as the Export-Import Bank and the China Development Bank, give preferential and commercial loans to African countries at low-interest rates.