

SESSION 6: CHINA IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Objectives:

- Analyze the evolving relationship between China and the African continent.
- Examine the current nature and scope of security-related collaboration between the China and countries in the Horn of Africa.
- Determine how China's partnerships with Africa address security needs.

Background

China-Africa trade reached \$200 billion in 2015, making it Africa's largest trading partner. But, as China becomes ever more engaged with Africa, it has also begun to link the continent's security with China's prosperity -- a serious departure from China's famed foreign policy of non-interference in domestic affairs. China's increased focus on security stems from needing to protect investments from the disruptions and damage caused by conflict, but also, Chinese citizens working on the projects and China's global reputation.

Recently, China increased its participation in UN peacekeeping. Of China's 3,000 troops in United Nations Peacekeeping Missions, approximately 85% are in Africa; of those, 50 percent are in the peacekeeping missions in South Sudan and Darfur. In South Sudan, China also contributed its first ever infantry battalion to a UN peacekeeping mission, and has been active in the mediation process in the internal conflict; uncharacteristically it is also a member of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, which monitors the 2015 Agreement to Resolve the Conflict in South Sudan. South Sudan's internal conflict has been particularly worrisome for China, given the level of violence and its investment in the country: there are 50 Chinese companies, 7,000 Chinese nationals (including peacekeepers), and a Juba Chinese Business Association.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the critical aspects of China's security relationship in the Horn of Africa?
2. Do China's security-related partnerships address regional security priorities?
3. What are China's motivations for providing security-related assistance to Africa?

Required Readings:

Albert, Eleanor (2017) Backgrounder: China in Africa, Council on Foreign Relations
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-africa>

China's Africa Policy
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-12/04/c_134886545.htm

Recommended Readings:

Brautigam, Deborah (2015), 5 Myths About Chinese Investment in Africa, Foreign Policy
<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/12/04/5-myths-about-chinese-investment-in-africa/>

Abigaël Vasselier, "Chinese Foreign Policy in South Sudan: the View from the Ground," China Brief Vol. 16 No.: 13, The Jamestown Foundation, August 22, 2016, pp 15-19. (http://www.jamestown.org/programs/chinabrief/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=45658&#.V8nPpfR-70).

China's Africa Policy

<http://www.focac.org/eng/zt/zgdfzccwj/t230479.htm>

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Johannesburg Action Plan (2016-2018)

http://www.focac.org/eng/ltda/dwjbzjjhys_1/t1327961.htm

China in Africa: The Real Story. The China Africa Research Initiative.

<http://www.chinaafricarealstory.com/>