

International relations

Правильная ссылка на статью:

Kevinus G., Moses S.T. (2025). Balancing Act: Nigeria's economic and political calculations with China amid global changes. *International relations*, 3. DOI: 10.7256/2454-0641.2025.3.72075

Balancing Act: Nigeria's economic and political calculations with China amid global changes / Балансирование: экономические и политические расчеты Нигерии с Китаем на фоне глобальных изменений

Кевинус Дженисис

ORCID: 0009-0001-5137-0349

аспирант; кафедра История международных отношений и внешней политики; Российский университет дружбы народов имени Патриса Лумумбы

117198, Россия, г. Москва, ул. Миклухо Маклая, 19

✉ genesiskevinus@gmail.com



Мозес Самуэль Темитопе

ORCID: 0009-0008-2744-6762

магистр; кафедра теории и истории международных отношений; Российский университет дружбы народов им. П. Лумумбы

117198, Россия, г. Москва, ул. Миклухо Маклая, 19

✉ 1032239594@pfur.ru



[Статья из рубрики "КОЛОНИАЛЬНАЯ ПОЛИТИКА МИРОВЫХ ДЕРЖАВ"](#)

DOI:

10.7256/2454-0641.2025.3.72075

EDN:

PFHCT

Дата направления статьи в редакцию:

25-10-2024

Abstract: The subject of the study is Nigerian-Chinese relations in the broader context of the international political economy. It examines trade, foreign direct investment, infrastructure financing and political diplomacy between the two countries, and highlights how these relations are consistent with Nigeria's national interests and global pressures. The authors explore how Nigeria copes with difficult balancing and what consequences this

has for its economy, sovereignty and international standing, as well as for further study of the following tasks, as key historical milestones and driving forces of the strategic partnership between Nigeria and China; the history of partnership development in the context of changing geopolitical realities, in particular: in light of the rise of China and the growing competition between the United States and China, as well as the perceived benefits and challenges for Nigeria in maintaining this strategic partnership. This paper uses a qualitative method, using case studies of important sectors affected by Chinese involvement in Nigeria, including infrastructure and energy. It combines policy analysis, trade statistics and diplomatic reports. In addition, a comparative analysis is being conducted to assess how Nigeria's strategy is consistent with that of other African countries cooperating with China. The novelty of the study lies in the fact that for the first time it explores the global transformation of cooperation between countries: the change in U.S. and European policy towards Africa, its impact on Nigeria's relations with China. It also highlights for the first time the impact of new trends, compromises and the emergence of multipolarity in bilateral relations. This study contributes to the existing literature on foreign policy analysis and international relations by identifying patterns in Nigeria's approach that could serve as a model for other African countries facing similar geopolitical challenges. The results of the study showed that Nigeria is building relations with China in the context of global geopolitical changes, facing both opportunities and challenges. By adopting a strategic approach that takes into account all the nuances, Nigeria can take advantage of its relationship with China, while maintaining its sovereignty and contributing to sustainable development.

Keywords:

sino-nigeria relations, One Belt One Road initiative, power dynamics, geopolitics, south-south cooperation, foreign policy, economic cooperation, policy of non-alignment, Africa, China-Africa cooperation center

Аннотация: Предметом исследования являются нигерийско-китайские отношения в более широком контексте международной политической экономики. В нем рассматриваются торговля, прямые иностранные инвестиции, финансирование инфраструктуры и политическая дипломатия между двумя странами, подчеркивается, насколько данные отношения согласуются с национальными интересами Нигерии и глобальным давлением. Авторы исследуют, как Нигерия справляется со сложным балансированием и какие последствия это имеет для ее экономики, суверенитета и международного положения, а также для дальнейшего изучения следующих задач, как ключевые исторические вехи и движущие силы стратегического партнерства Нигерии и Китая; история развития партнерства в условиях меняющихся геополитических реалий, в частности: в свете подъема Китая и растущей конкуренции между США и Китаем, а также предполагаемых выгод и проблем для Нигерии в поддержании этого стратегического партнерства. В данной работе используется качественный метод, с применением тематических исследований важных секторов, затронутых китайским участием в Нигерии, включая инфраструктуру и энергетику. Он объединяет анализ политики, торговую статистику и дипломатические отчеты. Кроме того, проводится сравнительный анализ, чтобы оценить, насколько стратегия Нигерии согласуется со стратегией других африканских стран, сотрудничающих с Китаем. Новизна исследования заключается в том, что в нем впервые исследуется глобальная трансформация

кооперации между странами: изменение в политике США и Европы в отношении Африки, ее влияние на отношения Нигерии с Китаем. В нем также впервые подчеркивается воздействие новых тенденций, компромиссов и появления многополярности в двусторонних отношениях. Данное исследование вносит свой вклад в существующую литературу по анализу внешней политики и международным отношениям, выявляя закономерности в подходе Нигерии, которые могли бы послужить образцом для других африканских стран, сталкивающихся с аналогичными геополитическими вызовами. Результаты исследования показали, что Нигерия выстраивает отношения с Китаем в условиях глобальных геополитических изменений, сталкивается как с возможностями, так и с вызовами. Применяя стратегический подход с учетом всех нюансов, Нигерия может использовать преимущества своих отношений с Китаем, сохраняя при этом свой суверенитет и способствуя устойчивому развитию.

Ключевые слова:

китайско-нигерийские отношения, Инициатива, динамика власти, геополитика, сотрудничество юг-Юг, внешняя политика, экономическое сотрудничество, политика неприсоединения, Африка, Центр китайско-африканского сотрудничества

Introduction

Since the onset of economic reform in 1978, China has had an unmatched record of sustained growth that has transformed key sectors of its economy into the leading site for manufacturing and production in the global economy. To maintain the high levels of domestic output that are considered crucial not only for the Chinese economy but for overall social and political stability, the economy requires critical energy, minerals, and other resources from abroad. The promulgation of the government's 'going out' strategy, whereby over a hundred restructured state-owned enterprises were given the legal and administrative means, preferential access to finance, and diplomatic support necessary to break into markets outside China, has been the main policy response to this need. Given that, in the aftermath of the global financial crisis in 2008, China has become the world's largest holder of capital, with over US\$2.4 trillion in foreign reserves, it was, in retrospect, a fairly straightforward task to carve out a position in the energy and strategic minerals markets in the capital-starved African environment. Concurrently, the willingness of the Chinese government to provide a whole package of inducements alongside a range of leasing or supply agreements designed to meet elite-defined needs (ranging from presidential palaces to large-scale infrastructure projects), has proved to be crucial to securing deals in Africa. Underlying this approach is a highly publicized provision whereby the Chinese government forswears any interest in the domestic affairs of African governments, in direct contrast to the European Union (EU) or the United States (US), both of which have selectively applied conditions to their development assistance programmes and even to some investments. In parallel with this state-led drive for resources abroad is a search for new markets to expand the investment and trade opportunities for Chinese firms. However, the relatively small size of the African market imposes some constraints on Chinese ambitions. There is a diplomatic imperative, tied to the decades of competition between Beijing and the Taiwanese government in Taipei over official recognition, within which African countries are particular targets. The study will utilize a combination of theoretical lenses to provide a nuanced understanding: Realism This framework will help analyze the pursuit of national interests by both Nigeria and China, the power dynamics

within the partnership, and the influence of great power competition (e.g., US-China rivalry) on the relationship. While Dependency Theory will be used to critically assess the potential power imbalances within the partnership, particularly concerning economic dependence and resource extraction.

Data Collection and Analysis: Firstly official document analysis, this will include the study of primary sources such as official government documents eg. White papers, joint statements, speeches by key leaders, and agreements signed between Nigeria and China. Reports from international organizations and think tanks will also be analyzed. Secondly trade and investment data, analyzing statistics on bilateral trade, investment flows and development assistance can provide insight into the economic aspects of partnerships and potential dependencies. However there are limited Access to certain primary sources, and the research will rely heavily on existing literature and publicly available data. By employing this comprehensive research methodology, the article can provide a nuanced and insightful analysis of the Nigeria-China strategic partnership, contributing valuable knowledge to the field of international relations and informing policy decisions.

History in view: the rise of china in africa

It has been over 50 years since the People's Republic of China officially entered Africa for the first time starting with the Bandung conference in April 1955^[1], where top government representatives from twenty-nine Asian and African countries assembled in Bandung, Indonesia, to deliberate on peace and the role of the south-south countries in the Cold War, economic development, and decolonization.^[2] The Conference and its concluding resolve set the foundation for the nonaligned action taken during the Cold War, officials of the developing countries allied together to avoid any form of force in other to take sides in the Cold War contest. China, which had little interest in Africa during this period, became a main player on the African continent as opposed to its interactions with the Soviet Union and the United States, its relations with Africa differed in overall foreign policy and behavior in terms of interactions with individual African countries and collective in general.^[3]

Development of cooperation between China and African countries was hampered by the complicated international situation of that time and the beginning of China's Cultural Revolution which started between 1966 and lasted to 1976, China was severely criticized from the West and couple of events in the early 1960s contributed to the strengthening of Sino-African relations^[4].

Prime Minister Zhou Enlai made a historic visit to 10 African countries in 1963 and 1964, during his visit, five principles for the development of political relations between the African countries and China were formulated. In other words, it is the struggle to achieve and maintain the independence of the nation against imperialism, colonialism, and neocolonialism, which he made emphasis on supporting African countries, policy of peace, neutrality, and non-alignment, supporting the efforts of African countries to aspire to solidarity and unity through their own choices and to resolve differences through peaceful negotiations, fight against aggression and other forms of outside interference^[5].

The recognition of the People's Republic of China by France in 1964, made it possible to establish relations with several French-speaking countries on the continent. China has established diplomatic relations with 14 other African countries, bringing the total to 19. It is vital to point out that Chinese people have been interacting with Africa for centuries before its official independence in 1949, however, before 1960 there was a partial or little

interaction between China and Africa this was due to the fact many African countries were still under colonial rule. 1960 was a crucial year in the politics of Africa because it saw most African countries gain independence from their colonizers, as famously put and predicted by O.H. Morris that it is the 'year of Africa' due to the series of events that took place in that year, precisely the independence of 17 African nations most of which from west Africa and it also highlighted the rise of Pan-African sentiment on the continent. It also brought about the peak of the independent movement and the sudden emergence of Africa as a major force within the United Nations. These political developments led to a good prospect for Africa and its future.

Afterward, China began working with African countries irrespective of their political parties, in the late 70s and 1992 there was a rapid decline in China's engagement due to civil wars and post-colonial revolutions ravaging the continent and Africa was not open enough to international markets and China was looking inwards in its economic model. After the cold war ended between 1992-2002 and beyond there has been a dramatic rise in China's relations with Africa, trade reached a record all-time high from 180 billion in 2012 to 254 in 2021, China built most of the infrastructure in Africa. China and Africa in the 21st century enjoy increased political mutual trust and frequent high-level exchanges (Brautigam Deborah, 2009).^[6] Both history and reality tell us that if China does well, Africa has an opportunity if Africa does well, China benefits if China and Africa develop, the world will become a better place for human beings to live in.^[7]

Sino/Nigerian relations

As China emerged as a global economic powerhouse, it actively sought new markets, energy resources, and strategic allies. Nigeria, Africa's most populous country and a key economic player, naturally became a vital partner in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Over the past two decades, the bilateral relationship has shifted from mere trade interactions to deeper strategic cooperation, including infrastructure development, security cooperation, and cultural exchanges.^[8] In 1972, shortly after the Nigerian civil war, General Gowon, as the military head of state, paid an official visit to China. When his regime faced international criticism and isolation. Nigeria had a pro-West foreign policy after gaining independence, it did not establish diplomatic ties with China when it sent a delegation to Nigeria in 1964. Relations between the two nations soured during the Nigerian Civil War when China publicly declared support for Biafra's secessionist bid from Nigeria and covertly provided arms to the Biafran administration. Formal diplomatic relations were established in February 1971, but the first 30 years of Nigeria-China economic relations were slow and sometimes difficult. During the military regime of Olusegun Obasanjo, Nigeria complained about the growing trade imbalance between the two countries. China agreed to an aid package for Nigeria, which included sending medical personnel and agricultural experts, but this did not reverse the trade imbalance. The Nigerian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce was founded during the Abacha military government in 1994, and the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) was awarded a \$529 million contract to rehabilitate the Nigerian railway system in 1995. Li Ping, former premier of China's State Council, visited Nigeria in 1997 to sign protocols relating to power generation, steel, and oil, but neither the rehabilitation of Nigeria's railways nor Li Ping's protocols were implemented before Abacha died in 1998. Nigeria's renewed efforts at developing its economy to reduce poverty coincided with China's new orientation towards Africa in the year 2000, and serious economic relations between Nigeria and China started to develop. Nigeria's large domestic market of over 200 million inhabitants, vast energy reserves, and regional power in Africa may be why it has been one of the major destinations for Chinese investments in Africa.

China's presence in Nigeria has steadily grown, driven by a confluence of economic, diplomatic, and strategic interests^[9]. The significant expansion of trade, investment, and development assistance has transformed the dynamics of the Sino-Nigerian relationship, positioning China as a pivotal player in Nigeria's economic landscape.^[10] The depth and form of China's engagement with Africa is well-established in the resource sector and reflected in its trade, investment and diplomacy towards the region. Coupled with the growing diversity of Chinese actors present in the continent - which ranges from state-owned enterprises to small-scale entrepreneurs - the expanding Chinese presence in Africa provides insights into the dynamics that are evident in other resource-rich developing regions such as Latin America. China's engagement with Nigeria is part of its broader strategy to secure access to Africa's abundant natural resources and cultivate political alliances across the. Trade between the two countries has skyrocketed, with China becoming Nigeria's largest trading partner. Chinese firms have also invested heavily in infrastructure projects, including railways, roads, and power plants^{[11],[12]}. Beyond economic interests, China's diplomatic outreach in Nigeria has strengthened, marked by high-level official exchanges and China's support for Nigeria's geopolitical ambitions. This strategic partnership is seen as crucial for China to project its influence and counter Western dominance in the region^[13]. As China's footprint in Nigeria continues to grow, it has raised concerns about the nature of the relationship, the potential debt trap, and the implications for Nigeria's sovereignty. However, the Nigerian government has welcomed China's engagement, viewing it as a means to accelerate economic development and reduce the country's dependence on Western aid. Overall, China's expanding presence in Nigeria represents a significant shift in the geopolitical landscape, with far-reaching consequences for Nigeria, the region, and the broader global order.

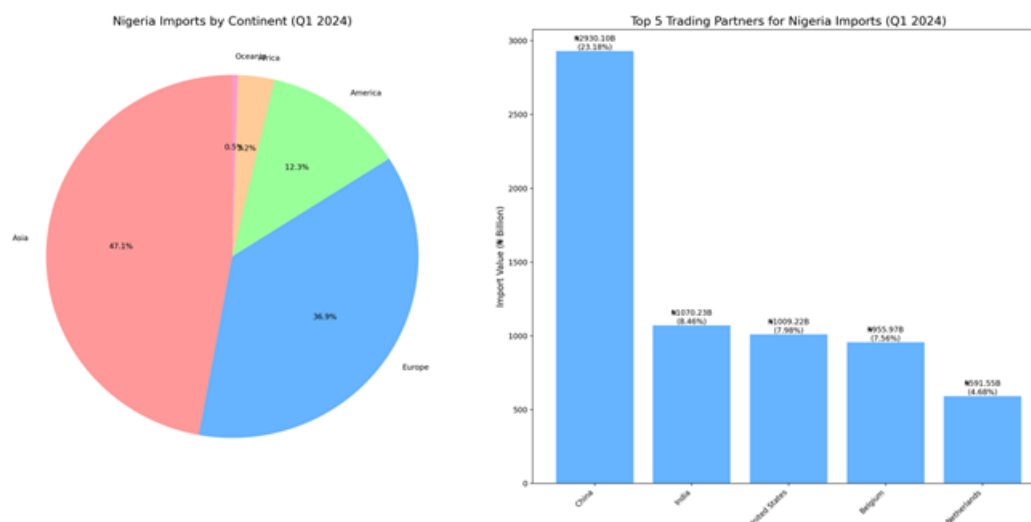
Nigeria's engagement with China is deeply rooted in a pursuit of key economic imperatives. Facing infrastructural deficits, limited access to capital, and a pressing need to diversify its economy, Nigeria sees China as a valuable partner in achieving these goals^[14]. Nigeria, as a prominent nation in Africa, has been navigating the complex landscape of its engagement with China, seeking to safeguard its sovereignty and national interests. China's increasing economic presence in the continent, driven by its "Go Global" policy, has presented both opportunities and challenges for African countries, including Nigeria. One key aspect of Nigeria's approach has been its efforts to leverage China's investment and development finance to support its industrialization agenda^[15]. However, this engagement has also raised concerns about the potential erosion of democratic spaces, as highlighted by the paper on "Contending Weltanschauungen and the Shrinking of Democratic Spaces in Africa^[16]." The paper suggests that the alternative development models offered by China and Russia have provided African countries, including Nigeria, options that may not align with traditional Western democratic principles, potentially leading to a decline in democratic spaces (Enyiazu et al., 2022).

Nigeria has sought to navigate its relationships with China and the West in this context, aiming to safeguard its sovereignty and national interests^[17]. As a leading member of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, Nigeria has taken a proactive stance in upholding the principles of democracy and constitutional governance in the region^[18].

Nigeria's international relations have been historically dominated by its partnership with China, which has become a significant development partner. However, in recent years,

Nigeria has made efforts to diversify its international alliances, particularly with its western allies. The history of Sino-Nigerian relations has been marked by oscillations, with both benefits and drawbacks for Nigeria. During the Nigerian civil war, China publicly supported the secessionist bid of Biafra, which strained the relationship between the two countries. After establishing formal diplomatic ties in 1971, the first three decades of the economic relationship were relatively slow and sometimes tumultuous, with Nigeria complaining about the growing trade imbalance in favor of China. Over time, China's presence in the Nigerian economy has grown, with concerns raised about the alleged dumping of inferior Chinese industrial products and the limited opportunities for Nigerian investment in China due to employment and visa restrictions. (Ejiroghene, 2022). Despite these challenges, Nigeria has continued to view China as a significant development partner.

Nigeria's imports in the first quarter of 2024 were predominantly from Asia, valued at ₦5,957.99 billion, constituting over 47% of total imports. Europe followed with ₦4,669.86 billion (36%), America with ₦1,554.69 billion (12%), Africa with ₦401.83 billion (3%), and Oceania with ₦58.86 billion (0.47%). Imports from ECOWAS countries amounted to ₦113.04 billion (0.89%). China was the top trading partner, with imports worth ₦2,930.10 billion (23.18%). India followed with ₦1,070.23 billion (8.46%), the United States at ₦1,009.22 billion (7.98%), Belgium at ₦955.97 billion (7.56%), and the Netherlands at ₦591.55 billion (4.68%).



Compiled by author,

Datasource: Nigeriannationalbureauofstatistics

https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pdfuploads/FTS_Q1_2024.pdf

AUC/OECD (2023), *Africa's Development Dynamics 2023: Investing in Sustainable Development*, AUC, Addis Ababa/OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/3269532b-en>.

In Q1 2024, exports constituted 60.25% of total trade. Nigeria's main export was 'mineral products' worth ₦17,510.57 billion, or 91.36% of total exports, followed by 'vegetable products' at ₦589.57 billion (3.08%) and 'prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits, and vinegar; tobacco' at ₦472.82 billion (2.47%)^[19]. Exports to Asia were ₦8,325.27 billion (43.43%), to America ₦5,179.14 billion (27.02%),^[20] and to Africa ₦2,236.82 billion (11.67%), with ₦1,250.71 billion to ECOWAS countries.^[21] France was the top export destination, receiving ₦2,125.03 billion (11.09%),^[22] followed by Spain at ₦2,023.55 billion

(10.56%), the Netherlands at ₦1,695.44 billion (8.85%), India at ₦1,611.39 billion (8.41%), and the United States at ₦1,311.16 billion (6.84%). These five countries accounted for 45.74% of total exports in Q1 2024. [\[23\]](#)

Nigeria's Export to Top Countries: The top five countries receiving exports are France, Spain, Netherlands, India, and the United States.

Total 'Percentage of Regional Exports (%)' and total 'Value (billion ₦)' by 'Region'

Region	Sum of Percentage of Regional Exports (%)	Sum of Value (billion ₦)
Africa	11,67	2236,82
America	27,02	5179,14
Asia	43,43	8325,27
ECOWAS		1250,71
Grand Total	82,12	16991,94

Average 'Percentage of Total Exports (%)' and total 'Value (billion ₦)' by Category

Category	Average of Percentage of Total Exports (%)	Sum of Value (billion ₦)
Mineral Products Prepared	91,36	17510,57
Foodstuffs, Beverages, etc. Vegetable Products	2,47	472,82
	3,08	589,57
Grand Total	32,30333333	18572,96

Country	Average of Percentage of Total Exports (%)	Sum of Value (billion ₦)
France	11,09	2125,03
Spain	10,56	2023,55
Netherlands	8,85	1695,44
India	8,41	1611,39
United States	6,84	1311,16
Grand Total	9,15	8766,57

Compiled by author, Datasource: Nigerian national bureau of statistics
https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pdfuploads/FTS_Q1_2024.pdf

These tables provide a clear overview of the distribution of exports by product type, regional destinations, and top country destinations in terms of both value and percentage of total exports.



Compiled by author,

Data source: Statista, un comtrade <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1193487/main-export-trading-partners-of-nigeria/>

Prior to the end of the cold war, the PRC pursue a politically motivated foreign policy, first to support the democratization of Africa, secondly to seek Africa support in its quest for the 'one China principle' bringing both Beijing and Taipei under one umbrella, and restore its seat at the United Nations which came to fruition with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations) in 1971. [\[24\]](#)

The FOCAC Beijing Summit 2018 reaffirmed China's relationship with Africa as the pinnacle of South-South cooperation in a rapidly globalizing international system. The South-South agenda should be advanced through the solidarity of international organizations and an expanded African-Asian dialogue. China will continue to support African initiatives, including encouraging developed countries to fulfill their development commitments to align Africa with the SDGs and representing Africa at global fora. China is committed to supporting African unity through the African Union, African regional integration efforts, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) development program. apart from trade and investment, China has become a major donor and investor in African development. The tenacity and commitment of Chinese ventures have impressed the African host country and given new momentum to the African trade process. [\[25\]](#)

The Balancing Act

The strategic partnership between Nigeria and China has evolved significantly in recent years, driven by shifting geopolitical dynamics, including China's growing global influence and the intensifying US-China rivalry. Nigeria, a major African economy and a key player in the region, has increasingly turned to China as a strategic partner, seeking to leverage the Asian giant's economic resources and political clout to bolster its development and geopolitical standing.

The partnership between Nigeria and China has been multifaceted, encompassing areas such as trade, investment, infrastructure development, and diplomatic cooperation. China has emerged as a significant trading partner for Nigeria, with bilateral trade reaching over \$19 billion in 2021 [\[26\]](#). This trade relationship, however, has been characterized by a persistent trade deficit in favor of China, a point of concern for Nigeria. China's investment in Nigeria has also been substantial, focusing on infrastructure projects, such as the

construction of railway networks, power plants, and industrial parks. The growing importance of China in Africa, including in Nigeria, has challenged the traditional Western aid model and has increased the agency and negotiating power of African countries vis-à-vis the West^[27].

Nigeria's partnership with China has significantly impacted its diplomatic and economic relationships with other global actors, particularly the United States and regional powers. This strategic alliance has provided Nigeria with an alternative source of investment, infrastructure development, and trade opportunities, reducing its dependence on Western nations. The influx of Chinese capital and expertise has led to the rapid development of critical infrastructure projects, including railways, ports, and telecommunications networks, which have long been neglected due to insufficient funding from traditional sources. While this partnership has strengthened Nigeria's bargaining power in international negotiations, it has also created challenges in balancing its relationships with traditional allies. The United States, for instance, has expressed concerns about China's growing influence in Africa, potentially straining US-Nigeria relations. These concerns stem from fears of China's expanding economic and political clout in the region, as well as suspicions regarding the long-term implications of Chinese investments and loans.

The Nigeria-China partnership has also raised questions about debt sustainability and economic sovereignty. Critics argue that China's lending practices may lead to a "debt trap," potentially compromising Nigeria's ability to make independent economic and political decisions in the future. However, proponents of the partnership contend that Chinese investments offer more favorable terms and fewer conditions compared to those from Western institutions, allowing for greater autonomy in development strategies. In the realm of technology and digital infrastructure, China's involvement has been particularly notable. Chinese companies have played a significant role in developing Nigeria's telecommunications sector, including the implementation of 5G networks^[28]. While this has accelerated Nigeria's digital transformation, it has also sparked debates about data security and technological dependence. Additionally, Nigeria must carefully navigate its position among regional powers, as increased Chinese involvement may alter existing power dynamics within Africa. Other African nations are closely watching Nigeria's engagement with China, potentially influencing their own foreign policy decisions and regional alliances.

This shift could lead to a reconfiguration of economic and political relationships across the continent, with Nigeria potentially emerging as a key intermediary between China and other African states. The environmental and social impacts of Chinese-funded projects in Nigeria have also come under scrutiny. While these initiatives have undoubtedly contributed to economic growth, concerns have been raised about their ecological footprint and the displacement of local communities.

This cultural bridge may foster greater understanding and cooperation between the two nations but also raises questions about the long-term influence of Chinese soft power in Nigeria. Ultimately, Nigeria's ability to maintain a delicate balance between these competing interests will be crucial in maximizing the benefits of its partnerships while minimizing potential conflicts and preserving its sovereignty. The success of this balancing act will depend on Nigeria's diplomatic acumen, its capacity to diversify its international partnerships, and its commitment to transparent and accountable governance. As Nigeria continues to navigate this complex geopolitical landscape, its decisions and strategies will likely have far-reaching implications not only for its own future but also for the broader dynamics of international relations in Africa and beyond.

Need for collaboration and mutual benefit

As the global economy continues evolving, Nigeria and China's strategic partnership has garnered significant attention. These two giants, one in Africa and the other in Asia possess immense potential to collaborate and mutually benefit across various sectors. (Osakwe, 2018) (Odularu, 2020) One area of potential collaboration is in the realm of trade and commerce. Nigeria's burgeoning digital economy and the transformative impact of technologies like blockchain, AI, and machine learning present ample opportunities for Nigeria and China to enhance their trade capacities and expand their commercial footprint. China's expertise in these emerging technologies could prove invaluable in helping Nigeria unlock its business ecosystem's full potential and drive sustainable trade growth (Odularu, 2020) [\[29\]](#).

The 2024 China-Africa Cooperation Summit is a continuation of the cooperation agreement established in 2000 to strengthen China-Africa relations. The theme of the conference is "Promoting Modernization and Sharing the Future", emphasizing the goal of achieving modernization and strengthening China-Africa relations. [\[30\]](#)

Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged \$51 billion at the summit, including support for 30 infrastructure projects across Africa, a significant financial commitment to advance cooperation hand in hand. The 2024 Summit aims to establish a plan to strengthen China-Africa cooperation over the next three years, focusing on the country's governance, industrialization and agriculture to restore the garden. This reflects China's efforts to establish a high-level China-Africa community in the future. But behind these lofty goals lie significant challenges and tensions facing Africa-China relations. [\[31\]](#)

President Tinubu of Nigeria's state visit to China has garnered significant attention, as the two nations seek to strengthen their strategic partnership and explore areas of mutual benefit. As Nigeria continues its pursuit of economic diversification and development, the relationship with China has become increasingly crucial. From Nigeria's perspective, the visit presents an opportunity to secure investments, technological transfers, and infrastructure development that could accelerate the country's progress. China, on the other hand, views Nigeria as a crucial player in Africa, and the engagement with Tinubu's administration is part of Beijing's broader strategy to solidify its influence in the region. Nigeria's political elites have generally welcomed the growing Chinese presence in the country, recognizing the potential benefits it can bring.

However, the impact of this relationship on ordinary Nigerians has been more nuanced, with concerns about the uneven distribution of the gains and the potential for exploitation. China's role in Nigeria's development has been multifaceted, ranging from infrastructure projects to trade and investment. The Chinese government has employed a unique brand of resource acquisition strategies and trade policies that differ from the traditional Western approach, presenting both opportunities and challenges for Nigeria. [\[32\]](#)

In addition, the power sector in Nigeria holds immense promise for industrialization and poverty alleviation. Unlocking this potential will require addressing the binding constraint of poor access to affordable and stable power supply. [\[33\]](#) China's experience developing its power infrastructure could provide valuable insights and solutions to Nigeria, potentially leading to a mutually beneficial partnership in this critical sector. Beyond trade and infrastructure, Nigeria and China could also explore avenues of collaboration in areas such as education, healthcare, and cultural exchange. The complementary strengths and shared

aspirations of these two nations suggest that there is ample room for fruitful collaboration that could drive economic growth, social development, and stronger diplomatic ties. [\[34\]](#)

Recommendations/Conclusion

To examine the potential future trajectories of the Nigeria-China partnership, it is necessary to analyze it within the context of global power dynamics and Nigeria's domestic and foreign policy imperatives. Multiple scenarios may emerge contingent upon evolving geopolitical realities, including the intensifying United States-China rivalry, Africa's increasing significance in global trade, and Nigeria's endeavors to address economic and security challenges. Bellow are such trajectories;

· Deepening Strategic Alignment: Expanding Cooperation

In this scenario, the Nigeria-China partnership expands beyond infrastructure and trade into more strategic domains such as technology, security, and energy transition. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will continue to serve as the framework for Nigeria's development, with enhanced investments in critical sectors.

· Balancing Strategy: Multipolar Engagement

In this trajectory, Nigeria adopts a more balanced approach, engaging with both China and Western nations to maximize economic and political benefits. Nigeria leverages the U.S.-China rivalry to its advantage, negotiating more favorable trade and development terms with both parties.

Conclusion: Navigating Uncertainty with Pragmatism

The future of the Nigeria-China partnership will likely depend on Nigeria's capacity to navigate the complex geopolitical environment. While deeper alignment with China offers the potential for rapid economic growth, a balanced approach may better safeguard Nigeria's autonomy and stability. As global power dynamics continue to evolve, Nigeria's pragmatic engagement with both China and Western nations will be crucial in ensuring that its development objectives are met while avoiding entanglement in great power rivalries.

As Nigeria navigates its engagement with China amidst global geopolitical shifts, it faces both opportunities and challenges. By adopting a strategic and nuanced approach, Nigeria can harness the benefits of its relationship with China while safeguarding its sovereignty and promoting sustainable development. Ultimately, Nigeria's balancing act with China reflects its broader aspirations for economic growth, regional leadership, and international cooperation in a rapidly changing world.

References

- 1 . Bukar Z. I., & Arabaci, A. (2023). Impact of Nigeria-China relations on development in Nigeria, 2010-2020. *Journal of Global Social Sciences*, 4(16), 109-124. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.58934/jgss.v4i16.223>
- 2 . Obikaeze, C. V., Umo-Udo, N. S., Nwokoye, A. N., & Daramola, T. O. (2023). Nigeria-China Bilateral Relations:: Re-examining the Trajectory of the Nigerian Manufacturing Sector. *Journal of Contemporary International Relations and Diplomacy*, 4(1), 672-686. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.53982/jcird.2023.0401.03-j>
- 3 . Mawere, Munyaradzi. "Building Blocks of Development: Towards a Framework of Development for Africa." In *Theorising Development in Africa: Towards Building an African Framework of Development*, 167-178. Langaa RPCIG, 2017. Retrieved

from <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctvk3gm5h.12>

4 . Aigbe G.O., Stringer, L.C. & Cotton, M. Gas Flaring in Nigeria: A Multi-level Governance and Policy Coherence Analysis. *Anthr. Sci.* 2, 31-47 (2023). Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44177-023-00045-5>

5 . Strauss, Julia C. "The Past in the Present: Historical and Rhetorical Lineages in China's Relations with Africa." *The China Quarterly*, no. 199, 2009, pp. 777-795. JSTOR, Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27756501>

6 . Brautigam, Deborah. *"The Dragon's Gift: the Real Story of China in Africa"*. The Oxford University Press, 2009.

7 . Hany Besada & Ben O'Bright (2017) Maturing Sino-Africa relations. *Third World Quarterly*, 38:3, 655-677. doi:10.1080/01436597.2016.1191343

8 . Alves, Ana Cristina. "China's 'win-win' cooperation: Unpacking the impact of infrastructure-for-resources deals in Africa." *South African Journal of International Affairs*, 20(2013), 207-226.

9 . Shinn, David H.; Eisenman, Joshua (2012-07-10). China and Africa: A Century of Engagement

10 . Re-Branding China's Battered Image in Nigeria amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Qualitative Analysis of Chinese Diplomatic Communications. (2022). *Journal of BRICS Studies*, 1(1), 26-40. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.36615/jbs.v1i1.615>

Библиография

1. Букар З. И., Арабачи А. (2023). Влияние нигерийско-китайских отношений на развитие Нигерии, 2010–2020 годы. Журнал глобальных социальных наук, 4(16), 109-124. URL: <https://doi.org/10.58934/jgss.v4i16.223>

2. Обикаеэе К. В., Умо-Удо Н. С., Нвокое А. Н. и Дарамола Т. О. (2023). Двусторонние отношения Нигерии и Китая:: Переосмысление траектории развития нигерийского производственного сектора. Журнал современных международных отношений и дипломатии, 4(1), 672-686. URL: <https://doi.org/10.53982/jcird.2023.0401.03-j>

3. Мавере, Муньярадзи. "Строительные блоки развития: на пути к созданию рамок развития для Африки". В книге "Теоретизирование развития в Африке: на пути к созданию африканских рамок развития", стр. 167-78. Langa RPCIG, 2017. URL: <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctvk3gm5h.12>

4. Дегтерев Д.А. Китай-Африка: важные аспекты отношений. // Мировая экономика и международные отношения. – 2005. – № 5. – С. 84-91; Дегтерев Д.А. Китайская экспансия в Африку: «свято место пусто не бывает»? // Азия и Африка сегодня. – 2005. – № 2. – С. 3541. URL: <https://mgimo.ru/files/34528/34528.pdf>

5. Штраус, Джулия К. "Прошлое в настоящем: исторические и риторические линии в отношениях Китая с Африкой". *The China Quarterly*, № 199, 2009. С. 777-95. URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27756501>.

6. Бротигэм, Дебора, "Дар дракона: реальная история Китая в Африке", издательство Оксфордского университета, 2009.

7. Хани Бесада и Бен О'Брайт (2017) Развитие китайско-африканских отношений, *Third World Quarterly*, 38:3, 655-677. DOI: 10.1080/01436597.2016.1191343.

8. Алвес, Ана Кристина. "Взаимовыгодное сотрудничество Китая: анализ влияния сделок по обмену инфраструктуры на ресурсы в Африке". Южноафриканский журнал международных отношений, 20(2013), 207-226.

9. Шинн, Дэвид Х.; Эйзенман, Джошуа (2012-07-10). Китай и Африка: столетие взаимодействия.

10. Ребрендинг подорванного имиджа Китая в Нигерии в условиях пандемии COVID-19: качественный анализ дипломатических сообщений Китая. (2022). Журнал исследований стран БРИКС, 1(1), 26-40. URL: <https://doi.org/10.36615/jbs.v1i1.615>

Результаты процедуры рецензирования статьи

В связи с политикой двойного слепого рецензирования личность рецензента не раскрывается.

Со списком рецензентов издательства можно ознакомиться [здесь](#).

Рецензируемая статья посвящена исследованию вопросов, связанных с экономическими и политическими расчетами Нигерии с Китаем на фоне глобальных изменений.

Методология исследования базируется на изучении и анализе первоисточников, таких как официальные правительственные документы, совместные заявления, выступления ключевых лидеров, а также соглашения, подписанные между Нигерией и Китаем; анализе данных Нигерийского национального бюро статистики о торговле и инвестициях между этими странами.

Научная новизна исследования состоит в выводах о том, что Нигерия может использовать преимущества своих отношений с Китаем, сохраняя при этом свой суверенитет, такое сотрудничество способствует устойчивому развитию, балансирование Нигерии с Китаем отражает ее более широкие стремления к экономическому росту, региональному лидерству и международному сотрудничеству в быстро меняющемся мире.

В статье, подготовленной на английском языке, структурно выделены следующие разделы и подразделы: Введение, Исторический обзор: подъем Китая в Африке, Китайско-нигерийские отношения, Балансирование, Потребность в сотрудничестве и взаимной выгоде, Рекомендации, Заключение и Библиография.

В публикации проведен анализ стратегического партнерства между Нигерией и Китаем; отмечено, что прошло более 50 лет с тех пор, как Китайская Народная Республика впервые официально вошла в Африку, начиная с Бандунгской конференции в апреле 1955 года, на которой представители двадцати девяти азиатских и африканских стран обсуждали вопрос о мире и роли стран Юга, их экономическое развитие и деколонизацию; по мере того, как Китай становился глобальным экономическим центром, он активно искал новые рынки, энергетические ресурсы и стратегических союзников. Нигерия, самая густонаселенная страна Африки и ключевой экономический игрок, естественно, стала жизненно важным партнером в китайской инициативе «Один пояс, один путь»; укрепились экономические и дипломатические контакты Китая в Нигерии; правительство Нигерии приветствует участие Китая, рассматривая его как средство ускорения экономического развития и снижения зависимости страны от западной помощи; расширение присутствия Китая в Нигерии представляет собой значительный сдвиг в геополитическом ландшафте с далеко идущими последствиями для Нигерии, региона и более широкого мирового порядка. Стратегическое партнерство между Нигерией и Китаем значительно изменилось в последние годы, что обусловлено меняющейся геополитической динамикой, в том числе растущим глобальным влиянием Китая и усиливающимся соперничеством между США и Китаем. Нигерия, как крупная африканская экономика и ключевой игрок в регионе все чаще обращается к Китаю как к стратегическому партнеру, стремясь использовать экономические ресурсы и политическое влияние азиатского гиганта для укрепления своего развития и геополитического положения.

Библиографический список включает 10 источников – публикации и интернет-ресурсы по рассматриваемой теме. В тексте публикации имеются адресные отсылки к списку литературы, подтверждающие наличие апелляции к оппонентам.

В качестве замечания стоит отметить отсутствие нумерации и названий некоторых рисунков и таблиц.

Тема статьи актуальна, материал отражает результаты проведенного авторами исследования, соответствует тематике журнала «Международные отношения», может вызвать интерес у читателей, рекомендуется к опубликованию.