

## Great Decisions 2021

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### CHAPTER 5 China in Africa



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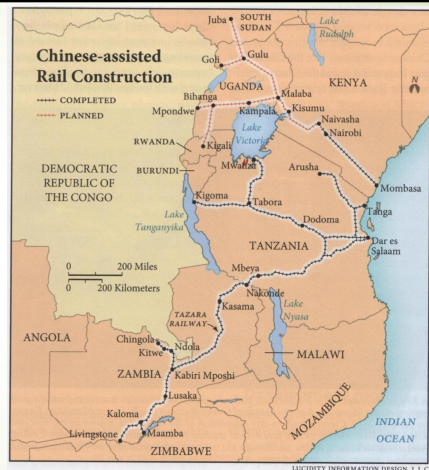
### China's Recent History in Africa

- **1955** – Formation of Non-Aligned Movement offering non-Western support against colonial/neo-colonial control in Africa
- **1960s** – Premier Zhou Enlai articulates principles of China's foreign policy that remain today:
  - **Non-interference** in domestic affairs of partners
  - **South-South solidarity** and shared victimization by West
  - **TAZARA Railway** as a template for future development cooperation (focused on infrastructure) that fit well with the Pan-African Socialism of Tanzania's Julius Nyerere & Zambia's Kenneth Kaunda.

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### The TAZARA Railway (AKA TANZAM & UHURU)

- The 1,800-km rail line, built 1971-75, allowed Zambian copper to reroute from White-ruled Southern Africa to independent Tanzania's port of Dar es Salaam.
- Britain, Japan, West Germany, World Bank, the U.S. and UN all declined to fund the project.
- China's largest foreign aid project at the time (\$406 Mil or \$2.7 Bil in 2020).



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### Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

- **2000** – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, repeating every 3 years
  - Participation requires accepting One China Policy (eSwatini--AKA Swaziland--only holdout)
  - Cooperation projects are largely bilateral, thus uneven
- **2006** – FOCAC elevated to Summit (attended by heads of state). China offered \$5 bil in concessional loans and opened China-Africa Development Fund (CADF) capitalized at \$1 bil
- **2009** – Concessional loans ↑ \$10 bil. China became Africa's largest trading partner.
- **2012** – Concessional loans ↑ \$20 bil, CADF ↑ to \$5 bil
- **2015 & 2018** – Concessional loans ↑ \$60 bil

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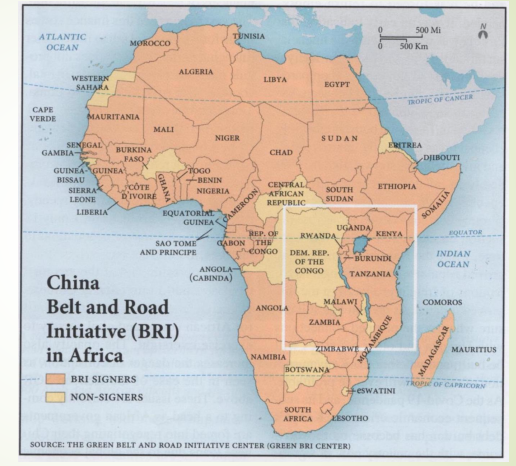
### Other Forms of China's Involvement

- **Peacekeeping** – As of August 2020, China had 2,531 soldiers under UN command (largely in Africa), the world's ninth largest contributor overall and largest among the five permanent members of the Security Council.
- **Infrastructure** – Financing for ports and railways in support of African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA, 2019) to counter colonial counter-development which resulted in intra-continental trade <1.5%
- **Education** – China has established Confucius Institutes for language and culture studies at African Universities. China is now the primary destination for African studies abroad, surpassing France and more than U.S. & U.K. combined.
- **2013 Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** – Promoting export-led growth, which transformed China

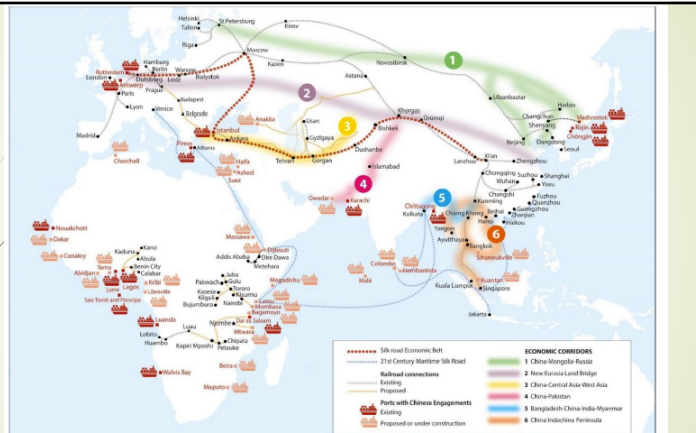
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### BRI's "Five Connectivities"

- Infrastructure connectivity
- Free trade
- Financial integration
- Policy coordination
- People-to-people exchange



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Source: OECD research from multiple sources, including: HKTDIC, MERICS, Belt and Road Center, Foreign Policy, The Diplomat, Silk Routes, State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, WWF Hong Kong (China).

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### Contrasting Development Models

WESTERN	CHINESE
Led by Private Sector	Centrally-planned
Builds on democracy, rule of law, and transparent public institutions	Builds on infrastructure to support export-led growth → Port-Park-City model of industrial development
Economies are stagnant, inequality growing	Highest rates of economic growth by any country
Tainted by colonialism and continuing racism	Successfully overcame imperialism

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### U.S.-Africa Foreign Policy Recommendations

Rather than challenging China directly, seek to rebuild U.S.-Africa relations based on areas of strength:

- **Education** – Encourage return of African students to U.S. universities with easier visa access and financial support
- **Debt** – Support further U.S. private-sector debt relief and continue push for further G20 relief
- **Services** – Focus development support on service sector and civil society rather than challenge China's infrastructure focus
- **Media diplomacy and diaspora outreach** – Build on popularity of America media and engage African diaspora in the U.S.
- **Technology** – Support matchmaking between tech sectors in African countries with Silicon Valley firms seeking to diversify tech alternatives