



**Atf Bilgisi/Citation**

**Ibn Haj Ali, Nozha. "Chinese Cooperation Policy: Its Direct-Indirect Impact on Development and Soft Power Propagation". Diplomasi ve Strateji Dergisi, c.4 s.1 (2023): 56-67.**

**Makale Bilgisi/Article Information**

**Düşünce Yazısı/Opinion Letter**

**CHINESE COOPERATION POLICY: ITS DIRECT-INDIRECT  
IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND SOFT POWER  
PROPAGATION**

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***Abstract***

*This work is to emphasize that China is strengthening its socialism with Chinese thoughts characteristics and its soft power transmission and dissemination worldwide through multi party cooperation. This paper argues that whoever is its collaborator, China can attain its target of staying committed to and jointly promoting development to bring each partnership to new heights. Through “the Belt and road” initiative, the investment in Africa and the cooperation with Arabic countries and Southeast Asia countries, China’s diplomatic soft power becomes more impressive and the world is listening more to its voice.*

***Keywords:*** China, Development, BRI, Cooperation, Soft power.

**Introduction**

In China, how do you work reflects what do you think. In Chinese philosophy, “近者悦，远者来”，these six characters said by

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Confucius Kongzi are often used to describe the joy of living under the political purity and the wise rulers, and the Chinese government has adopted this philosophy in its politics to build a big country.

In the recent years, China implemented “willing to come, wishing to stay” to do one’s utmost to satisfy people near and far. In a larger context, this proverb also reflects the path chosen by a country to rise up. In the 19th century, it was the colonial system that enabled Britain to dominate the world. However, the United States relies on a system of allies to dominate the world. So, how did China rise without seeking hegemony? In my opinion, it’s by friends and cooperators support! According to Chinese culture, Confucianism emphasize the self-cultivation and the harmonious relationship with each other. The Chinese saying goes “多一个朋友多一条路” which means the more friends has the more ways, emphasize firstly you have more chance to choose the suitable friend to help you to resolve your problem, secondly it’s easier to go ahead with more friends. Due to Chinese thoughts, China successfully adopt “going out” strategy and “the Belt and road” initiative strategy which is to expand the circle of friends, successfully participate in international cooperation forums.

In light of the report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, above all, “to hold high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics and strive in unity to build a modern socialist country in all respects”. President Xi Jinping in this report mentioned: *“We have pursued major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics on all fronts. We have promoted the development of a human community with a shared future and stood*

*firm in protecting international fairness and justice*". In fact, the Chinese government already putted all the measures into effect. Looking for diplomatic agenda of Chinese foreign affairs ministry and commerce ministry policies and services, you can understand that the Chinese government is doing great effort and determination to advance socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era through "going global" strategy which optimize the structure of opening up, improve internal and external linkages, mutual benefit, diversity, balance, security and efficiency of the open economic system, and create new advantages for participating in international economic cooperation and competition in the context of economic globalization. For example, China Railway has been following the "go out" strategy, which not only plays a great role in promoting the development of the domestic market, but also opens up an important channel for China's railway equipment to go overseas countries. As we all know, people's demand for commodities is very strong, and can transport popular products to countries and cities in large demand, transportation is very important, however, among the many modes of transportation, railway is the strongest safety performance, and is not affected by the climate, the carrying capacity is huge, and compared to the shipping, the railway "China-Europe Express" is more efficient and can save time. Moreover, China railway has improved its scientific and technological level step by step, and then integrated the strategic thought of "going out" into the whole world. "Going out" strategy is an important part of "The belt and the road" initiative.

## **1. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**

The project is made up of two major programs namely “the Silk Road Economic Belt” and “the 21st Century Maritime Silk road”, begins with overland railways and sea lanes in China, connecting trade routes throughout Asia, Africa and Europe, and will directly affect billions of people across the world. The belt focuses on bringing together China, Central Asia, Russia and Europe, linking China with the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea through Central Asia and West Asia, and connecting China with Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Indian Ocean. The road is designed to go from China’s coast to Europe through the South China Sea and the Indian on one route, and from China’s coast through the South China Sea to the South Pacific in the other. “The belt and road” has become the most important business card of China’s diplomacy. China welcomes the active participation of all countries and international and regional organizations in the Initiative. From Southeast Asia to Africa and Europe, a total of 125 countries and 29 international organizations have signed BRI cooperation documents with China as of March 27, 2019, accounting for over 40 percent of global GDP. The BRI attaches great importance to five cooperative areas which are: Policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people exchange. Statistics shows that over the past five years, the BRI has brought the world a total investment of 460 billion US dollars. In 2017, China successfully held the first Belt and Road Forum for international cooperation with participation from 100 countries and welcomed 29 international leaders from countries (including Greece, Pakistan and Russia. A mutually beneficial road

of interconnection has spread quickly. BRI is planned as one of the largest and most comprehensive development projects in human history. BRI improve the infrastructure along the routes (network of highways, railways, ports as well as provide facilities in energy, healthcare and education fields. It aims to provide assistance in areas where it is desperately needed. Allowing isolated regions to develop together and to facilitate investment, trade, and cultural exchange. Asian Infrastructural Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund are already providing financing and opportunities for investors from the private sector. “The Belt and Road Initiative” is all about opportunities to grow, to built and to prosper together, therefore, it has witnessed four major developments: the friends circle is getting bigger, the good partners number is increasing, the cooperation quality is getting higher and the prospects for development are getting better.

## **2. The Investment in Africa**

China is the largest developing country in the world, and Africa is the continent with the largest concentration of developing countries. China and Africa account for more than one third of the world’s population. Developing economy and promoting social progress are the common tasks that China and Africa face. In recent years, two-thirds of Africa’s investment aid comes from China, and the bilateral trade cooperation has changed from attaching importance to trade exchanges to attaching importance to both trade and investment, this has not only greatly promoted the development of mineral resources and infrastructure in Africa, but also greatly met the needs of China’s economic development. Christopher M. Dent in his book “China and

Africa Development Relations” (2011 remarked: “*China has sought closer economic relationships with other developing country regions and continents such as Latin America and Central Asia, but it is with Africa – the continent that hosts more developing countries than any other – that China has fostered the closest links.*”

China has improved its means of supporting investment in Africa. At present, there are concessional loans: the China-Africa Development Fund, the China-Africa Production Capacity Cooperation Fund, and the special Loan for African smes (非洲中小企业). The China-Africa Development Fund has invested a total of 4.6 billion US dollars in 91 projects in 36 African countries, which could drive more than 22 billion US dollars of Chinese investment in Africa, covering agriculture, people’s livelihood, infrastructure, mineral resources and finance. From 2000 to 2020, China helped continent build some 13000 km railways, 100000 km highways, 1000 bridges, 100 ports and more. Africa’s countless railways, ports, stadiums, conference centers, skyscrapers and infrastructure are all constructed by Chinese Companies. Many scholars may wonder, why should China spare no effort to help others? Wouldn’t it be better to use the money to help poor areas of the country, such as the western regions in China? What tangible benefits has China gained from helping Africa for so many years? First of all, we need to know that Africa is very rich in energy and mineral resources. It has 2/3 of the world’s mineral reserves. More than half of all gold and diamonds, uranium, manganese and chromium are produced in Africa. Building a deep friendship between China and Africa can open up new channels for the supply of raw

materials and the problem of being threatened by certain countries to cut off supply from time to time will be solved forever. Second, roads, bridges, airports, hotels, schools, hospitals and gymnasiums have all been built by China in Africa. Of the more than 1000 Chinese enterprises operating in Africa, 89 percent of their employees are local people, creating millions of job opportunities for them, ameliorating their life level and have stronger consumption power. In this way, China will have a large market of 1.3 billion people, and will no longer have to worry about trade negotiations or economic sanctions. It will not only improve the lives of the African people, but also ease China's overcapacity, increase foreign demand and export, and stimulate domestic employment. In addition, another very important point is the standard output (stdout. In Africa, all construction materials, power grid standards, and operational process upgrading and supporting facilities are adopted by Chinese standards. Therefore, when it comes to all kinds of electrical appliances in daily life, Africans will give priority to those made in China. At present, Huawei is the global leader in 5G, Africa then greatly benefits from 5G services. Moreover, China has carried out exchanges on agricultural science and technology with more than 140 countries and regions and promoted more than 1000 agricultural technologies in developing countries. Taking Burundi as an example, in 2018, a team of Chinese agricultural experts launched the first hybrid rice demonstration project in Burundi. The experts stayed and trained villagers. Before, the farmers didn't have adequate supplies due to poor harvests; they could only harvest less than 6 tons of grain per hectare. Now, grain output has reached nine tons per hectare, thanks to the advanced

technology brought by Chinese experts. And the farmers have been growing Chinese hybrid rice for 5 consecutive cycles, having higher yields and better incomes. Such that China has played a positive role in helping Burundi to reduce poverty, it has greatly advanced and influenced the development of various agricultural sectors in Burundi. As you can see, we can say the investment in Africa can kill multiple birds with one stone: not only harvest resources, but also China can gain friendship, solve domestic demand, foster dependence and enhance its international image.

There is an other important question we should pay attention to: why does not China use the money to help the poor areas of the country? First of all, we need to understand that China has made remarkable achievements in poverty alleviation. In the past five years, China's rural population living in poverty has been reduced by 68.53 million, a reduction of more than 70 percent. The poverty rate has dropped from 8.5 percent in 2013 to about 2 percent now. From a more intuitive perspective, with the construction of new rural areas in the last decade, every village is connected now to roads and every family is connected to the Internet, the poor areas have taken on a completely new look. To build China west, Chinese government use domestic taxes, while aiding Africa use foreign exchange reserves. The amount of domestic foreign exchange reserves is staggering, all in US dollars. If these dollars were converted into yuan (Chinese currency for domestic circulation, the central bank would have to issue a large amount of yuan, which would inevitably aggravate domestic inflation. You can't spend foreign currency at home and the dollar is falling, so investing abroad is the best way to solve this



problem. Therefore, there is no contradiction between assistance to Africa and that development China West. In Africa today, Confucius institutes teaching Chinese have sprung up, traditional Chinese culture including arts, music, sports and dance performance has spread widely in Africa, especially badminton, table tennis and kongfu. Chinese goods have entered every home, and the era of TV dramas has become popular.

### **3. The Sino-ASEAN Countries Cooperation**

China and ASEAN countries have maintained close cooperation. China-ASEAN cooperation has become the most successful and dynamic model in the Asia-Pacific region, and a vivid example of promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. In 2020, ASEAN surpassed the EU to become China's largest trading partner in goods for the first time, while China has remained ASEAN's largest trading partner for 12 years in a row. And since the outbreak of COVID-19, China has provided a steady stream of medical supplies and COVID-19 vaccines to ASEAN countries, demonstrating with concrete actions the spirit of cooperation featuring mutual help and shared future. In other hand, China actually has set up six Chinese cultural centers and more than 60 Confucius Institutes in ASEAN countries. The two sides have sent more than 200 thousands students to each other, and many students from ASEAN showed great interest in China's extensive and profound culture. In Indonesia for example, the education industry is stepping its pace of digitalization. A digital education ecosystem built by the China-Asean Information Harbor. This platform use Chinese technologies, students can learn

quite a lot in it. The platform can equip the younger generation with better technical skills to cope with challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The China-ASEAN Information Harbor has worked with ASEAN countries to launch projects in a variety of fields, such as digital government and communications. In Nepal, thanks to the Smiling Children Project which is a children school feeding program funded by the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund of China to provide meals and food to starving children in developing countries. This shows that education is regarded as a fundamental factor that generates dynamism for world economic recovery and social development.

#### **4. The Sino-Arab Cooperation**

The first China-Arab States Summit and the China-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit held in Riyadh (2022) is the first cooperation summit between China and Arab countries. In total, 34 investment agreements in sectors such as energy (green hydrogen and solar), information technology, cloud technology, transportation, logistics, pharmaceuticals, and housing and construction were signed, signaling the emergence of a new era of collaboration between China and Arab states. In fact, joint collaboration between China and the Arab states in fields such as the economy and oil/gas trade has been a milestone development. Under the current situation, to convene the first China-Arab states summit and the first China-GCC summit is of special significance and will play a strategic role in spearheading China-Arab relations and China-GCC relations in the next stage. Sino-Saudi Arabian cooperation is expected to reach new heights through

the implementation of the agreements, and help the Gulf region to overcome existing and emerging challenges on the road to building a regional community with a shared future. Moreover, President Xi's trip to the Middle East is of great strategic significance, opens a world of possibilities and deepens Saudi Arabia's involvement in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

### **Conclusion**

From 2013 to 2021, China's average contribution to global economic growth exceeded 30%, ranking first in the world. In doing business 2019 released by the World Bank in 2018, the overall ranking of China elevated by 32 places to 46th, the highest China has achieved on the list. So we see, China during the last decade through each cooperation opportunity can achieve many aims such as profounding friendship, seeding of partnership to strengthen its international trend and infrastructure construction, propagating its culture and thoughts, promoting Chinese culture with own wisdom. China's experience will be worth learning and following by every country in the future. Recently, the problems facing the world are intricate and complex. The way out of them is exactly what's the proposition is looking for which is through upholding multilateralism, achieve shared and win-win development and build a community of shared future for mankind.

The multi-cooperation between China and different countries in different fields is one of the most important Chinese government policy to promote own development and bring each partnership to new heights. In the same time, through the multi-cooperation initiatives,

the Chinese diplomatic soft power let more people understand China and learn about Chinese thoughts and characteristics in supporting each other. It's the best way to strengthen China position in the world and the power countries become more listening to its voice.