

The Political and Economic Implications of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Africa: A
Focus on Potential Dangers

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I. Introduction

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China is significantly transforming the worldwide economic and political scenario, especially through its extensive involvement with African countries. This study aims to explore the complex consequences of China's economic and political influence on a global scale, with a particular emphasis on its rapid growth in Africa. The central thesis of this paper contends that China's ascent to economic and political dominance is occurring at an unprecedented pace, surpassing other nations, and that major global players are seemingly passive spectators, allowing China to assert its influence on a global scale. China's emergence as a dominant economic force has been characterized by ambitious endeavors such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), an extensive project aimed at developing infrastructure across multiple continents, creating a new "Silk Road" that extends from Asia, Europe, and Africa. China's involvement in this initiative has established it as a significant participant, not just in local politics, but also in the complex network of international affairs. The expansion of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) into African countries prompts important inquiries regarding the character of China's impact, the implications for the autonomy of the involved nations, and the wider global power dynamics. Africa, a continent abundant in natural resources and characterized by a wide range of cultures, is currently facing the intersection of China's growing influence. The economic appeal of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which offers the prospect of infrastructure development, employment opportunities, and economic expansion, has enticed numerous African countries to engage in extensive cooperation with China. Nevertheless, this collaboration is not devoid of intricacies and possible drawbacks. The emphasis on particular case studies, such as Ethiopia and Angola, provides a focused perspective to comprehend the complex dynamics in action. A thorough analysis is required to understand the worldwide

implications of China's ascent, extending beyond the African continent. The perceived reluctance of significant global actors to react to China's rise raises profound inquiries regarding the future of international relations and the governing power structures of the world. Are established global powers relinquishing their influence to a new order, and if so, what are the consequences for the intricate equilibrium of global politics? The main aim of this thesis is to thoroughly analyze the dynamic interaction between China's economic and political power, with a specific focus on the impact of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on African countries. The thesis posits that the prevailing global order is witnessing a seismic shift, with China's economic and political clout expanding at an unprecedented rate. Despite this significant change in perspective, major global powers seem unconcerned, enabling China to gradually influence the worldwide narrative. Ultimately, this research aims to provide a detailed comprehension of China's global influence, with a specific focus on its effects in Africa. Furthermore, the methodology outlined in the following section serves as the analytical toolkit to evaluate the intricate network of economic and political consequences, providing a comprehensive assessment of China's impact on shaping the future global order, particularly in Africa.

II. Methodology

What are the political and economic consequences of China's Belt and Road Initiative for African nations? It is crucial to analyze the intricate relationship between the political and economic consequences of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in African countries. It specifically focuses on the problem of predatory loans and the potential risk of losing essential infrastructure. Additionally, it explores the unequal power dynamics and the impact of Communist ideology in the region. In order to provide a comprehensive response to these inquiries, the methodology incorporates a wide range of research approaches, including theoretical frameworks, literature

reviews, case studies, and thematic synthesis. The research commences by establishing a strong theoretical framework through a comprehensive review of existing literature. Notable scholars such as Obi and Kragelund offer valuable insights into the potential drawbacks of BRI, warning that "risks related to debt could have significant consequences for African economies and the social structure of countries."¹ This initial phase establishes the framework for the following sections, grounding the investigation in theoretical perspectives that define the complex connection between political and economic consequences.

The subsequent section analyzes the political implications of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in African nations, based on research conducted by esteemed institutions such as the Brookings Institution, International Crisis Group, and European Council on Foreign Relations. The Brookings Institution warns that BRI-related financing, if not properly managed, could heighten debt vulnerabilities in the participating countries, emphasizing the potential dangers associated with the initiative.² The analysis conducted by the International Crisis Group provides insight into the corruption risks associated with projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), emphasizing the interrelated impact of corruption and instability. Additionally, the European Council on Foreign Relations introduces the geopolitical dimension, suggesting that the BRI may have ambitions beyond economic objectives, aiming to enhance China's political influence. In the economic domain, this study employs a comprehensive approach, combining perspectives from various sources to create a cohesive understanding. The African Development Bank's positive outlook highlights the capacity of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to tackle Africa's infrastructure shortfall, estimating it to exceed \$130 billion annually.³ Nonetheless, the

¹ Cyril Obi and Peter Kragelund, "China and Africa: The Politics of Economic Relations in the 21st Century," *The China Quarterly* 232 (2017): 969-974.

² "Understanding China's Belt and Road Infrastructure Projects in Africa | Brookings."

³ "African Development Bank (AfDB)."

Center for Global Development expresses caution regarding potential debt vulnerabilities associated with BRI financing.⁴ The China-Africa Research Initiative provides a detailed perspective, indicating that investments in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) could facilitate the exchange of technological expertise, thereby fostering industrialization and economic diversification.⁵

Furthermore, the methodology includes the utilization of country case studies to offer a more comprehensive understanding of the research by providing contextual depth. Tarrósy's analysis of Ethiopia's encounter with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) underscores the crucial significance of Chinese investments in enhancing infrastructure, specifically transportation networks and industrial zones.⁶ Nevertheless, the issue of whether the debt can be sustained and the potential long-term advantages for Ethiopian workers are emphasized, highlighting the complex and varied aspects of China's engagement. Regarding Angola, Mrdaković and Todorović highlight the substantial economic significance of Africa as a result of China's involvement, specifically in terms of constructing essential infrastructure, developing ports, and engaging in trade and investment activities.⁷ The Angola Model, which involves significant loans for mining and energy projects, gives rise to concerns regarding the possibility of exploitation and economic integration driven by resources.⁸ The geopolitical ramifications, specifically in the context of competition with the United States, introduce an additional level of intricacy, necessitating a thorough analysis of the potential risks and dangers.

⁴ "Will China Play Its Part in Addressing African Debt Distress?" (CGD)

⁵ "Data: Chinese Investment in Africa — China Africa Research Initiative."

⁶ Tarrósy, István. "China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa, Debt Risk and New Dependency: The Case of Ethiopia."

⁷ Mrdaković, Sanela, and Miloš Todorović. "China - Africa Trade and Investment Relations Under The Belt And Road Initiative."

⁸ Ngundu, Marvellous, and Harold Ngalawa. "Analyzing the Evolution of China-Africa Economic Integration: A Wavelet Approach."

The concluding section consolidates the findings and tackles the overarching concerns raised by scholars. This section also highlights the importance of African nations participating in strategic negotiations, guided by a comprehensive understanding of potential risks and benefits associated with BRI projects. In summary, the methodology utilizes a comprehensive approach that combines theoretical frameworks, literature reviews, case studies, and thematic synthesis to analyze the complex connection between the political and economic consequences of China's Belt and Road Initiative in African countries. Every section offers distinct viewpoints, creating a coherent storyline that offers a detailed comprehension of the difficulties and possibilities presented by the BRI in the African context.

III. Literature Review

In recent years, there has been a significant expansion in the body of academic research that examines China's participation in Africa, with a particular emphasis on the political, economic, and social repercussions of this involvement. The authors Kalu, Farrell, and Lin investigate the influence that China's Belt and Road Initiative has had on intra-regional commerce in Africa in their essay titled "China's Belt and Road Initiative: Implications for Intraregional Trade in Africa."⁹ On the other hand, China's neo-globalization in East Africa is investigated in the article titled "Chinese Neo-Globalization in East Africa: Logics, Couplings, and Impacts" by Carmody and Murphy.¹⁰ This article focuses on China's connections with East African countries as well as the implications these connections have for economic growth, political development, and social change. Both studies highlight the complexity and potential

⁹ Kalu, Kenneth, Farrell, Carlyle, and Lin, Xiaohua. "China's Belt and Road Initiative: Implications for Intra-regional Trade in Africa."

¹⁰ Carmody, P. R., and Murphy, J. T. "Chinese Neoglobalization in East Africa: Logics, Couplings and Impacts."

consequences of China's involvement in Africa and emphasize the need for careful negotiation and further research to fully understand its ramifications.

Examining the contents of each piece of literature, comparing them to one another, and thinking about how those things relate to the BRI as a whole is necessary in order to get an appropriate comprehension of the body of work that has been published on the BRI.

The existing research on the Belt and Road Initiative in African nations reveals several significant issues related to Chinese investments in the region. There is a divergence of opinion among academics over whether or not the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) would bring about economic growth and an improvement in infrastructure in African nations. Some believe it will, while others believe it will bring about economic instability and political unrest. For instance, a paper published by the Center for Global Development warns that the BRI's debt-financed projects in Africa would result in a debt crisis, which would cause both economic and political instability. They argue again that BRI-related financing, if not properly managed, could heighten debt vulnerabilities in the participating countries.¹¹ In a similar vein, a study that was carried out by the Brookings Institution reveals that the infrastructure projects that the BRI is planning to implement in African countries might not be linked with the development priorities of the continent. The paper proposes that African nations should thoroughly examine their infrastructure needs before signing up for BRI projects to avoid ending up with infrastructure that is not usable or financially sustainable. This may be avoided by conducting an assessment as part of the process of signing up for BRI projects.

The projects that are part of the BRI, according to the arguments of some other academics, could provide African countries with an opportunity to strengthen their economic

¹¹ “Will China Play Its Part in Addressing African Debt Distress?” (CGD)

growth and improve their infrastructure. The African Development Bank published a paper stating that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has the potential to assist address Africa's infrastructure deficit, which is projected to be over \$130 billion yearly. According to the paper, investments made by the BRI in infrastructure and other sectors might lead to the creation of employment opportunities, the stimulation of economic growth, and an improvement in the standard of living experienced in African nations.¹² In a similar vein, a study that was carried out by the China-Africa Research Initiative shows that the investments made by the BRI might promote the transfer of technological know-how, which could stimulate industrialization and economic diversification in the nations that are located in Africa.¹³

In addition, many academics believe that the BRI's geopolitical goals and the impact of Communist ideology in the region could have far-reaching effects on the world. According to a paper published by the European Council on Foreign Relations, it is possible that the Belt and Road Initiative's goals are not merely economic but also geopolitical in nature. According to the paper, China might use the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to increase its political influence and threaten the global order led by the United States by using this strategy.¹⁴ In a similar vein, a study that was conducted by the International Crisis Group argues that the influence of the BRI in African countries could intensify existing conflicts as well as generate new ones. According to the findings of the study, the projects that are part of the BRI have the potential to contribute to corruption, which in turn might weaken the government and promote instability in African states.¹⁵

¹² “African Development Bank (AfDB).”

¹³ “Data: Chinese Investment in Africa — China Africa Research Initiative.”

¹⁴ Tanchum, “China’s New Military Base in Africa: What It Means for Europe and America.”

¹⁵ Crisis Group. “The Twists and Turns along China’s Belt and Road”

According to the findings of Kalu, Farrell, and Lin, the BRI has the potential to increase intra-regional commerce in Africa by reducing the costs of trade and enhancing the connectivity of infrastructure. The authors argue that the Belt and Road Initiative, although having the potential to improve regional trade and economic growth, nevertheless poses a number of substantial hurdles and concerns. The authors contend that although the BRI does have the potential to increase trade and investment in Africa, it also raises obstacles and hazards that need to be handled. Concerns have been raised over the terms of Chinese investment in addition to potential debt hardship, environmental issues, and threats to the environment. Nevertheless, they advised African states that in order to fully profit from the BRI, they needed to build their own infrastructure and industrial capacity. Many academics are concerned that the Belt and Road Initiative would give China the ability to dominate African markets, which would lead to the displacement of local enterprises and a loss of employment. Others, however, have emphasized how vital it is for African nations to successfully negotiate favorable conditions and steer clear of falling into debt traps. African nations ultimately have the ability to align infrastructure projects under the BRI to benefit their own developmental aspirations. In fact, authors claim that

“Infrastructure financing opportunities under the BRI could be used strategically to orchestrate transformation of the economies of respective African countries from dependence on minerals to high-value services and manufacturing.”¹⁶

Thus, some believe that the Belt and Road Initiative will be a good driver of economic development and integration, while others argue that it would strengthen current power dynamics and raise the danger of falling into debt traps. Therefore, in order for African nations to reap the

¹⁶ Kalu, Kenneth, Farrell, Carlyle, and Lin, Xiaohua. "China's Belt and Road Initiative: Implications for Intra-regional Trade in Africa."

benefits of participating in the initiative over the long term, they must carefully negotiate the terms of their involvement in it.

Carmody and Murphy, on the other hand, focus on the neo-globalization paradigm being implemented by China in East Africa. The authors argue that Chinese neo-globalization in the region is driven by a complex set of political, economic, and cultural factors and that it has significant implications for local economies and societies. Additionally, they claim that this phenomenon has a significant impact on the economies and societies of the local areas. The authors contend that China's strategy is defined by a neo-mercantilist logic and a concentration on bilateral partnerships, both of which prioritize economic gain over strategic objectives.¹⁷ Moreover, the writers suggest that China's approach prioritizes bilateral connections. They argue that this strategy, when combined with a propensity for large-scale infrastructure projects and a dependence on Chinese labor and money, has the potential to make the political and economic disparities that already exist in the area much worse. The article goes on to identify several possible adverse effects of China's involvement, such as the displacement of local enterprises and workers, the hardship caused by debt, and the exploitation of natural resources. They argue that China's neo-globalization has important regional effects, such as changes in trade flows, adjustments in the global economic order, and the development of infrastructure. A prime example that the authors cite is the overall debt increase in Djibouti.¹⁸

Furthermore, additional sources contribute valuable perspectives to the ongoing discourse on China's involvement in Africa. Maçães, in his work "Belt and Road: A Chinese World Order," provides insights into the broader implications of China's Belt and Road Initiative, suggesting

¹⁷ Carmody, P. R., and Murphy, J. T. "Chinese Neoglobalization in East Africa: Logics, Couplings and Impacts."

¹⁸ Ibid.

that it reflects a larger strategy to shape a Chinese-led world order.¹⁹ His analysis goes beyond the immediate economic considerations, delving into the geopolitical and ideological dimensions of China's global ambitions. Maçães contends, "The BRI is not just an infrastructure plan but a way of ordering the world according to Chinese preferences."²⁰ This perspective adds a layer of complexity to the understanding of the Belt and Road Initiative, emphasizing its role in shaping the global power structure.

Eyck Freymann's "One Belt One Road: Chinese Power Meets The World" offers a contemporary analysis of China's power projection through the Belt and Road Initiative, shedding light on its global implications.²¹ Freymann explores the multifaceted nature of China's influence, stating, "The Belt and Road Initiative is a vehicle for exporting China's governance model and influence around the world."²² This highlights the interconnectedness of economic initiatives with broader political objectives. Freymann's work provides a nuanced understanding of how China leverages economic engagements to extend its influence on a global scale, emphasizing the strategic dimensions embedded in the Belt and Road Initiative.

In a historical context, Peter Nolan's "Is China Buying The World?" contributes to the discourse by examining China's economic expansion strategies, providing insights into the origins of the Belt and Road Initiative.²³ Nolan traces China's economic activities and states, "China is pursuing a strategy that aims at global economic dominance, and its scale is breath-taking."²⁴ By delving into historical patterns, Nolan elucidates the continuity of China's economic ambitions and underscores the significance of the Belt and Road Initiative within this

¹⁹ Maçães, Bruno. *Belt and Road: A Chinese World Order*.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ Freymann, Eyck. *One Belt One Road: Chinese Power Meets The World*.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Nolan, Peter. *Is China Buying The World?*

²⁴ Nolan, Peter. *Is China Buying The World?*

broader strategy. His work serves as a foundation for understanding the long-term implications of China's economic activities and their role in shaping a new global economic order.

The convergence of these perspectives from Maçães, Freymann, and Nolan adds depth to the discussion on China's Belt and Road Initiative. Maçães introduces the notion that the initiative extends beyond infrastructure development, embodying a larger vision of global order. Freymann complements this by emphasizing the initiative as a tool for exporting China's governance model, highlighting the intertwining of economic and political objectives. Nolan's historical analysis further contextualizes China's pursuit of global economic dominance, providing a lens through which to understand the Belt and Road Initiative's place within China's broader strategic ambitions.

Maçães, Freymann, and Nolan collectively emphasize the geopolitical and strategic dimensions of the Belt and Road Initiative. Maçães suggests that the initiative is a manifestation of China's desire to reorder the world according to its preferences, elevating it beyond a mere economic venture. Freymann expands on this by illustrating how the initiative serves as a vehicle for extending China's influence globally, making it an integral component of China's broader governance model. Nolan, with a historical perspective, underscores the ambitious scale of China's strategy, framing the Belt and Road Initiative as part of a comprehensive approach to achieving global economic dominance.

Moreover, Maçães, Freymann, and Nolan collectively highlight the potential implications of China's global economic activities on African nations. Maçães's emphasis on China's global vision prompts considerations of how African nations fit into this reordering of the world. Freymann's exploration of China's governance model exportation raises questions about the impact on local political landscapes, especially in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative

projects in Africa. Nolan's historical analysis provides a backdrop for understanding the evolution of China's economic strategies and its contemporary manifestation in Africa through the Belt and Road Initiative.

A crucial dimension revealed by the literature is the divergence in academic perspectives on the BRI's economic outcomes for African countries. While some scholars express concerns about debt vulnerabilities resulting from BRI-financed projects, others see opportunities for addressing Africa's infrastructure deficit and stimulating economic growth. The Center for Global Development warns of potential debt crises, cautioning yet again that BRI-related financing, if not properly managed, could heighten debt vulnerabilities in the participating countries.²⁵ Conversely, the African Development Bank sees the BRI as a potential solution to Africa's infrastructure challenges, projecting over \$130 billion yearly for the continent.²⁶ This divergence underscores the complexity of assessing the initiative's overall impact and calls for a nuanced understanding of the varied perspectives. Furthermore, the literature highlights the geopolitical dimensions of the BRI, suggesting that its goals may extend beyond economic considerations. The European Council on Foreign Relations posits that the BRI might serve as a tool for China to increase its political influence globally and more specifically challenge the existing global order.²⁷ Similarly, the International Crisis Group warns of the potential for the BRI to intensify conflicts and contribute to corruption, leading to government instability in African states.²⁸ These geopolitical considerations introduce an additional layer of complexity, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive analysis that goes beyond economic aspects.

²⁵ “Will China Play Its Part in Addressing African Debt Distress?” (CGD)

²⁶ “African Development Bank (AfDB).”

²⁷ Tanchum, “China’s New Military Base in Africa: What It Means for Europe and America.”

²⁸ Crisis Group. “The Twists and Turns along China’s Belt and Road”

Adding depth to the existing research, Maçaes, Freymann, and Nolan offer unique perspectives on the BRI's global implications. Maçaes introduces the idea that the BRI represents more than just an infrastructure plan, serving as a mechanism for China to shape a new world order according to its preferences.²⁹ Freymann emphasizes the multifaceted nature of China's influence, portraying the BRI as a vehicle for exporting China's governance model and influence worldwide.³⁰ Nolan's historical analysis contextualizes China's pursuit of global economic dominance, framing the BRI as part of a comprehensive strategy.³¹ These additional insights enrich the discussion, emphasizing the intricate interplay between economic, geopolitical, and historical factors. In conclusion, the synthesis of perspectives from Kalu, Farrell, and Lin, Carmody and Murphy, and additional insights from Maçaes, Freymann, and Nolan underscores the multi-dimensional nature of China's involvement in Africa through the BRI. The literature review reveals a dynamic and evolving landscape, with divergent opinions and complex considerations. As debates continue, it is evident that a comprehensive understanding of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa necessitates careful examination, critical comparison, and an appreciation of the multifaceted dimensions presented by various scholars. Future research should build upon these diverse perspectives to provide a more holistic understanding of the long-term implications of China's engagement in Africa through the Belt and Road Initiative.

IV. Political Consequences of the Belt and Road Initiative in Africa

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) implemented by China in Africa has significant political ramifications, as it exerts influence on the stability and effectiveness of governments throughout the continent. Expanding upon the findings of the Brookings Institution's research on infrastructure projects, the potential ramifications for the stability of the government become

²⁹ Maçaes, Bruno. *Belt and Road: A Chinese World Order*.

³⁰ Freymann, Eyck. *One Belt One Road: Chinese Power Meets The World*

³¹ Nolan, Peter. *Is China Buying The World?*

increasingly evident. The study highlights the reliance on debt financing for BRI projects and expresses apprehension about the potential for economic and political instability in African nations as a result of this approach. This observation emphasizes the intricate connection between economic activities within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and their significant impact on political environments.

Furthermore, the study conducted by the International Crisis Group acknowledges the corruption risks linked to BRI projects and emphasizes the potential for escalating conflicts in African nations. According to their analysis, the extensive projects associated with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) could potentially facilitate corruption, leading to a deterioration of government institutions and the promotion of instability. The projects that are part of the BRI have the potential to contribute to corruption, which in turn might weaken the government and incite instability in African states.³² The simultaneous effect on corruption and instability prompts important inquiries regarding the governance ramifications of BRI projects and necessitates a thorough comprehension of their outcomes.

Building upon these observations, the European Council on Foreign Relations provides a geopolitical viewpoint, indicating that the objectives of the Belt and Road Initiative go beyond economic factors. Based on their analysis, it is possible that the objectives of the BRI extend beyond purely economic goals and also encompass geopolitical considerations. China might very well use the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to increase its political influence and threaten the global order led by the United States by using this strategy.³³ The geopolitical aspect of the BRI introduces a level of intricacy to its influence on governments, prompting inquiries about the congruence of economic initiatives with wider political aspirations.

³² Crisis Group. "The Twists and Turns along China's Belt and Road"

³³ Tanchum, "China's New Military Base in Africa: What It Means for Europe and America."

Furthermore, Maçaes' analysis of the Belt and Road Initiative as a manifestation of China's global ambitions sheds light on the ideological aspects of China's pursuit of a Chinese world order. Maçaes contends, "The BRI is not just an infrastructure plan but a way of ordering the world according to Chinese preferences."³⁴ This ideological standpoint adds another dimension to the impact of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on African governments, implying that the initiative is a component of a wider plan to mold the global order according to Chinese preferences.

Eyck Freymann's analysis in "One Belt One Road: Chinese Power Meets The World" supports this idea by highlighting the Belt and Road Initiative as a means of spreading China's governance model worldwide. Freymann argues, "The Belt and Road Initiative is a vehicle for exporting China's governance model and influence around the world."³⁵ This highlights the interdependence of economic initiatives with wider political goals, offering a sophisticated comprehension of how the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) impacts governance systems in African countries. In addition, Peter Nolan's book, "Is China Buying The World?", provides additional insight into China's economic expansion strategies by placing them in historical context. Nolan's analysis of China's quest for global economic supremacy offers valuable insights into the origins of the Belt and Road Initiative before it became established. Nolan states that "China is pursuing a strategy that aims at global economic dominance, and its scale is breath-taking."³⁶ Examining China's economic activities through a historical perspective helps us comprehend the lasting effects they have on shaping a new global economic order. This, in turn, may have significant implications for governance structures in African nations.

³⁴ Maçaes, Bruno. Belt and Road: A Chinese World Order.

³⁵ Freymann, Eyck. One Belt One Road: Chinese Power Meets The World

³⁶ Nolan, Peter. Is China Buying The World?

To summarize, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Africa has complex political implications as it involves managing the intricate relationship between economic activities and political environments. The Brookings Institution highlights the potential dangers of debt-financed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects, emphasizing the need for meticulous financial management to avoid possible economic and political instability.³⁷ The simultaneous and interconnected effects of corruption and instability result from the implementation of large-scale Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects. The study emphasizes the significant challenge that these projects pose to governance in African states.³⁸ The European Council on Foreign Relations proposes the inclusion of a geopolitical aspect, indicating that the objectives of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) may go beyond economic considerations. This emphasizes the importance of aligning economic projects with wider political strategies.³⁹ Maçaes' examination of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a Chinese global system introduces an ideological aspect that is essential for understanding the broader motivations and their impact on governance structures.⁴⁰ Freymann underscores the interdependence of economic endeavors and political goals, highlighting the Belt and Road Initiative's (BRI) contribution to expanding China's sway over governance systems in African countries.⁴¹ Nolan's historical analysis offers a chronological context, enhancing our overall comprehension of China's economic endeavors and their lasting effects on governance systems in African nations.⁴² Essentially, as African nations navigate this transformative involvement, it is crucial to have a sophisticated understanding of political complexities. To ensure the positive impact of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on governance

³⁷ “Understanding China’s Belt and Road Infrastructure Projects in Africa | Brookings.”

³⁸ Crisis Group. “The Twists and Turns along China’s Belt and Road”

³⁹ Tanchum, “China’s New Military Base in Africa: What It Means for Europe and America.”

⁴⁰ Maçaes, Bruno. Belt and Road: A Chinese World Order.

⁴¹ Freymann, Eyck. One Belt One Road: Chinese Power Meets The World

⁴² Nolan, Peter. Is China Buying The World?

structures, it is crucial to protect against potential risks, coordinate economic projects with broader political strategies, and comprehend the ideological foundations. To effectively address potential political challenges and promote sustainable development, it is crucial to adopt a cautious and well-informed strategy, considering the immense economic potential at hand.

V. Economic Effects of the Belt and Road Initiative in Africa

The economic consequences of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Africa have attracted significant attention from scholars, who have conducted numerous studies to explore the potential benefits and difficulties associated with this extensive project. The changing economic environment in Africa, influenced by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), will have a crucial impact on shaping the continent's economic prospects. An exhaustive analysis of primary sources provides a detailed understanding of the economic consequences, emphasizing both the favorable contributions and concerns associated with China's increased engagement with African countries.

The African Development Bank highlights the significant economic benefits that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) can bring to African countries, especially in addressing the continent's considerable lack of infrastructure. As per the bank's assessment, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) possesses the capacity to foster economic expansion, create job prospects, and enhance the overall quality of life in African nations. In their own words, "The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has the potential to assist address Africa's infrastructure deficit, which is projected to be over \$130 billion yearly."⁴³ This optimistic perspective is consistent with the idea that focused infrastructure development can act as a catalyst for broader economic progress.

The China-Africa Research Initiative at Johns Hopkins University provides a thorough examination of the economic effects of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with particular

⁴³ "African Development Bank (AfDB)."

emphasis on the transfer of technological knowledge and the promotion of economic diversification. The study suggests that investments in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have the capacity to enable the exchange of technological knowledge, thus promoting the development of industries and the expansion of economic activities in African countries. In their own words, "Investments made by the BRI might promote the transfer of technological know-how, which could stimulate industrialization and economic diversification in the nations that are located in Africa."⁴⁴ This viewpoint emphasizes the wider economic change that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) could stimulate.

Lucciarini's analysis of the political economy of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Ethiopia and Kenya enhances our comprehension of the economic effects by introducing supplementary perspectives. Lucciarini's analysis of these particular case studies offers valuable insights into how the economic effects of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are influenced by the pre-existing political and economic systems of the countries receiving the investments. In their own words, "This paper investigates the political economy of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Africa, with a focus on Ethiopia and Kenya."⁴⁵ The economic effects of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Africa are complex, encompassing both potential advantages and difficulties that depend on different factors.

The African Development Bank's focus on infrastructure development as a catalyst for economic growth is in line with the overarching belief that strategic investments in transportation, energy, and communication can establish the foundation for sustainable development.⁴⁶ The China-Africa Research Initiative's focus on technological know-how transfer

⁴⁴ "The Political Economy of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa: Evidence from Ethiopia and Kenya." Lucciarini

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ ("African Development Bank (AfDB)."

adds another layer to the economic impacts, suggesting that the BRI could contribute not only to immediate economic growth but also to the long-term modernization of African economies.⁴⁷

This is consistent with the overarching objectives of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to promote long-lasting partnerships and facilitate the exchange of knowledge, in addition to generating immediate economic advantages.

The Wavelet Approach developed by Ngundu and Ngalawa offers a distinctive analytical tool that allows for a more detailed examination of economic trends, which may not be captured by conventional analyses. The study offers a detailed analysis of the extent of Chinese investments in various sectors, shedding light on the diverse economic effects of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in different areas.⁴⁸ Lucciarini's analysis of political economy provides a valuable perspective by emphasizing the interconnectedness of economic and political systems. This viewpoint emphasizes that the economic effects cannot be separated from the wider political and institutional framework of the countries receiving the impacts.⁴⁹ Nevertheless, amidst these potential economic advantages, it is imperative to acknowledge the apprehensions raised by other studies. The Center for Global Development cautions about possible debt vulnerabilities linked to financing related to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), underscoring the importance of prudent management to prevent economic instability.⁵⁰ This cautionary note serves as a reminder that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) offers economic prospects, but also presents challenges that need to be carefully managed.

⁴⁷ "Data: Chinese Investment in Africa — China Africa Research Initiative."

⁴⁸ Green Finance & Development Center. "Volume of Chinese investments in countries of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2021, by sector (in billion U.S. dollars)."

⁴⁹ "The Political Economy of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa: Evidence from Ethiopia and Kenya." Lucciarini

⁵⁰ "Will China Play Its Part in Addressing African Debt Distress?" (CGD)

The economic effects of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Africa are complex and diverse, creating a nuanced terrain of possible advantages and difficulties. The African Development Bank's positive viewpoint, highlighting the BRI's ability to tackle Africa's infrastructure shortfall and promote economic expansion, is in line with the overall narrative that focused investments can facilitate sustainable development.⁵¹ The China-Africa Research Initiative enhances this account by emphasizing the possibility of transferring technological expertise and achieving economic diversification through investments in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This underscores the initiative's contribution to cultivating long-lasting partnerships and facilitating the exchange of knowledge.⁵² Furthermore, it is crucial to comprehend alternative methodologies, such as the pioneering Wavelet Approach developed by Ngundu and Ngalawa. This approach provides a distinctive analytical perspective to examine the magnitude of Chinese investments, enhancing our comprehension of economic patterns and trends.⁵³ Lucciarini's political economy analysis delves into specific case studies in Ethiopia and Kenya, elucidating the intricate interconnections among economic policies, political structures, and the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).⁵⁴

This analysis highlights the importance of considering the political and institutional contexts of recipient countries when assessing economic impacts. It emphasizes the interconnectedness between economic and political structures. The dynamic economic environment in Africa, impacted by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), will have a crucial impact on determining the future of the continent. Furthermore, it is crucial for the international

⁵¹ "African Development Bank (AfDB)."

⁵² Maçaes, Bruno. Belt and Road: A Chinese World Order.

⁵³ Ngundu, Marvellous, and Harold Ngalawa. "Analyzing the Evolution of China-Africa Economic Integration: A Wavelet Approach."

⁵⁴ "The Political Economy of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa: Evidence from Ethiopia and Kenya." Lucciarini

community to stay alert and acknowledge that China's impact in Africa, although it offers economic advantages, also brings about challenges that go beyond the economic aspects limited to China and Africa. These challenges have an influence on the global economic system as a whole. As Africa navigates this rapidly changing environment, it is essential to adopt a well-planned and knowledgeable strategy to ensure that the economic effects of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are in line with the overarching objectives of sustainable and inclusive development. This approach will help avoid potential risks that could undermine the stability and independence of African nations in the international arena.

VI. Ethiopia Case Study

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been a significant economic and political driver for African countries over the past few years. The project offers various benefits to the countries of Africa, including the growth of their economies, the creation of new jobs, and the development of the infrastructure that already exists. But the BRI has also brought about political and economic consequences that need to be investigated, notably in terms of the influence on the impact on the sovereignty of African countries and the overall financial stability of the continent as a whole. In the case study that Tarrósy undertook on China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa, these implications are investigated farther and in greater depth than ever before. Tarrósy (2023) offers insights into Ethiopia's experience with the BRI, stating, "Ethiopia is a key player in China's engagement in Africa, with significant investments in infrastructure projects, including railways, roads, and telecommunications."⁵⁵ Although these investments offer potential for growth, they also give rise to important concerns regarding the conditions and consequences of Chinese participation.

⁵⁵ Tarrósy, István. "China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa, Debt Risk and New Dependency: The Case of Ethiopia."

China's involvement in Ethiopia has centered around the development of infrastructure, which is in line with the broader objectives of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Tarrósy (2023) notes, "Chinese investments have played a pivotal role in Ethiopia's efforts to upgrade its infrastructure, with a particular emphasis on transportation networks and industrial zones."⁵⁶ Constructing railways and roads can undoubtedly improve connectivity and boost economic activity. However, it is important to consider the terms of these projects, including financing arrangements and the potential long-term consequences for Ethiopia. A notable factor in China's engagement with Ethiopia is the financing model utilized. Tarrósy (2023) highlights, "China has provided substantial loans for Ethiopian infrastructure projects, contributing to the nation's development but also raising concerns about debt sustainability."⁵⁷ The extensive loans provided by China to Ethiopia have raised concerns about the potential risk of debt distress. This situation highlights the importance of conducting a thorough evaluation of the economic implications associated with these financial arrangements. China's involvement in Ethiopia has had significant socio-economic impacts. Tarrósy (2023) observes, "Chinese investments in Ethiopia have generated employment opportunities and contributed to skill development, but questions remain about the long-term benefits for Ethiopian workers and the overall impact on the country's economy."⁵⁸ These factors bring up important questions about the long-term viability and fairness of the growth driven by Chinese investments. It highlights the need to assess not just the size, but also the value of the advantages that the Ethiopian people are receiving.

China's growing impact in Ethiopia extends beyond just economic aspects. Tarrósy (2023) points out, "China's growing presence in Ethiopia has geopolitical implications, with the

⁵⁶ Tarrósy, István. "China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa, Debt Risk and New Dependency: The Case of Ethiopia."

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

nation becoming a significant partner in China's Belt and Road Initiative and a key player in the strategic Horn of Africa region."⁵⁹ The intricate geopolitical dynamics surrounding China's involvement in Ethiopia introduce a heightened level of complexity, necessitating a comprehensive comprehension of the wider strategic consequences for both China and Ethiopia, as well as the neighboring region. Ultimately, the situation in Ethiopia under the Belt and Road Initiative serves as a prime example of the advantages and obstacles that arise from China's involvement in African countries. Chinese investments play a significant role in boosting infrastructure development and driving economic growth. However, it is crucial to carefully evaluate the long-term consequences for Ethiopia and its people, taking into account concerns about debt sustainability, socio-economic impacts, and of course, geopolitical considerations.

VII. Angola Case Study

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has significantly raised the economic importance of Africa, especially Angola, due to China's extensive engagement in the region. Nevertheless, there is an increasing apprehension regarding the possible exploitation inherent in this association, specifically demonstrated by the Angola Model. Mrdaković and Todorović (2023) highlight that "Africa plays a prominent role in one of the key BRI corridors, which explains China's active engagement on the continent through the construction of hard infrastructure, port development and trade and investment activities."⁶⁰ China's involvement in Africa grants it substantial economic leverage, although it also prompts concerns regarding the lasting impact on African countries.

⁵⁹ Tarrósy, István. "China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa, Debt Risk and New Dependency: The Case of Ethiopia."

⁶⁰ Mrdaković, Sanela, and Miloš Todorović. "China - Africa Trade and Investment Relations Under The Belt And Road Initiative."

China's diverse economic engagements in Africa, encompassing trade, investment, and infrastructure development, have established it as the largest bilateral commercial partner and foreign direct investor on the continent.⁶¹ The remarkable expansion of commerce between China and Africa, amounting to 251.3 billion USD in 2021, is undeniably significant. Nevertheless, the level of anxiety intensifies when taking into account the mounting debt burden that African nations are incurring. Ngundu and Ngalawa (2023) underscore this worry, stating, "African countries borrowed 160 billion USD from China between 2000-2020, with substantial allocations to transport and energy projects, particularly in Angola, raising questions about the sustainability of such debt."⁶² China has made substantial investments in important industries such as transportation and energy. Angola has managed to get a big share of the 160 billion USD allocated for mining and energy projects.⁶³ The development of infrastructure, particularly ports and railways, is in line with the objectives of the Belt and Road Initiative. However, the terms and conditions associated with Chinese loans, referred to as the Angola Model, expose a concerning element. Ngundu and Ngalawa (2023) caution that "the Angola Model is primarily driving China-Africa economic integration, challenging the notion that it primarily aims at enhancing hard infrastructure in Africa."⁶⁴ This gives rise to apprehensions regarding the underlying intentions of China's involvement, suggesting a possible emphasis on the exploitation of resources rather than sincere efforts towards development.

⁶¹ Mrdaković, Sanela, and Miloš Todorović. "China - Africa Trade and Investment Relations Under The Belt And Road Initiative."

⁶² Ngundu, Marvellous, and Harold Ngalawa. "Analyzing the Evolution of China-Africa Economic Integration: A Wavelet Approach."

⁶³ Mrdaković, Sanela, and Miloš Todorović. "China - Africa Trade and Investment Relations Under The Belt And Road Initiative."

⁶⁴ Ngundu, Marvellous, and Harold Ngalawa. "Analyzing the Evolution of China-Africa Economic Integration: A Wavelet Approach."

The geopolitical ramifications of China's engagement in Africa, particularly in rivalry with the United States, provide an additional level of apprehension. Mrdaković and Todorović (2023) point out, "Rising Chinese and Russian influence in Africa have prompted the US to adopt a new strategy for Sub-Saharan Africa in 2022."⁶⁵ The escalating competition among prominent global powers in Africa could have profound implications for African nations ensnared in the conflict. According to Ngundu and Ngalawa (2023), their wavelet analysis indicates that China-Africa economic integration, specifically through the Angola Model, may prioritize resource extraction rather than authentic infrastructural development. They argue, "it is plausible to argue that China-Africa economic integration is perpetuated to exploit natural resources rather than to enhance hard infrastructure development in Africa, as purported in the literature."⁶⁶ This disclosure necessitates meticulous examination of the potential hazards and perils linked to the strengthening connections between China and Africa.

Ultimately, although the Belt and Road Initiative presents prospects for progress, the increasing apprehension regarding Chinese exploitation in Angola and other regions highlights the imperative for African nations to use prudence in their engagement with this partnership. The Angola Model, which prioritizes loans based on natural resources, exposes a potentially exploitative aspect that may have long-term consequences for Africa's economic and geopolitical situation. To ensure the protection of African nations' interests and well-being amidst changing global dynamics, it is crucial to have a comprehensive understanding of this intricate relationship.

VIII. Implications for African Nations

⁶⁵ Mrdaković, Sanela, and Miloš Todorović. "China - Africa Trade and Investment Relations Under The Belt And Road Initiative."

⁶⁶ Mrdaković, Sanela, and Miloš Todorović. "China - Africa Trade and Investment Relations Under The Belt And Road Initiative."

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) implemented by China in Africa has generated extensive discourse regarding its ramifications for the participating nations. Scholars have expressed a significant concern regarding the possibility of falling into debt traps and the displacement of local businesses. They emphasize that African nations must engage in negotiations to secure favorable conditions in order to achieve sustainable development. Utilizing a wide range of sources, the subsequent analysis examines these concerns and emphasizes the significance of well-informed negotiations for African nations.

The literature extensively discusses the concerns regarding debt traps and the associated risks. Scholars Obi and Kragelund stress the potential pitfalls, cautioning that "debt-related risks may have serious implications for African economies and the social fabric of countries."⁶⁷ The Green Finance & Development Center adds to this story by emphasizing the magnitude of Chinese investments in countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), underscoring the importance of thoughtful deliberation to avoid debt-related difficulties.⁶⁸ This is consistent with the views expressed by Taylor and Zajontz, who contend that Africa's involvement in the BRI could potentially perpetuate reliance on external forces if not effectively controlled.⁶⁹

The Sri Lanka case exemplifies the potential ramifications of challenges stemming from debt. Due to its inability to repay the Chinese loans obtained for the construction of the Hambantota Port, the Sri Lankan government was compelled to lease the port to a state-owned Chinese company. This particular case is referenced by numerous sources as a demonstration of

⁶⁷ Cyril Obi and Peter Kragelund, "China and Africa: The Politics of Economic Relations in the 21st Century," *The China Quarterly* 232 (2017): 969-974.

⁶⁸ Green Finance & Development Center. "Volume of Chinese investments in countries of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2021, by sector (in billion U.S. dollars)."

⁶⁹ Taylor, Ian, and Zajontz, Tim. "In a Fix: Africa's Place in the Belt and Road Initiative and the Reproduction of Dependency."

the hazards linked to Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects. The Green Finance & Development Center, providing a visual representation of Chinese investments in BRI countries, notes that China now has military control of one of their ports and underscores the financial implications of China establishing a military presence on the continent.⁷⁰ The Sri Lanka situation highlights the imperative for African nations to engage in negotiations with a vigilant recognition of the possible enduring ramifications of debt agreements.

In order to address these concerns, scholars highlight the significance of African nations engaging in negotiations that are advantageous for their development. Ngundu and Ngalawa, in their analysis of the evolution of China-Africa economic integration, highlight the necessity for African countries to "negotiate terms that ensure the benefits from economic cooperation with China outweigh the costs."⁷¹ Similarly, Selby and Saetersdal stress the need for careful consideration, stating, "African nations should negotiate favorable terms to ensure that the infrastructure projects align with their development priorities."⁷² This highlights the autonomy that African nations have in influencing their involvement with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), emphasizing that discussions should be guided by a comprehensive comprehension of their own developmental requirements.

The literature frequently discusses predatory loans and the potential for individuals to become trapped in cycles of debt. The Center for Global Development's concerns regarding potential debt crises arising from Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects in Africa underscore the imperative for strategic negotiations. The Brookings Institution contributes to this discussion by

⁷⁰ Green Finance & Development Center. "Volume of Chinese investments in countries of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2021, by sector (in billion U.S. dollars)."

⁷¹ Ngundu, Marvellous, and Harold Ngalawa. "Analyzing the Evolution of China-Africa Economic Integration: A Wavelet Approach."

⁷² Selby, Andrew, and Ole Martin Saetersdal. "China's Belt and Road Initiative and Africa's Infrastructure Deficit: A Review of the Impact and Influences of a New Trans-Regional Development Agenda."

highlighting that the infrastructure initiatives proposed under the BRI should be in accordance with the developmental objectives of the continent.⁷³ African nations can minimize the risk of falling into debt traps and ensure that infrastructure projects contribute positively to their economic and social progress by negotiating terms that prioritize alignment with their developmental needs.

Conclusively, the ramifications of China's Belt and Road Initiative for African nations are intricate, involving both prospects and hazards. The necessity for African nations to engage in informed and strategic negotiations is underscored by concerns regarding debt traps, displacement of local enterprises, and the potential replication of dependency patterns. According to numerous scholars, in order to negotiate advantageous terms, one must possess a thorough comprehension of the potential hazards and advantages linked to BRI projects. African nations can strategically navigate these negotiations to effectively leverage the potential advantages of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) while ensuring the protection of their economic stability and development objectives.

IX. Conclusion

Through an extensive investigation into the political and economic ramifications of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for African states, several significant discoveries arise, providing insight into the complex dynamics involved. The research commenced by establishing a theoretical framework, in which researchers such as Obi and Kragelund issued warnings on the potential drawbacks, highlighting the substantial perils associated with debt for African countries. Throughout the investigation, experts from the Brookings Institution, International Crisis Group, and the European Council on Foreign Relations highlighted the risks associated

⁷³ Bhattacharya, Amar, David Dollar, Rush Doshi, Ryan Hass, Homi Kharas, Mireya Solís, Jonathan Stromseth. "China's Belt and Road: The New Geopolitics of Global

with financing related to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), including corruption and geopolitical implications that go beyond economic objectives.

In terms of the economy, a subtle approach uncovered different viewpoints. The African Development Bank acknowledges the potential of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to alleviate Africa's infrastructure shortfall. However, the Center for Global Development expresses apprehensions on the risks of increased debt related to the BRI. The China-Africa Research Initiative introduces a level of intricacy, indicating that investments made under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) could potentially facilitate the transfer of technology, thereby fostering industrialization and boosting economic diversification. The countries case studies offered a comprehensive understanding, emphasizing the varied effects within Ethiopia and Angola. China's investments in Ethiopia's infrastructure projects have offered prospective advantages, but have also prompted worries regarding the sustainability of the country's debt and the long-term benefits for its workforce. The Angola Model's focus on providing financing for mining and energy projects in Angola has raised concerns about the potential economic integration driven by resources and the geopolitical consequences that may arise.

The amalgamation of these discoveries portrays an intricate portrayal, underscoring the dichotomous character of China's impact - presenting economic prospects while presenting notable hazards, notably in relation to debt and the possible exploitation of resources. In order to prevent the risk of being taken advantage of, African countries involved in Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects should have strong systems for managing their debt, guaranteeing that the advantages to their economy are greater than the possible drawbacks. Engaging in effective loan negotiations and prioritizing open financial procedures can help reduce the likelihood of getting trapped in debt. It is crucial to acknowledge the significant geopolitical consequences of

China's involvement. African nations should employ a diplomatic strategy that protects their national interests, while considering the potential repercussions of forming strong alliances with a singular dominant global power.

Although this thesis examines key elements of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Africa, there are still opportunities for further investigation, which encompass several areas such as: 1. Conducting a comprehensive examination of the long-term socio-economic effects of BRI projects, particularly in relation to employment generation, skill enhancement, and the overall welfare of local communities, will yield significant insights. 2. Comparative analyses conducted across several African countries can provide a detailed comprehension of how the influence of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) differs depending on contextual elements, governance systems, and economic environments. 3. In light of the growing international emphasis on sustainable development, future study should investigate the environmental consequences of BRI projects in Africa, specifically evaluating their effects on local ecosystems and biodiversity.

The final line of this study unequivocally demonstrates that China's Belt and Road Initiative poses a significant and tangible risk to the global economic and political framework. The significant and potent control imposed by China over Africa via the Belt and Road Initiative underscores the pressing necessity for a reevaluation of global power dynamics. With Africa's growing integration into China's economic network, it is crucial to acknowledge the potential consequences for global geopolitics. The Belt and Road Initiative transcends being only an economic endeavor; it is a calculated strategy that establishes China as a formidable participant in global affairs. The international community must acknowledge and confront the consequences of China's growing power in order to establish a fair and enduring global system.

Bibliography

“African Development Bank (AfDB).” Africa Research Bulletin: Economic, Financial and Technical Series 46, no. 12 (February 2010).

The African Development Bank has produced a publication that is a component of the Africa Research Bulletin. This publication provides economic, financial, and technological insights that are pertinent to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It offers an early view on the economic environment of Africa as well as the possible ramifications of Chinese participation.

Bhattacharya, Amar, David Dollar, Rush Doshi, Ryan Hass, Homi Kharas, Mireya Solís, Jonathan Stromseth. "China's Belt and Road: The New Geopolitics of Global Infrastructure Development. A Brookings Interview." Edited by Ryan Hass, Bruce Jones, and Jennifer Mason. Brookings Institution, April 2019. Accessed September 23, 2023.

This Brookings Institution interview sheds light on the geopolitical implications of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The interview, which was put together by a panel of specialists including Amar Bhattacharya, David Dollar, Rush Doshi, Ryan Hass, Homi Kharas, Mireya Sols, and Jonathan Stromseth, captures varied perspectives on the BRI's worldwide impact. Bruce Jones and Jennifer Mason conducted the research, which looks into the multidimensional character of China's enormous infrastructure building project. The interview progresses as a thorough examination of the rationale behind the Belt and Road Initiative and its ramifications for the global geopolitical landscape. Contributors examine China's role in promoting global infrastructure development, offering diverse viewpoints on the BRI's economic, political, and geopolitical components. The interview provides a well-rounded knowledge of the complicated issues surrounding the BRI by

featuring a panel of experts from various backgrounds. The interview was conducted in April 2019, at a point in the Belt and Road Initiative's growth when its global significance was becoming more obvious. The authors analyze the geopolitical ramifications of the Belt and Road Initiative, offering light on how China's strategic infrastructure projects have the potential to transform global power dynamics. This conversation benefits from the Brookings Institution's reputation for careful analysis and informed commentary as a product of the renowned think tank. The contributors' diversified knowledge provides a balanced and informed examination of the geopolitical dimensions of the Belt and Road Initiative. This interview is a valuable and topical resource for scholars, policymakers, and citizens interested in the geopolitical aspects of China's Belt and Road Initiative. It is a useful resource for individuals looking for a thorough and expert-driven study of one of the most significant global infrastructure projects in recent history.

Brookings. "Understanding China's Belt and Road Infrastructure Projects in Africa | Brookings," September 7, 2023.

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/understanding-chinas-belt-and-road-infrastructure-projects-in-africa/>

This Brookings piece explores China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) critically, with an emphasis on its African infrastructure projects. The article begins with historical backdrop, outlining how President Xi Jinping's 2013 initiative grew into the Belt and Road Initiative, which includes the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The fundamental motives for the BRI are discussed, with an emphasis on its global scale and the junction of China's economic and strategic goals.

The article emphasizes that, despite its apparent regional focus, the Belt and Road Initiative is a global endeavor impacted by China's economic and strategic goals. It explores how a successful BRI may improve China's commerce, economic linkages, and diversification of energy resources. While popular among poorer countries with poor infrastructure, the BRI has been criticized by advanced industrial economies. Concerns are raised regarding transparency, the export of China's authoritarian model, commercial lending terms that lead to debt problems, and insufficient environmental and social protections. The article's main focus is on the execution of BRI infrastructure projects throughout Africa. It contends that African experiences with the BRI differ greatly. Some large borrowers are concerned about debt sustainability, whilst others have incorporated Chinese loans into effective macroeconomic policies. The article emphasizes the diversity of African perspectives and warns against oversimplification. The finding proposes that Western nations modulate their rhetoric about the BRI, noting that many projects may succeed. The essay advocates for expanded assistance for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to assist governments in managing their borrowing, as well as extra World Bank infrastructure finance to extend alternatives for African states. This Brookings essay provides a detailed examination of China's Belt and Road Initiative, with an emphasis on Africa. It offers a balanced view on the BRI's potential advantages and problems, suggesting a more measured attitude in Western debate and providing practical measures for better managing the initiative's impact on developing nations. The in-depth assessment of African experiences helps our knowledge of the BRI's various consequences.

Carmody, P. R., and Murphy, J. T. "Chinese Neoglobalization in East Africa: Logics, Couplings and Impacts." *Space & Polity* (2018).

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is the primary topic of this article, which analyzes the reasons and implications of Chinese investment and development in East Africa. The authors contend that Chinese neo globalization in the region is driven by a complex mix of political, economic, and cultural reasons, and that it has substantial implications for local economies and societies. Additionally, they claim that this phenomenon has a considerable impact on the economics and society of the local areas. The writers contend that China's strategy is defined by a neo-mercantilist logic and a concentration on bilateral partnerships, both of which prioritize economic gain and strategic objectives. Additionally, the authors claim that China's approach prioritizes bilateral connections. They argue that this strategy, when combined with a propensity for large-scale infrastructure projects and a reliance on Chinese labor and capital, has the potential to make the political and economic disparities that already exist in the region even worse. The article goes on to identify several potential adverse effects of China's involvement, such as the displacement of local enterprises and workers, the hardship caused by debt, and the exploitation of natural resources.

Center For Global Development | Ideas to Action. "Will China Play Its Part in Addressing African Debt Distress?,"

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/will-china-play-its-part-addressing-african-debt-distress>.

W. Gyude Moore's blog article examines China's involvement in alleviating the African debt crisis, stressing the Belt and Road Initiative's (BRI) enormous financing impact. The article discusses the possible advantages of debt relief, such as shorter travel times,

improved commerce, income growth, and poverty alleviation. It also covers the issues that have arisen as a result of debt relief, notably the allocation of "haircuts" or debt write-offs, and China's unwillingness to create precedents that may damage its whole loan portfolio. The essay also examines China's requests that international holders of domestic debt and multilateral development banks (MDBs) bear losses during debt restructuring negotiations, as well as the opposition it receives, notably from India. The essay emphasizes the significance of MDBs preserving their Preferred Creditor Status, as well as their role in governance, credit ratings, and borrowing costs. The post expresses worry about the impact on capital markets, developing nations' capacity to issue domestic debt, and the potential of concentrating poverty in unstable governments.

Crisis Group. "The Twists and Turns along China's Belt and Road," October 3, 2017.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a complicated and difficult endeavor, and this analysis from the International Crisis Group sheds light on the difficulties and difficulties that are encountered along the way. The effect of the effort is examined from a variety of perspectives, including political, economic, and social dimensions, providing a full picture of the undertaking.

Crisis Group. "Central Asia's Silk Road Rivalries," October 23, 2017.

With a particular emphasis on Central Asia, this paper from Crisis Group investigates the geopolitical dynamics and rivalries that are associated with the Silk Road in the neighborhood. Within the context of the Belt and Road Initiative as a whole, it throws light on the strategic interests of a variety of states and the ramifications those interests have.

Clingendael. "New Map of the Belt and Road Initiative | Clingendael."

The "New Map of the Belt and Road Initiative" put forward by Clingendael is an invaluable resource for gaining an idea of the geographical expanse of the Belt and Road Initiative. There is a good chance that it contains visual representations and analyses that add to a spatial comprehension of the initiative's reach.

Freymann, Eyck. *One Belt One Road: Chinese Power Meets The World*. Harvard University Press, 2021.

"One Belt, One Road: Chinese Power Meets the World" by Eyck Freyermann critically explores the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its risks and repercussions on China's growth as a global force. The 2021 book examines how the BRI is slowly helping China become the world's most powerful nation. Eyck Freyermann explores the geopolitical and economic implications of the Belt and Road Initiative. Freyermann's study focuses on the hazards associated with China's BRI expansion, such as debt dependency, geopolitical conflicts, and global governance systems. Freyermann's analysis focuses on the effects of BRI on international power dynamics. The book delves further into how China's strategic investments and infrastructure projects under the initiative contribute to the country's greater objective of economic, political, and military domination. Freyermann's work contributes to the risk conversation around the Belt and Road Initiative. The author provides a detailed assessment of the BRI's challenges to global order by addressing debt sustainability and geopolitical issues such as China's growing influence. The book critically examines China's ambitions and practices, showing the BRI's darker undertones. Freyermann's thesis cautions governments, academics, and the general public about China's path to global dominance. Freyermann recognizes the BRI's potential benefits but is concerned about China's growing influence. The author's study of how the

BRI assists China in becoming the world's most powerful nation intensifies the argument over global power structure. Finally, Eyck Freymann's "One Belt, One Road" was a significant contribution to Belt and Road literature. The author's critical examination of its risks enhances our knowledge of China's rise as a global power, making the book essential reading for those concerned with the BRI's geopolitical ramifications and China's expanding worldwide influence.

Gu, Xian, and Yan Song. "An Empirical Analysis of China's Belt and Road Initiative: Economic and Political Effects on African Countries." *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade* 57, no. 11 (2021): 2409-2426.

"An Empirical Analysis of China's Belt and Road Initiative: Economic and Political Effects on African Countries," was written by Xian Gu and Yan Song and published in *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade* in 2021, the authors evaluate the effects that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has had on the political and economic climates of African nations. In order to investigate the economic and political effects that BRI has had on these nations over the course of the period 2010-2018, the authors make use of panel data collected from 45 different African nations. According to the findings of the study, investments in the BRI have a favorable impact on the economic growth of African countries, particularly in the construction of infrastructure, and contribute to the enhancement of African countries' international trade. However, the authors also emphasize potential hazards that are linked with BRI investments. These risks include debt sustainability and political instability, both of which have the potential to harm the initiative's capacity to remain viable over the long term. The conclusion of the study suggests that China should continue to collaborate with African nations in order to reduce

the impact of these risks and guarantee that investments made through the BRI would be beneficial to all parties concerned.

Green Finance & Development Center. "Volume of Chinese investments in countries of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2021, by sector (in billion U.S. dollars)." Graph. Statista, February 2, 2022.

This graph illustrates the total amount of money invested by China in BRI countries in 2021 broken down by industry. The amount of money, measured in billions of dollars, that China will invest across a variety of fields and industries in nations that are a part of the Belt and Road Initiative in 2021 is depicted in the graph. The information was provided by the Green Finance & Development Center, and Statista posted the graph on their website on February 2, 2022. The majority of investments were made in the real estate and transportation industries, followed by the energy and infrastructure sectors. The objectives for the BRI's endeavors, as well as the potential threats that are related with those endeavors, can be better comprehended with the help of this graph.

Kalu, Kenneth, Farrell, Carlyle, and Lin, Xiaohua. "China's Belt and Road Initiative: Implications for Intra-regional Trade in Africa." *Journal of Public Affairs* (2022).

The effects of the BRI on intraregional commerce in Africa are the topic of discussion in this article. The authors argue that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), despite having the potential to improve regional trade and economic development, nevertheless poses a number of substantial hurdles and concerns. The authors contend that although the BRI does bring potential for increasing trade and investment in Africa, it also poses obstacles and hazards that need to be handled. These opportunities and risks are discussed further in the following paragraphs. Concerns have been raised regarding the terms of Chinese

investment in addition to potential debt hardship, environmental issues, and threats to the environment. The authors argue that in order for African countries to successfully engage with the BRI, they need to take a strategic and careful approach. This strategy should include things like completing in-depth risk assessments and negotiating advantageous terms for investment.

Lucciarini, Chiara. "The Political Economy of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa:

Evidence from Ethiopia and Kenya." *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 38, no. 1 (2020): 71-90.

Chiara Lucciarini's study titled "The Political Economy of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa: Evidence from Ethiopia and Kenya" examines the economic and political influence that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has had in Africa, more specifically in the countries of Ethiopia and Kenya. The author investigates the reasons behind China's investment in Africa, which include gaining access to natural resources and new markets, as well as the possible advantages and disadvantages that the project may have on African nations. In addition to this, the piece sheds light on the intricate power relations that exist between the governments of China and African nations, as well as the concerns of local populations that will be negatively impacted by BRI projects. In general, the essay offers a critical viewpoint on China's involvement in Africa and its consequences for economic development and political relations in the region. This is accomplished through the use of a number of different examples.

Maçães, Bruno. *Belt and Road: A Chinese World Order*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

"Belt and Road: A Chinese World Order" by Bruno Maçães investigates China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its revolutionary geopolitical consequences. The 2018 book

examines China's ambitions and the effects of the Belt and Road Initiative. Maçaes investigates the history, geopolitics, and global power shifts of the Belt and Road Initiative in this book. Beyond economics, the author considers China's massive infrastructure and commerce projects, as well as their impact on a new international order. Maçaes underlines the geopolitical implications of the Belt and Road Initiative. The book investigates how China's strategic investments, infrastructural growth, and diplomatic actions are challenging norms and institutions in order to restructure the world order. Maçaes discusses the concerns of the Belt and Road Initiative, including debt diplomacy, geopolitical issues, and international relations. The author's unbiased research adds to the debate about China's BRI risks and benefits. The book helps to clarify China's global ambitions and the motivations for the Belt and Road Initiative. Maçaes discusses how the Belt and Road Initiative fits into China's emerging world order and how it influences international power. Maçaes' Belt and Road Initiative ideology research is notable. China's history and culture impact its global governance approach, the author explains. This analysis helps readers comprehend China's global engagement's deeper reasons. Finally, Bruno Maçaes' "Belt and Road: A Chinese World Order" adds to the literature on the Belt and Road. The broad assessment of China's BRI quest for a new world order in the book includes economic, geopolitical, and ideological components. Because of Maçaes' thorough investigation, the book is critical for comprehending China's changing role in global geopolitics and the potential dangers of their growth.

Mrdaković, Sanela, and Miloš Todorović. "China - Africa Trade and Investment Relations Under The Belt And Road Initiative." University of Niš, Faculty of Economics, Republic of Serbia, [2023].

Sanela Mrdaković and Miloš Todorović explore the multifaceted relationship between China and Africa within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). They emphasize Africa's pivotal role in BRI corridors, detailing China's investments in hard infrastructure, port development, and trade. The authors express concern about potential economic integration challenges, geopolitical implications, and the prerequisite of aligning with the "One China policy" for diplomatic relations. Highlighting China's significant presence, they stress the risk of dependency, referencing Eswatini's trade impact due to Taiwan recognition. The authors discuss the vast potential of Africa's consumer market and resources, coupled with the necessity for infrastructural development. However, they cautiously note the risks of debt distress, exemplifying the Sri Lankan case and advocating for careful scrutiny and negotiation in African engagement with the BRI. The extensive analysis includes data on China-Africa trade growth, FDI flows, and loan utilization, presenting both opportunities and potential pitfalls. The authors underscore China's impact on strategic locations like Djibouti, Kenya's economic dependence on oil, and the implications for EU energy policy. Expressing apprehension, they discuss rising Chinese influence, security concerns, and the potential hindrance to U.S. interests in Africa. The authors conclude with forecasts indicating China's increasing economic ties, posing a hypothesis of Afro-Eurasian integration while raising questions about future implications.

National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) People's Republic of China.

https://en.ndrc.gov.cn/netcoo/goingout/202111/t20211124_1304897.html.

Expert viewpoints on how the Belt and Road Initiative is reshaping the development landscape of Africa are provided in this source, which was published by the National

Democratic Republic of the Congo (NDRC). The official Chinese position on the positive impacts of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Africa is most likely presented here.

National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) People's Republic of

China. https://en.ndrc.gov.cn/netcoo/goingout/202111/t20211124_1304897.html

In accordance with the Belt and Road Initiative, this document, which is yet another publication from the National Democratic Republic of China (NDRC), represents a special cooperation agreement between the Chinese government and the Central African Republic. It has the potential to provide insights on the implementation of the BRI in practical settings.

Ngundu, Marvellous, and Harold Ngalawa. "Analyzing the Evolution of China-Africa Economic Integration: A Wavelet Approach." School of Accounting, Economics and Finance, University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), South Africa. Macroeconomics Research Unit (MRU), School of Accounting, Economics and Finance, South Africa.

In perhaps the most influential source included in the thesis, according to Ngundu and Ngalawa, China-Africa economic integration has changed from 1993 to 2019. Despite literature claims that China-Africa bilateral economic treaties are beneficial, the authors' wavelet analysis shows a statistically noisy integration indicator. The study challenges the narrative of increased economic integration through bilateral agreements, warning of misinterpretation of China-Africa economic integration motivations. Africa, rich in natural resources, faces economic development challenges like low domestic capital investments, poor industrialization, high youth unemployment, inequality, and insufficient hard infrastructure, analysts say. China-Africa economic integration is influenced by the resource-driven Angola Model, according to research. The authors

worry that this pattern shows China's focus on resource exploitation rather than infrastructure development in Africa. African Union's 2012 Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and its potential to address Africa's infrastructure deficit are studied. International economic integration helps regional hard infrastructure projects and overcome financial constraints, it says. According to Gill and Karakulah (2019), empirical analysis requires reliable data, and Kamoche, Gunessee, and Kufuor (2021) argue that Africa must examine its role in China-Africa economic integration. Ngundu and Ngalawa also discuss China-Africa economic relations, focusing on FOCAC and the increase in trade, investment, and loans. They worry about the overemphasis on natural resource exploitation, noting that Africa is a hub for low-quality Chinese goods. The authors urge Africa to take advantage of international economic integration opportunities but warn against unsustainable loans and debt traps. China-Africa economic integration fluctuation patterns are examined using a wavelet approach, an underutilized tool in economic integration analysis. The CARI dataset and export growth as an integration indicator disprove the idea that bilateral economic treaties increased Africa's economic integration with China. They question Africa's aversion to China's "exploitative attitude." Integration remains low. Chinese loans backed by oil are touted as the Angola Model, which drives economic relations. The authors worry about debt traps caused by Chinese loans in resource-rich African nations. They argue that Chinese FDI flows to Africa are low compared to loans, proving that China prioritizes natural resource access over hard infrastructure development. Finally, Ngundu and Ngalawa's study critically examines China-Africa economic integration, raising concerns about China's focus on resource exploitation and its limited impact on Africa's infrastructure development.

Nolan, Peter. *Is China Buying The World?* Polity Press, 2012.

Peter Nolan's "Is China Buying The World" serves as a prescient exploration of the Belt and Road Initiative's potential dangers, anticipating concerns well before the initiative was officially launched in 2013. Nolan, a distinguished scholar in Chinese political economy, provides a forward-looking analysis that sheds light on the risks associated with China's global economic ambitions. The book critically examines China's economic strategies and investments, emphasizing the geopolitical implications of its rising influence. Nolan's insights into the Belt and Road Initiative, even before its formal announcement, highlight his foresight. He raises concerns about the initiative's potential impact on established global economic structures, questioning its motives and the broader consequences for both China and the world. Nolan's nuanced exploration of the dangers associated with China's economic activities is grounded in meticulous research. Drawing from a wide array of primary and secondary sources, including economic data and case studies, he articulates the potential risks of China's increasing involvement in strategic industries and global infrastructure projects. The author's early identification of these risks contributes to the book's significance. A key strength of Nolan's work lies in its avoidance of alarmist rhetoric. While acknowledging China's economic ascent, he maintains a balanced perspective, encouraging readers to critically assess the potential dangers without succumbing to exaggerated fears. This approach enhances the credibility of his analysis and positions the book as a measured and authoritative resource. Nolan's examination of China's global economic impact and the Belt and Road Initiative offers valuable insights for policymakers, scholars, and business leaders. By anticipating the dangers associated with China's economic activities well before the official launch of the

Belt and Road Initiative, Nolan's work provides a foundation for understanding the ongoing challenges and opportunities in the evolving landscape of international economic relations.

Obi, Cyril, and Peter Kragelund. "China and Africa: The Politics of Economic Relations in the 21st Century." *The China Quarterly* 232 (2017): 969-974.

In 2017, *The China Quarterly* included the article "China and Africa: The Politics of Economic Relations in the 21st Century" written by Cyril Obi and Peter Kragelund. The political and economic relationship between China and Africa in the 21st century is analyzed in this article, with a particular emphasis placed on the economic linkages that exist between the two regions. The authors contend that China's growing economic involvement in Africa has presented the continent with new opportunities as well as new challenges. They claim that this situation is a double-edged sword. They talk about the reasons behind China's interest in Africa, including China's demand for resources, market access, and geopolitical influence in the region. The ramifications of China's economic engagement in Africa, including the impact on local economies, governance, and human rights, are also investigated by the authors. In their conclusion, they emphasize the necessity for African countries to create a more strategic approach to dealing with China in order to ensure that the relationship is advantageous to both parties. In general, the essay sheds light on the intricate workings of the China-Africa connection as well as the repercussions of that relationship for both Africa and China.

Schrag, Jacque. "How Is the Belt and Road Initiative Advancing China's Interests? | ChinaPower Project." November 3, 2023.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a source that focuses on how it fits with China's objectives and how it promotes those goals. This source is a component of the ChinaPower Project. Most likely, Jacque Schrag offers some insights into the strategic objectives that lie behind China's substantial investments in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Selby, Andrew, and Ole Martin Saetersdal. "China's Belt and Road Initiative and Africa's

Infrastructure Deficit: A Review of the Impact and Influences of a New Trans-Regional Development Agenda." *Journal of African Business* 20, no. 1 (2019): 1-21.

In 2019, the *Journal of African Business* published an article titled "China's Belt and Road Initiative and Africa's Infrastructure Deficit: A Review of the Impact and Influences of a New Trans-Regional Development Agenda." This article is a comprehensive review of the impact and influences that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has had on the development of infrastructure in Africa. The article is titled "China's Belt and Road Initiative and Africa's Infrastructure Deficit: A Review." The writers, Andrew Selby and Ole Martin Saetersdal, conduct an in-depth analysis of the consequences that the BRI may have for African nations, particularly with regard to resolving the issue of inadequate infrastructure in those nations. The writers start out by giving a comprehensive description of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the implications it has for Africa. After that, they go on to talk about the historical context of the development of infrastructure in Africa and highlight the hurdles that stood in the way of it. They contend that the BRI presents a fresh chance for African nations to gain access to the necessary infrastructure investment, which is essential for economic growth. The authors conduct further research into the effect that the BRI has had on the growth of infrastructure in Africa by reviewing case studies of individual projects that have been

carried out as part of the initiative. They assess the good and negative effects of these projects, as well as the ramifications for the economies of the host nations and the countries themselves. Finally, the authors include a discussion of the possible dangers and difficulties that are connected with the BRI, as well as policy proposals that African nations might implement in order to lessen the impact of these dangers.

Tarrósy, István. "China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa, Debt Risk and New Dependency: The Case of Ethiopia." *African Studies Quarterly* 19, no. 3/4 (2020): 8-28.

This article provides an analysis of the effects that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has had on African nations, focusing mostly on Ethiopia. Using Ethiopia as an example, the author contends that the BRI has the potential to create new dependence and debt problems for African countries. This argument is supported by the use of the country as a case study. The author believes that although the BRI gives chances for increasing economic growth and infrastructure development in Ethiopia, it also brings considerable concerns, including the potential for the country to lose its sovereignty and to experience debt hardship. The article explores the situation in Ethiopia, which has seen major investment from China in recent years, and looks at the increasing debt burden that the country is under as well as the potential repercussions that this could have in the future. The author believes that Ethiopian officials need to be cautious in their participation with the BRI and devise methods to mitigate the possible hazards. These tactics could include strategies such as diversifying sources of finance and negotiating favorable conditions with Chinese investors.

Taylor, Ian, and Zajontz, Tim. "In a Fix: Africa's Place in the Belt and Road Initiative and the Reproduction of Dependency." *South African Journal of International Affairs* (2020).

In this essay, the consequences of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for Africa's development and sovereignty are investigated, with a focus on the reproduction of dependent connections between African countries and external players. The authors state that the BRI has the capacity to prolong these linkages and that African countries must take proactive actions to ensure that the BRI aligns with their development goals and priorities. In addition, the authors argue that the BRI has the ability to maintain these relationships. The authors believe that while the BRI does provide chances for higher investment and infrastructure development in Africa, it also has important dangers, such as the possibility for debt distress and the reproduction of uneven power relations. Despite the fact that the BRI does provide opportunities for increased investment and infrastructure development in Africa, the authors argue that it also brings considerable hazards. They believe that the BRI may further entrench existing patterns of dependency, in which African countries are dependent on external players for investment and economic progress. These patterns suggest that the BRI may further entrench existing patterns of dependency. The authors also stress the potential for the BRI to worsen environmental dangers and social disparities, in particular with regard to the relocation of local communities and the exploitation of natural resources. They say this is a concern because the BRI has the potential to make these problems worse. They recommend that African countries need to engage with the BRI with a more careful and strategic approach, including completing in-depth risk assessments and negotiating advantageous terms for investment, in order to reap the benefits of the initiative.

gov.cn (Belt and Road Portal). "Number of countries that have joined China's Belt and Road

Initiative (BRI) as of July 2022, by continent." Chart. Statista, August 15, 2022. Accessed

March 13, 2023.

<https://www-statista-com.proxy.hsc.edu/statistics/1347393/china-number-of-bri-partner-countries-by-region/>

The number of nations that have joined China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as of July 2022 is broken down by continent and presented in this graphic, which was provided by the Belt and Road Portal in Statista. The following chart provides a breakdown, by continent, of the number of nations that had signed up to participate in China's Belt and Road Initiative as of July 2022. The information was obtained from the Belt and Road Portal of the Government of China and was retrieved from Statista on August 15, 2022. The data used to create this graphic was given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China. This source is useful for study on the geographical breadth of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as well as its impact on regional and global geopolitics. This not only illustrates the rate of growth of countries on each continent but also makes it possible to identify where the BRI's geographical concentration lies.

Yidaiyilu.gov.cn. "A new BRI project implemented in Pakistan." Belt and Road Initiative.

Accessed March 13, 2023. <https://www.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/xwzx/roll/77298.htm>.

This news story about the development of a new Belt and Road Initiative project in Pakistan was published on the official website of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The article includes information on the project's finance, construction, and anticipated economic impact. The summary does not go into detail regarding the project or its objectives; however, the article does include information regarding the location of the project as well as the officials who were present at the inauguration event. The information can be retrieved without difficulty with the use of Google translate, even

though the source is written in Chinese. This source is useful since it provides information regarding the specific African nations that are participating in BRI as well as information.