

SHOULD CAMBODIA FORM A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA?

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INTRODUCTION

The geopolitical, political, economic and cultural aspects of Cambodia and relations between Cambodia and China have made bilateral relations between Cambodia and China the basis of Beijing's foreign policy. This article shows and demonstrates the past and present political and economic relations between the two countries that have entered into diplomatic relations after Cambodia recognized the legitimacy of the PRC¹ in 1958. While developing good relations with China, King Norodom Sihanouk helped soften the depression of China in 1960s, he battled at UN for surrendering of Republic of China (Taiwan). Investment in Cambodia accounted for three times from 1997 to 1998 and expanded by 40% in 1999, making China the big investment by foreigners in Cambodia. China has turned into Cambodia's biggest benefactor for the 2009 spending plan with \$ 257 million (US \$ 214 million). On the economic front, the volume of exchange amongst Cambodia and China achieved 732 million dollars in 2006. China's unique role in political, economic and military assistance can once again become a dictatorship. Thus, Cambodia does not depend solely on Beijing administration. Cambodia should thrive further the progress of democracy and accountability to attract foreign direct investment from other countries, notably United States, European Union and other Asian countries.

FOREIGN POLICY TAILORED TO FIT XI JINPING

After assuming the leadership of the Party in 2012 and of the state in 2013, Xi left no doubt that he saw the shifting global environment and the relative decline of U.S. power as a strategic window for China to increase its global influence. The Chinese president began talking about a “new type of international relations” in 2013. He coined new concepts such as the “community of a shared destiny for humankind,” and his administration even managed to insert this language into several UN documents. And he launched the Belt and Road Initiative with great fanfare.

A lot of these concepts remain vague, but it is fair to assume that China sees itself at the center of this new type of international relations. This became clear at the high-level Central Conference on Work relating to Foreign Affairs on June 22 and 23, 2018. In a break from previous speeches, Xi no longer mentioned “nonalignment” with or “noninterference” in other countries. Instead of “working toward” he now wants to “lead” the reform of global governance. The vision of China’s central role in the world is matched by Xi’s central role in foreign policymaking. Several so-called leading small

¹ Professional Regulation Commission

groups were established to strengthen Xi personally, and the CCP² more broadly, to take charge of foreign policymaking at the expense of the Foreign Ministry.

ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

Economic relations were announced in September 1955, when King Norodom Sihanouk gained independence and instituted a neutral policy of economic support from the United States, France, and China. Cambodia's economy has been and continues to be an important topic that has been eroded twice by the end of the decade. In 1975, at the onset of the Khmer Rouge invaded Phnom Penh, collapse of the Soviet Union and end of the colonial era in 1989, which was important for Cambodia in the military conflict of 1960-1990. The economy began to grow again in 1991, when it opened to foreign investment. The influence of construction continued and sparked the impact of contraction and incredible forward light on the Chinese economy in the mid of 1995. Mr. Wang Jun, executive of CITIC³, met with Prime Minister Hun Sen in 1999 to explain the area of taxation free area near Sihanoukville. They are obliged to respect the generous offer, for example, to offer clothing to the Cambodian National Basketball Team. To complete China's work in Cambodia, Chinese-Chinese culture is at a high level, from agents to prime ministers. Such support improves both the financial situation and the political situation of the Cambodians and provides more technology through China, which can use money-related instruments that affect the nation. Part of this relationship is an open door to travel and general arrangements, and China's proximity and aptitude is viewed as a career choice for creative employees (Forbes, 2000). China has also built a strong political tie with Cambodia when it has developed practical and practical tactics in the region. In 2006, the exchange trades accounted for \$ 732 million (Lum, 2007). Through finance and politic, Cambodia has received donations and assistance from China, which can increase foreign direct investment in Cambodia (Cambodia 2006).

CHALLENGING AND PROSPECTING PERSPECTIVE

Many Cambodians have carefully warned China's support for Pol Pot, saying that they hated the manipulation between neighboring authorities and the lucrative companies and estimates from China that helped the Cambodian economy. The global group will turn out to be more awkward while China sustains to lengthen toward the military association with Cambodia. So far, more and more strong global financial experts have identified legal issues and are heavily involved in China. Cambodia can be considered China's partner as if China's understanding with the West, especially with the United States or Japan is weak, financial experts can quickly break its partners and China. Additionally, the lack of change is a connection for Cambodia. The exchange between

² The Chinese Communist Party (CCP), is the founding and ruling political party of the People's Republic of China.

³ CITIC Group Corporation Ltd., formerly the China International Trust Investment Corporation, is a state-owned investment company of the People's Republic of China, established by Rong Yiren in 1979 with the approval of Deng Xiaoping.

Cambodia and China amounted to \$ 732 million a year, while Cambodia did not make huge economic changes with China and about 60% of the market was exported from China, a one spectator showed (Lum, 2007). The relationship has also expanded to safety in recent years. Since the signing of the co-operation agreement in 2008, in terms of law enforcement, Yunnan provided technical and technical assistance to the National Drug Control Authority in Cambodia in the battle against pill smuggling and chaos on the outskirts, military relations have developed, and Beijing is as of now the biggest military aid supplier in Cambodia. In May 2012, \$17 million consented in soldiers help as well as built a soldiers training hub by both sides in the nation. Military helicopter patrols and six weeks younger training program have been provided to Cambodian armed forces to clear the mine and routinely signed regular loans for military hardware and training courses by Beijing.

Culture and interpersonal relationships are strengthening. Bilateral visits are increasingly taking place in both the state and provincial levels. According to statistics from the Ministry of Tourism, 635,000 Chinese tourists visited Cambodia in the first seven months of 2017, 42.7 percent more than in the same period last year. According to Kong Sopheak, Director of Statistics and Planning Department of the Ministry of Tourism, the close relationship between Cambodia and China, which attracts attractive tourist attractions and direct flights between the two countries, is a key factor in attracting more tourists and business people to Cambodia. Chinese tourists will reach one million in 2017.

Despite the rise of Beijing in Cambodia, many restrictions on the relationship that both sides can challenge. First, it has maintained other relationships to ensure that it does not fall into the Beijing camp while Phnom Penh is clearly blocked by an invisible cord attached to China's aid. Second, the Chinese influence in Cambodia is valuable inland. In examining corruption, human rights violations and corruption, the ecosystem of China-backed efforts is progressing gradually, causing problems for Cambodian leaders. Third, the condemnation of the ruling Cambodian People's Party, which won local elections last year, is likely to end its power over power by winning the upcoming election. While China has been a prominent place in Cambodia since the 1990s, it was no small part of the regime's sustainability, nor even the unstoppable prime minister.

After years of genocide and civil war, some claim that Cambodians are now accepting political democracy and stability but history has sent many cases including in Myanmar that changes take place in different forms. There will be more control over China's crackdown on Cambodia and reduce the satisfaction of other countries in their foreign policy in more democratic environment.

CONCLUSION

The choice of Cambodia lineup is not uncommon, if you look at it from an almost standpoint. The country is not only culturally connected with China, it is also closer to the United States than it is. With the help of China, Cambodia is building roads, bridges and dams; this is undoubtedly positive for the country. There is no additional condition for the increase of China's assistance, however, this can ease the pressure on

Western countries and can lead to an increase in human rights violations by the government. Obviously, China has exercised the four means of power to improve relations with Cambodia, which are diplomacy, information, economy and the army. To achieve strategic economic objectives, Cambodia must seek foreign policy, which means strengthening cooperation with all countries. Countries must continue to see the value of joining the regional unit. Therefore, if Cambodia is not very cautious, we can fall into the trap of superpower competitions.

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