

Thesis Topic: "China's increasing influence in South Africa – An investigation of the advantages and challenges related to Chinese investment in South Africa?"

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Abstract

This thesis will investigate China's role in South Africa from the 1990s until the present day. The thesis will try to critically evaluate the advantages and challenges of Chinese investment for South Africa. It will commence from the 1990s because Chinese economic growth rose rapidly in this period and China sought new markets and resources. Also, in South Africa, Apartheid, which was the former political system in which only white people had full political rights, and other people, especially black people, were forced to live separate from white people, ended in 1994. It caused a transition to democracy, which was a crucial turning point in South African and in world history. This thesis consists of four chapters and a concluding chapter. At first, this thesis will refer to the historical background to Sino-South African relations. This chapter is separated in three parts: the Chinese historical background, the South African historical background, and then the historical background to Sino-South African relations. Through these three chapters, it will examine the process in which China started to develop stronger economic ties. Second, it will refer to the present situation between China and South Africa. Then, it will explain how China plays a part in South Africa. Then, the thesis will focus on the successes, and on the other hand, challenges of the relationship. On the basis of this, the thesis will reveal the goals and objectives of Chinese investors in South Africa and then examine this issue from the South African side. Next, this thesis will discuss the international perspectives. It will mention other factors, which are deeply involved in South Africa and China. These factors include the

African Union (AU), the European Union (EU) and the United States of America (US). Then, this thesis will be separated into two parts: the relationship between the AU and China, and a struggle for supremacy in Africa (including South Africa and other African states) among China, the EU and the US. South Africa is one of the AU's member states and also a key component to China having a better relationship with the AU. So considering these facts it will refer to the relationship of not only South Africa but also Africa as a continent and China. Second, it will refer to its history with the USA, the EU, and China and will describe the facts in regards to the international competition for African resources and so forth. The research uses a variety of sources, for example, primary and secondary sources such as diplomatic documents, documents from international organizations and governments, journal articles, textbooks, and news articles, in order to analyze the influence of each factor. Following this, the thesis will, based on research's finding, attempt to evaluate the advantages and challenges of the Chinese role in South Africa and suggest how this relationship could be improved. It will also make proposals for how China and South Africa could address the challenges that exist between them.

Key Words

Apartheid, China, investment, resources, South Africa, the African Union, the European Union, the United States of America