

**AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS IN THE AGE OF CHINESE
LEBENSRAUM IN AFRICA: ANY LESSON FOR AFRICA?**

BY

DIMPHO ALPHEUS GAOBEPE

STUDENT NUMBER: 2404983

**A MINI-DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PEACE STUDIES**

IN THE

**AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS IN THE AGE OF CHINESE
LEBENSRAUM IN AFRICA: ANY LESSON FOR AFRICA?**

BY

DIMPHO ALPHEUS GAOBEPE

STUDENT NUMBER: 24804983

**A MINI-DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PEACE STUDIES**

IN THE

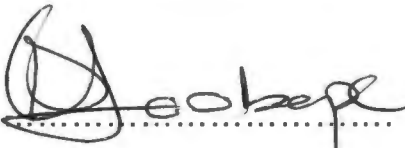
**FACULTY OF HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY,
MAFIKENG CAMPUS**

SUPERVISOR: PROFESSOR LERE AMUSAN

DATE: AUGUST 2015

DECLARATION

I, Dimpho Alpheus Gaobepe, declare that the mini-dissertation entitled “**AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS IN THE AGE OF CHINESE LEBENSRAUM IN AFRICA: ANY LESSONS FOR AFRICA?**” hereby submitted for the degree of Master of Arts in International Relations and Peace Studies at the North West University, Mafikeng Campus, has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other university. I further declare that this is my work in design and execution and that all materials contained herein have been duly acknowledged. I furthermore, cede copyright of the mini-dissertation in favour of the North West University, Mafikeng Campus.

Signature 

D. A. Gaobepe

Date: Day..15..of.....Feb.....2014

Signature 

Professor L. Amusan

Date: Day...15..of.....Feb.....2014

DEDICATION

This mini-dissertation is dedicated to African institutions and leaders who are striving to invent strategies to ensure that Africa is economically independent and self-sustaining as well bar external powers whose target is to tap the wealth and resources of the African continent.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the North West University for financing my studies (Master of Arts in International Relations and Peace Studies), for the costs incurred and for nurturing me academically. I am indebted and grateful to my supervisor, Professor Lere Amusan for his guidance and in giving direction to the study. I wish to express sincere gratitude to him for his constant support, advice, encouragement and mentorship even during difficult times. I thank the Almighty God for revealing himself to me; now, I fear nothing.

I am deeply indebted to my mother, Adelaide Lydia Mosalagadi Gaobepe, to whom I dedicate this study. She transformed me and guided me on how to face the challenges of life. I am what I am today because she is. Sincere thanks also go to my wife, Moipone and my little daughter, Ame. I am also grateful to Tshenolo Mosieleng for his support throughout the research journey. They were an inspiration to my purpose and vision at all times. Lastly, I wish to thank my parents and family for their encouragement and unflagging faith in me.

DIMPHO ALPHEUS GAOBEPE

MAFIKENG CAMPUS, August 2015

ABSTRACT

This study focuses on African solutions to African problems in the age of Chinese lebensraum in Africa in order to assess if Africa cannot learn any lessons from the Chinese approach. The objective was to explore Africa's approach in providing solutions to Africa's development and economic challenges. It also examines methods that Africa can use to influence the proposed partnership with China, as well as the way it enhanced the outcome of the Strategic Partnership of the new Chinese peaceful development approach(c). Furthermore, this study assessed the implications of such a strategic partnership and based on the findings, conclude on the perspectives for the of future Africa's China relations. The different views that have led them to pursue similar priorities in their national interest as well as in their political, economic and development agendas.

The study utilised the explanatory qualitative approach which mainly descriptive. The study plan took a conceptual structure and alternated between a more theoretical and more authentic facts concerning the political economic interrelations between Africa and China. The general idea is deductive in style, in that, it starts from a theoretical outline of investigation discussing and analysing sources dealing with the description of Peaceful development idea of China in relation to Africa's economic expansion and improvement.

Theories used to analyse the scenario within this study are the Neo-realism and Liberalism theories. Observing Chinese engagements in Africa, it is clear that it seeks to maximise its power economically by harnessing the resources of Africa as well as to benefit Africa with investments and aid in the form of loans. Therefore its actions are a custodian to the tenets of the realism theory of national interests and self-help. However, China employs the tactic of peaceful development and persuasion than military action; it is very cooperative in its operations with African partners. It reflects the attributes of the liberalist theory of cooperation of states in order to conduct International Relations. This study observed that both theories are relevant to analyse the tactics of china in its relations with Africa.

This study concludes and recommends that Africa should continue to harness and create conducive environment to attract Chinese trade and investment because it presents Africa with substantial benefits for African people including economic stability and good governance.

This will assist Africa, empower the continent and offer African solutions to African problems in the age of Chinese lebensraum. Additionally the study advocates that Chinese policy in Africa should not be viewed in the context of an ordinary search for natural resources but in the light of its national interest's policy objectives which includes emerging to be a dominating power or a global hegemony which supersedes its contemporaries in the permanent UN Security Council.

Furthermore, as a way to creating solutions for Africa in the age of Chinese lebensraum, Africa should not depend on aid which has failed to bring about or yield capital in terms of institutional, human and societal capabilities. Rather, emphasis should be on infrastructural development and regional integration in order to initiate a holistic approach to address matters of common interest among African states including solving common problems found in African states. Finally, the study concluded that, considering China a genuine partner and a responsible strategic friend of Africa cannot be without any political pressure and economic disadvantages for Africa.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

(ANC) African National Congress

(AISA) Africa Institute of South Africa

(AU) African Union

(APSA) African Peace and Security Architecture

(EU) European Union

(FOCAC) Forum on China- Africa Cooperation

(FDI) Foreign Direct Investment

(GNP) Gross National Product

(HIV/AIDS) Human Immune Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

(MDGS) Millennium Development Goals

(ODA) Official Development Assistance

(OAU) Organisation of African Unity

(UNCTAD) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(USA) United States of America

(UK) United Kingdom

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE	Pages
1.1 Introduction to the study.....	11
1.2 Definition of concepts.....	13
1.3 Statement of the problem.....	15
1.4 Aims of the study.....	17
1.5 Preliminary literature review.....	18
1.6 Methodology of the study.....	18
1.7 Outline of the study.....	19
1.8 Conclusion.....	19
CHAPTER TWO	
LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	
2.1 Introduction.....	21
2.2 Literature review and theoretical framework.....	21
2.3 Theoretical framework.....	26
2.3.1 Neo realism theory.....	26
2.3.2 Liberalism theory.....	27

CHAPTER THREE

DATA PRESENTATION

3.1 Introduction.....	28
3.1 China's model of development	29
3.2 China's economic reform.....	30
3.3 Conclusion.....	31

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION..... 32

4.1 Introduction.....	32
4.2 Africa's historical relationship with China.....	33
4.3 Rationale for poor economic development performance in Africa	35
4.4 Improving the economy of Africa.....	39
4.5 Lessons for Africa	39
4.6 An overview of China's peaceful development.....	39
4.7 Importance of strategic partnership between China and Africa.....	42
4.8 Constraints for Africa-China partnership.....	43

CHAPTER 5

Conclusion and recommendations

Recommendations.....	44
5.1 African renaissance.....	44
5.2 African solutions to African problems.....	45
5.3 Chinese policy and relevance in Africa.....	46
Bibliography.....	47

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

It is not easy to trace the precise period when the relationship between China and Africa actually started. The generally accepted historical position is that China probably had some early contacts with Africa some centuries ago. Different schools of thought exist, however, on the nature and form of the early contacts. Opinions converge on the proposition that Sino-African exchanges date as far back as thousands of years ago. The interaction between Africa and China interaction has grown significantly in recent years. China has continued to maintain its approach of peaceful path taking into account the national interests of all Chinese and Africans by developing a strategic relationship.

China continues to interact with a number of states and other powerful nations together with developing countries regarding its peaceful rise, by ensuring that such countries accept its economic and development Lebensraum within the international community as a no threat triggering effort due to its acclaimed international influence.

China's commitment to peaceful development with the rest of the world is well crafted in its Peaceful Rise White Paper and is best demonstrated by Shelton and Paruk's study on "the Forum on China Africa Cooperation" in which they maintain that the concept of peace, harmony and win-win methods are recommendable. The peaceful development approach will unify domestic development, create a link with the rest of the world as well as link China with the rest of the world. China strives for peace, harmony and development, both internally and externally (Shelton and Paruk, 2008:11).

From the above quotation, China's interest in Africa seems to be centred more on resource diplomacy and opening markets for Beijing's development and for the economic face lift of Africa. Furthermore, the general reinvigoration of China- Africa relations as shown in the publication of the China- African policy in January 2006 and following the hosting of the

Forum for Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing shows a trend of relationship that is intensifying in great magnitude.

While China has become the second-major economy in the world, Africa remains a supporting pillar of China's political strategy. China is not losing its relationship with African countries and as a result, the work China is doing to succeed in its peaceful development endeavours can only be achieved on the condition that both Africa and China continue to work together.

Ake (1983) posits that on the one hand, it is generally factual that Africa has attained political autonomy, but has greater challenges to face or deal with in terms of attaining economic self-determination on the other hand. The continent has the potential of finding solutions to complex contemporary social, political and economic problems within the context of Africa's understanding and analysis of world diplomacy and economy. Many in the field of political economy believe that political self-government does not carry much weight in the absence of economic independence. Such independence begins with food security, infrastructure, an exciting middle class and free enterprise; including the improvement of the technology that Africa uses for natural and mineral resources, in order to achieve employment and markets at national, regional, continental and global levels.

Chinese leaders have emphasised that developing countries form a strong component of China's foreign policy, and have attached particular importance to Africa, with a large measure of Chinese diplomacy focusing on the continent, making it deeply important in Chinese global relations. The recently-developed narrative of "tripartite co-operation" supposes that China and the West will co-operate in Africa in order to help Africa. It is expected that this would yield fruits and hopefully, the mentality of the Cold War will dissipate for this to happen and be successful. But the researcher personally believes that China and Africa have always taken a common stance on many global issues.

A memorable example is the act of bravery demonstrated by African countries for China to regain its seat at the UN Security Council. Since then, China and Africa have always spoken out with one voice with regard to environmental issues such as cutting carbon emissions at the Cancun Summit and supporting Africa's permanent seat at the UN Security Council.

This development can be traced as far back as the micro-South–South relations of non-aligned countries formed in Indonesia in 1955. The mentoring by China and the support for the decolonisation of Africa by the Beijing government, even though some disagree, on the other hand, is penetrating Africa. It is the intention of this study to demonstrate China's presence in Africa and how it is penetrating the continent.

1.1 DEFINITION OF BASIC CONCEPTS

1.1.1 Lebensraum

The basis for Nazi development into its neighbouring western countries was as a result of the concept of *lebensraum*. The meaning behind the idea was in relation to "living space". *Lebensraum* was the desire of the Nazis to have its territories overlap into its neighbouring countries. This aspiration led to the Nazi government's deployment of its army to invade and occupy territories of countries such as Lorraine, France and Alsace. In addition to taking over the lands of these countries, Jews residing in surrounding areas were compelled to surrender their properties and capital.

In fortifying Nazi *Lebensraum* efforts, the Nazis continued to remove the Gypsies, foreigners, Jews, including criminals out of Europe. Their main idea was to have foreign nationals, Gypsies, Jews and criminals to free the Nazi nation or society, expand their intentions put in place a Nazi government wherever the Nazis conquered. These attempts resulted in the rebuilding of Europe's racial satisfaction which made the Jews living in surrounding areas very scarred. The objective of the Nazi *Lebensraum* snatched away the identity and lives of Jews, thereby, extending their own population by exploiting the Jews (BBC History, 2011).

1.1.2 The concept of African solutions to African problems

As reported by the Organisation of African unity (OAU, 2014), the idea of African solutions to African problems is as follows:

“African solutions to African problems has, nonetheless, been hailed as a watershed moment for the African political landscape in which there is an ‘arrival of Africans’ resulting in ‘a paradigm shift from the beggar mentality’ to one that is proactive and self-assured. It is a discourse that helps Africans to take ownership of challenges on the continent which are not necessarily experienced elsewhere in the world (or in the same way for that matter). It is a mantra that helps to instil a drive towards finding more localised answers to issues of poverty, drought and disease while simultaneously investing in capacity building. It is a claim of agency and policy independence which helps to firmly place Africa and African agendas within an increasingly complex political landscape” (OAU (2014).

The above understanding best expresses Africa’s attempts in the search for solutions for a mixed pool of all kinds of political, economic, environmental, social and developmental problems. It reflects the need for Africa to stop looking to the west for aid and solutions to solve its own problems.

1.1.3 Defining development

Chris (2007:11) argues that development embraces change in many forms or parts of human society. The characteristics of development are varied including, economic, social, political and legal institutional structures, religion and culture.

In defining development, Okumu (2002) as cited by Anna-Marie Lockard in her Doctoral Dissertation maintains that the term “development” is critical to also explain at least eight dynamics related to development that brings about important results with regard to development. In this sense, development can be understood as the process of a country moving towards greater inclusion, health, opportunities, justice, freedom, fairness, forgiveness and cultural expression accordingly. “Inclusion” is a key component of development. According to Okumu (2002), this includes “political, economic and social inclusion. The goal in society should be to ensure that every person in the population can participate fully in political, economic and social life.

Development is defined in a number of ways depending on its context and usage. The meaning of development is based on a particular view a person holds regarding the issue that is been dealt with. However, it is imperative to understand that given the different meanings that have been assigned to the word development, the term is not a product confined to one particular position but also takes into account the time within which the word is used. For this reason, understanding of 'development' depends on the historical context within which the word is used. In this study, development should be understood within the current political, historical and economic condition of Africa.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Recently, China has become a significant player in the mainstream of international economic relations and has also become a growing power for major global market-places. But Africa has largely been left out of this process for many reasons, including its small market size, poor infrastructure and weak policy framework. In some cases, lack of political stability and debt problems have also accounted for its non-involvement in the market-place.

As we look into the future, the challenge is to find ways and means of harnessing more economic growth in Africa which will contribute to reducing a number of socio-economic cancers in the form of Africa's debt, poverty and poor socio-economic development. This is the main concern for Africa as reflected in the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) which captures the main aim of alleviating extreme poverty by 2015 and the challenge of Africa's development. This study on African solutions to African problems in the age of Chinese Lebensraum is a synopsis of how Africa, through its leaders, could develop strategies and consider possible ways and means to solve a number of socio-economic development problems experienced throughout the continent.

Kamugisha (2012:111) argues that "soon after gaining their political independence, several of them in the 1950s and 1960s, many African nations embarked on a struggle for economic independence. Fifty years down the road, the struggle is yet to deliver meaningful results. Millions of Africans still live in dire poverty; many lives have been claimed by curable

diseases; many breadwinners have been maimed in wars and others are unemployed. In turn, their dependents have been deprived of education and health care, among other basic necessities.”

Many African countries, though they obtained their political independence from their colonial masters, are still hampered by poverty and underdevelopment. Among other exacerbations to these squalid conditions in many African countries, is the perpetuation of political corruption, human rights violations and conflicts. In many instances, African leaders have obtained solutions and aid from western powers and lack their own pertinent solutions related to the challenges faced in Africa. Due to the absence of relevant solutions to solve Africa's problems, many western powers are penetrating Africa in order to provide assistance, and at same time, extracting and dispossessing the continent of its mineral wealth. China is one of those countries currently offering solutions but at the same time, gaining wealth from Africa.

Shelton and Paruk (2011) maintain that lack of consistency and un-delivered arrangements characterise western interaction with Africa. While Africa remains underdeveloped, without infrastructure and increasing poverty levels, the western approach has failed to make it possible for Africa to initiate its own development, thus the results of Africa's political and economic vacuum currently been exploited and tapped by China.

Stevens and Kennan (2005) are of the view that with a potential to manufacture goods and provide services highly demanded by China (such as minerals), countries realise export growth. On the other hand, countries importing goods produced in China (such as clothing) will not experience the same growth when they export their goods while countries importing similar products may experience lower prices. They further argue that, importers with domestic industries competing in local markets with Chinese exports, will have distributional effects within the country (such as between producers and consumers).

This has been accompanied by an expansion of Chinese companies to the rest of the Africa in the areas of mining, civil engineering and construction, agriculture, tourism and hotels, and manufacturing and services, including transport and telecommunications; and recently, in the oil and gas sectors in West Africa.

In the case of South Africa, the ANC policy of reintegrating South Africa into the world economy by lessening trade regulations, dealing away with import substitution and re-engineering its economy seem to have lost at least 1 million jobs in the private sector of the economy (Venter, 2001:16-17).

Other scholars argue that “China’s challenge is to provide support and advance a win-win relationship with African states, while at the same time, pursuing its own national interest. A stable mutually beneficial relationship will translate into a long-term political and economic alliance, providing the foundation for both Chinese and African economic prosperity “(Shelton and Paruk, 2011: 167).

In view of the above, the central issue that needs to be dealt with is how Africa can bring African solutions to African problems in the age of Chinese Lebensraum in order to ensure and develop strategies to improve its socio-economic development and challenges, create – a friendly atmosphere to harness economic and developmental Africa- China association and at the same time, add to the formulation and execution of concrete measures to build up its development while offering solutions to modern economic, political and socio-economic problems faced daily by African countries. In addition, ensure that enough capital and commitment are harnessed to promise that resources are obtainable for the socio- economic and developmental needs of African countries. Thus, the major challenges faced by Africa is the association of economic relations with China for purposes of attracting and promoting inward and outward Foreign Direct Investment(FDI) in order to better Africa’s economic growth to those of the rest of the world resulting in improved socio-economic development of Africa.

1.3 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to provide basic ideas in light of the strategic partnership currently pursued by China and Africa deserves analysis for several reasons. In the first place, the recent reemergence of China on the international scene as the world’s largest economy justifiably makes it an actor of consequence in international economic relations. Secondly, as Africa’s largest donor of development assistance and one of Africa’s top trade and economic

friend, China's relation with Africa deserves analytical attention. Therefore, the main research topic: ***African solutions to African problems in the age of Chinese lebensraum.***

This objective will be pursued by exploring Africa's approach in bringing solutions to Africa's development and economic challenges. In addition, the method that Africa can use to influence the proposed partnership with China, as well as the way it enhanced the outcome of the Strategic Partnership of the new Chinese peaceful development approach. Furthermore, this study discusses the implications of such strategic partnership based on the findings and perspectives for future Africa-China relations. The different views that have led them to pursue similar priorities in their national interests as well as in their political, economic and development agendas. The final objective of this study is to prove the fact that China, currently considered a genuine partner and a responsible strategic friend to Africa, cannot be without any political pressure and economic disadvantages for Africa.

1.4 PRELIMINARY LITERATURE REVIEW

This section discusses the rapidly growing body of material on the role Africa can play in bringing a solution to the economic and political challenges African countries continue to face with regard to political and economic development. Socio-economic development in the form of education, infrastructure, economic independence or growth as well as political power in Africa have tended to be lower than that of China and the rest of the world despite Africa's rich natural resources.

By observing Chinese diplomacy in Africa, Shim (2011) maintains that China is skillful in state–state relations. Hu Jintao visited African countries six times (four times while he was the president of China and two times as a vice president). From 1991, the Chinese government ensured that its foreign minister visited African countries in order to contract economic diplomacy and expand the Chinese economic empire in Africa.

Chinese leaders have always accepted invitations by African leaders to visit China than the United States extending invitation for African leaders to visits Washington. The Communist Party of China regularly invites leaders of African political parties to visit China.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

A descriptive explanatory qualitative approach was employed in this study. The study plan takes a conceptual structure and alternates between a more theoretical and more authentic facts concerning the political and economic interrelations between Africa and China. The general idea is deductive in style in that it starts from a theoretical outline of investigation discussing and analysing sources dealing with the description of peaceful development idea of China in relation to Africa's economic expansion and improvement.

This study discusses and deduces Africa's approach with regard to China's peaceful development agenda and their connotations for the particular conduct and means adopted. In this respect, the approach can also be partly inductive to the extent of conceptualisation the topic through a mixture of pragmatic and concrete data about Africa applied to put forward specific solutions for the Africa's political economy and the role China should play in this regard. It does not attempt, however, to build prescribed models or new theories.

1.6 OUTLINE OF THE STUDY

Chapter 1 provides the framework and background of the study, the statement of the problem, aim and objectives, the methodology employed and provides a conceptual framework on the idea of Lebensraum. It further provides definitions of concepts used in the study.

Chapter 2 presents the literature review. This is done through discussing what has already been done in scholarly works and the theoretical framework suitable to analyse the nature of the study. It also articulates the rationale for the selection of theories used in the study.

Chapter 3 assesses China's model of development as well as economic reforms of China.

Chapter 4 assesses Africa's poor performance in economic development as well as methods that could be used to improve such performance. Furthermore, lessons pertinent for Africa's development are discussed and considered. Other elements assessed are an overview of China's peaceful development and constraints for Africa-China partnership.

Chapter 5 is the conclusion and recommendations which could be implemented or considered in order to address problems and issues highlighted in the study.

1.7 CONCLUSION

It is true that Africa is in the cycle of underdevelopment and poor economic growth. However, Africa cannot afford to neglect its role in addressing contemporary the political, economic and social challenges it faces. It is critical for Africa to seek ways and means to address these challenges. This chapter has presented the aim, objectives, tentative literature review and theoretical positions suitable for the study. The next chapter focuses on the literature review and theoretical framework.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter assesses and analyses the views embraced by various authors on the topic under discussion. The rationale of this exercise is to gain a broader understanding of what has already been done by experts in the domain. Secondly, the researcher intends not to duplicate the works of other authors and intends to ensure that the completed work is original.

The theoretical framework also forms part of the chapter. Relevant theories on International Relations are applied in this study. Furthermore, justifications and motivations for the selection of the theoretical framework are articulated in order to create a connection and coherence of how they can be pertinent to the analysis of the scenario highlighted in this study.

The literature consulted in relation to the study “the spread of Chinese lebensraum in Africa” seems to emphasise the fact that China seeks only to maximise its interests in the developing world through the tactics of investment in infrastructure in order to be able to access the natural resources of host countries. Other scholars hold the view that China is also competing with its western counterparts such as the United States of America and the United Kingdom for the control of resources in Africa. However, not much in the literature seems to emphasise the solutions that Africa should embrace in order to react to this erupting lebensraum within its borders. This study, therefore, seeks to fill this knowledge gap that has not yet been explored by scholars. It is a contribution in the field of current Chinese lebensraum in the African continent.

2.2 A tussle of power among superpowers

Considering the fact that Africa is a very rich continent in terms of natural resources, since the era of colonialism, many countries from global north have sucked the wealth and minerals from this continent in order to enrich their countries. Currently, through neo-colonialism, western countries are continuing to draw and negotiate with African leaders to grant them access into the natural resources of continent. Focusing on China and its current movements in the African continent, various scholars hold various views about its diplomacy in Africa.

Tull (2006:3) is of the view that China's involvement in Africa focuses in promoting its own interest. It seems too characterized by profusion of aid, cancellation of debts, flourishing trade between Africa and China, focusing on oil which has mainly benefited only China and African elites.

The above notion is very credible when one considers the persistent underdevelopment of the African continent. Africa is a continent largely plagued by conflict, political corruption, human rights violations and political violence. However, China, even though doing business with African countries, does not choose to be instrumental to assist with its diplomatic skills to minimise bad governments in the continent. Perhaps, this is justifiable since countries have the prerogative of solving their own problems without the interference of external powers. The focus of the Chinese government is to achieve its national interests at the end. China is not the only country in the world that is out to extract and acquire the mineral wealth of Africa. Countries such as USA and UK, with their many aids and investments in Africa, are not in the continent to empower African countries but to tap into the rich potentials of Africa and dispossess the continent of its resources.

Mohan and Power (2008:24) argue that China's involvement in Africa is motivated by a global competition for security and energy supply with other global actors such as the USA, UK and India. It seeks to have a huge supply of energy from the continent than its competitors.

The presence of China in Africa threatens the power of the US since it is the global hegemony in international politics. Though the US refuses to admit the reality that it feels challenged by China's presence in Africa, by its current investments in Africa, such as the Agoa programme to assist African countries to trade their products in the USA without major taxes, these are friendly gestures by the west to actually spread its soft power on Africa. Campbell (2008:4) embraces the view that the emergence of China in Africa as the influential force sparks competition of power over who actually controls western powers such as the USA and EU countries.

2.3 CHINA'S QUEST FOR MINERAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA

In the eyes of other scholars, China seems to be very selective in choosing countries that are rich in resources. This is done in order to access their minerals and show less interest to those that are not in such resources. However, hypothetically, most of these authors could be looking at the world through the lenses of the realism theory which embraces the notion that states only seek their national interests by assessing what they can benefit from other countries in the process of trade and diplomacy. This theory is upheld by scholars such as Brautigam (2009:12) who argues that China's presence in Africa is very capitalistic and selective. Its target is to offer aid to countries that have a lot of mineral resources and weak governments.

This concept is also supported by writers such as Davies, Dinger, Tay and Naidu (2008:11). They argue that China does not aim to work with all African countries in order to achieve its objectives. It particularly intends to prioritise its focus on resource rich countries to achieve its national interests. Countries of focus include the following: Angola, Sudan, Nigeria, Zambia, South Africa and Egypt.

Kolstad and Wiig (2011:32) while assessing the dominant interests of China in Africa, argue that China is focusing on investing in countries rich in natural resources even if they have dysfunctional government institutions which are corrupt and violating human rights. This

impacts on the development process in Africa since the Chinese policy is usually quiet diplomacy to structural abuses of its subjects.

Other scholars, however, hold a more accommodating viewpoint when assessing the interests of China in Africa. Their perceptions are that both China and Africa need each other's capacities to gain development from each other (Rotberg, 200:1) maintains that both China and Africa should work together to achieve their objectives. Neither China nor Africa can prosper without each other's abilities sharpening each other's interests.

This idea is further supported and embraced by academics such as Lafargue (2005:6) He posits that Sino-Africa relationship is based on the mutual gains they obtain from each other. For China, Africa is a valuable resource for natural resources in the form of oil and coal. For Africa, China is an excellent partner that provides valuable aid without exploitative conditions. Furthermore, Reid (2008:1) while elaborating on this issue concludes that China is not a threat to Africa because it seeks only to conduct trade and investment. Furthermore, the methods used in the process are soft power approaches such as persuasion rather than military force used to achieve its end.

This notion, in a way, is very plausible in a sense because both countries are benefiting from each other's resources. However, China as a stronger and advanced country, will automatically dominate Africa with its lebensraum with time. Unless Africa reacts to these subtle invasion into its borders and begin to invent new ways of solving its challenges in the areas of infrastructure and scientific development, it will be swallowed up in the systems of external culture (such as China) to resolve its problems.

Other writers view Chinese interests in Africa as emanating mainly from its need for natural resources in order to supply its local population. This need has pushed China to be both generous and persuasive by assessing the needs of African countries in order to get access to its resources. In the long run, however, China hopes to rise to be a superpower or hegemony, regionally and internationally.

Chan (2007:1) argues that China is in dire pressure domestically to supply natural resources. This motivation has made it a generous trade partner of Africa offering big amounts and interests as well as free loans to the continent in order to access natural resources. China had in the past, been importing them from Latin America, south-east Asia and Africa. Muekalia (2004:5) further argues that China, overtime, has changed its foreign policy from confrontation to cooperation. Its main goal in Africa is to fulfill its strategic goals, namely: energy, trade, investment and geopolitical interests.

Elaborating further, in this line of thought, Kaplinsky, McCormick and Morris (2007:3) highlight that the key interest of China in Africa is principally to amass mineral resources and supply infrastructural investments and its manufacturing services to the continent.

Other observers of Chinese interest in Africa such as Taylor (2006:17), argues that the main objective of China in Africa is twofold; firstly, it aims to secure oil supplies from the African continent in order to meet the needs back in China. In addition to this, it aims to ultimately be the dominant country in the world in the oil market. Secondly, China intends to embrace the approach of turning a blind eye to the internal corruptions and human rights violations within the countries it is trading with.

The above notion cannot seem to neglect the fact that the international system is in a state of anarchy. China, as an actor in the global stage, cannot solve the problems of other countries, unless it interferes with their sovereignty. Its main goal is to look into its survival in the jungle of the international stage. The fact that it is providing aid to its African partners is a contribution in itself to accelerate the process of development. It can assist granted the opportunity to interfere into the internal affairs of the host country.

Other scholars argue that China is considered by many African countries as the agent of change in areas of infrastructure, economic development and medical development in order to combat diseases such as HIV/AIDS (Gill, Huang and Morrison, 2007:4). Furthermore, Zeleza (2008:29) argues that like all major powers, China intends to achieve its own national interests by being in harmonious relations with host countries even if they have questionable institutions as long as they achieve their objectives at the end.

China's involvement in Africa is mainly to achieve its national interests. It seeks to access the enormous wealth of Africa in the form of natural resources to be able to support its domestic needs. The bigger goal, however, is to increase its power and dominance on the international system, to rise to the status of a major player in terms of power and influence in the world. In spite of its selective approach in terms of investments in Africa, this could be tactical and strategic, so the outcome in the end of investment may not be disadvantageous to its interests.

2.4 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Theories are very important to show that the main issues in a particular scenario in international relations are viewed with eyes or perceptions which show a unique school of thought. It shows which interpretations are embraced to analyse the behaviour of states in the world system.

Jackson Sorensen (2007: 54) maintains that human beings observe the world through different viewpoints. These perceptions represent lenses or theories. Theories, therefore, formulate the important part of our world since we observe different scenarios differently from other people. Theories, therefore, function as lenses in order to assist with the interpretation of different political scenarios.

The two theories best suitable for analysing this study are neo-realism and liberalism. In the following section, motivations or the rationale for choosing these theories are substantiated with credible and plausible views.

2.4.1 Neo-realism

Neo-realists view the international system as being in the state of anarchy. In other words, it is like a jungle in which each country must ensure its survival, progress and security. Other scholars such as Dibek (2012) argue that because the global system is without a central government, or a system which is anarchical in nature, each actor should seek ways to survive and look after its self-interests.

In addition, the Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy (2013) stipulates that because the international system is in a state of anarchy, neo-realists argue that self-help is the determinant of international political outcome. Due to the fact that there is no central system enforcing rules, each state should find ways to survive and pursue power.

An assessment of the current actions of China in Africa shows that it is trying to achieve its national interests and also surviving by maintaining friendly diplomatic ties with African countries and other relevant countries. By supplying countries with investments, infrastructural developments and aid in other forms, China is trying to access resources in order to be able to survive or feed its systems domestically and to continue to exist. It cannot depend on any other system to minister to its needs. It has to depend on itself. This observation therefore makes neo-realism as a theory, very pertinent in order to analyse this study as it focuses on China and its current actions in the international system.

2.4 LIBERALISM

Liberalists support the notion of interdependence. They embrace the notion that states cannot function or exist like islands. They need each other due to the fact they do not have the same power, resources and skills. Furthermore, they need to cooperate because they cannot maintain international relations without the concept of collaboration. Moravcsik (2010:3) maintains that liberal theorists are of the opinion that interdependence among states influences state behaviour. They also embrace the fact that interdependence and cooperation are significant and that without them, there will not be a rationale to conduct studies in international relations. Countries cannot function without each other's abilities and resources.

Elaborating further, Spring (2008:1) maintains that neoliberal scholars are the most important actors in the international system. The international system has attributes of interdependence. Countries focus only in developing their economies. States cooperate in order to create international institutions and build trust.

As one analyses the behaviour of China's objectives and behaviour in Africa, it is a conduct influenced by the reality that it needs to cooperate and depend on the resources of its trade partners in order to develop and prosper. On the other hand, host countries also benefit from the skills and abilities of China in their borders. Consequently, one finds that state behaviour from China and its partners in Africa is influenced by the fact that without independence and cooperation from one another, they cannot conduct international relations and cannot gain wealth and resources from each other. This theory thus becomes relevant as well to study as it analyses the work of China in Africa.

Both theories are pertinent in analysing this study. One is not more important than the other. They emphasise the reality of cooperation, interdependence and the need for state survival on the international scene. Each and every country on the globe has the mission of looking after its survival and welfare due to the anarchical system of International Relations.

CHAPTER THREE

CHINA AND ITS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the aims and objectives of the research. It assesses China's model of development as well as the economic reforms of China. Other objectives and aims of the study are discussed in chapter 4. It is the intention of this chapter to x-ray dominant strategies adopted by China in trying to be *primus inter pares* in the comity of nations. Having done this examination, the next objective is to link them with international economic relations in the African continent and why and how African countries could benefit significantly from their relationship with the Beijing government and its multinational enterprises. This chapter discusses models of development, economic reforms from 1978 and draws conclusions that serve as a link with the next chapter.

3.1 CHINA MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT

It is critical to discuss the Chinese model of development as a significant aspect that can best assist in understanding China's growth including its economic development approach in African countries. This is important as it lays the foundation to better understand Chinese economic *Lebensraum* which can be implemented in the African continent. It is an undeniable fact that the Chinese model of development has contributed significantly and positively towards the current Chinese economic success experienced in the past 30 years. This is why it is important to understand the concept of China's development in dealing with the idea of *African solutions to African problems in the Age of Chinese lebensraum*.

In terms of the Chinese Model of development, it is important to bear in mind insofar as songs of praise have been showered on China regarding the successes and achievements of this model, continuous lamentations and tears run out as a sign of a disapproval of the Chinese Growth Model. There are many who hold the view that China's model is better due its successes and others are opposed to the idea because of the setbacks associated with its problems.

Stefan Halper, a columnist of the Economist defines China's Development Model as "the Beijing Consensus", and describes it as a complex set of developments and reforms over the past 30 years that owe their success to the unique qualities of China's culture, demography, geography and governing philosophies. In this regard, there is no "model" to speak of that can be replicated or exported to places such as Latin America or sub-Saharan Africa"(Goralczyk, 2010:61).

The Chinese model also points out the fact that countries interested in employing the model are required not to deviate from prescriptions of the model. The implication of the latter is that a country can grow its economy or development in a manner that it desires. For this reason, China does not put forward any prerequisites for African countries as it relates to who they govern their affairs as opposed to the Western approach to African affairs.

Shelton and Paruk (2008) describe the Chinese Model of development as follows: "the Beijing Consensus is a model driven by a desire for equitable, peaceful and sustainable growth that favours stability, self-determination and flexibility". In the final analysis, it is an undeniable fact that China's recent economic change has been influenced by a number of components as described above and continues to show enormous success insofar as it fits China's situation and in the light of the continent of Africa, the same model could be applied to realise urgent dramatic economic transformation.

3.2 CHINA'S ECONOMIC REFORM

The Chinese economy is currently experiencing transformation of its economic set up and policy framework. The reform appears to be of great importance taking into consideration the need for maximisation of growth value lacking in Chinese society. The observation is that in order for China to maintain growth in the near future, doing something about its progress and prospects in this regard is of great value. It is worth noting that the current reform China is going through is due to the economic pressure not immune to the normalities of economic growth as understood. This includes, among others, change prototypes of resource distribution, faster wage increase, labour scarcity, income allocation, investment and environmental impacts.

Garnaut, Fang and Song (2013) describe economic reform of China as follows: “what is required going forward is a different system for controlling the economy, a system that can build on some of the institutions that have begun to develop, but requires replacing or substantially modifying many of the other institutions that continue to govern China’s economy and society”.

In this chapter, focus is on two areas where fundamental changes in these institutions are required. A brief discussion of a third area outlining what needs to be done and progress already underway is also presented. The first of these areas involves a variety of interrelated institutions, including the regulatory system, the nature of the political system as it relates to government economic, decision-making, the legal system, the land ownership system and inadequate decentralised sources of government revenue. These systems, as they operate today, are responsible for a large share of widespread corruption that threatens political stability and hence economic performance. The second area of interconnected institutions discussed involves the relationship between urbanisation, the social welfare system, and the changing Chinese demographic structure. The third area labels ‘technical institutions’ for lack of a better description. This involves continued modernisation of the financial system, the steady improvement and expansion of research and development in engineering and the sciences, the continued upgrading of universities, and other institutional changes designed to maintain a high rate of growth in productivity (Garnaut, Fang and Song, 2013:17).

The understanding here should be based on what Chinese economic reform is all about. The long and short story of this reform is to maintain a situation on long-term bases for the kind of economic development that will be able to ensure that the living condition of the people of China is maintained above poverty levels with particular focus in the rural China.

3.3 CONCLUSION

In the present circumstances, China and Africa have the advantage to intensify their policy relations to deal decisively with a number of challenges arising from the global community, protect legitimate policies, rights and desires of developing nations and fight for a just and fair international economic platform. It is only through effective and efficient China-Africa

economic and development policy relations that China-Africa can become a power to be reckoned with and at the same time, bring positive transformation within the international arena.

CHAPTER FOUR

CHINA-AFRICA RELATIONS: A RELATIONSHIP OF MUTUAL BENEFIT

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section focuses on the relationship between China and Africa. It assesses why Africa has such poor record in terms of economic development, as well as how the situation could be improved. Furthermore, lessons which are pertinent for Africa's development are discussed and considered. Other issues discussed are an overview of China's peaceful development and constraints for Africa-China partnership.

4.2 AFRICA'S HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA

China has always attached significance to the preservation of good dealings with the African continent. China maintains the principle of independent sovereignty and intervenes in the internal affairs of other states. The Chinese government situates a premium on high opinion on the policies of independent states, on the bases of cooperation, support and mutual respect. There has also been a progressive boost in trade between China and Africa. In this respect, a forum on co-operation between Africa and China was organised in Beijing in October 2001. A number of agreements were arrived at between China and African states at the forum that was codified and adopted in the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action.

China supports the African and Arab people in their struggle to oppose imperialism, and old and new colonialism and to win and safeguard national independence. China supports the pursuance of a policy of peace, neutrality and non-alignment by governments of African Arab countries. China supports the desire of African and Arab people to achieve unity and solidarity in their own manner and choice. China also supports African and the Arab countries in their efforts to settle their disputes through peaceful consultations. China maintains that the sovereignty of African and Arab countries should be respected by all other countries and that encroachment and interference from one quarter should be opposed (Shelton and Paruk, 2008:54).

In addition to the five principles outlined by Premier Zhou, as pointed out by Shelton and Paruk, there are also eight principles concerned with China's relationship with Africa referred to as China's engagement with Africa. In their study on the Forum on China- Africa Cooperation, Shelton and Paruk (2008) classify the eight principles of China's engagement with Africa as follows: "the Chinese government always bases itself on the principle of equality and mutual benefit in providing aid to other countries, it never regards that aid as a kind of unilateral aid but as mutual event, in providing aid to other countries, the Chinese government strictly respects the sovereignty of recipient countries, never attaching any conditions nor expecting any privileges. China provides economic aid in the form of interest free or low interest loans and extends the time limit for repayment when necessary so as to lighten the burden of recipient countries as much as possible. In providing aid to other countries, the purpose of the Chinese government is not to make recipient countries depend on China but help them embark step by step on the road of self-reliance and independent economic development, and the Chinese government tries its best to assist recipient countries build projects which require less investment while yielding quicker results, so that the recipient government may increase its income and accumulate capital.

The Chinese government provides best quality equipment and material of its own manufacturing at the international market place. If equipment and material provided by the Chinese government are not up to agreed specifications and quality, the Chinese government undertakes to replace them. In providing any particular technical assistance, the Chinese government ensures that the personnel of the recipient country is fully abreast with such technique. Experts dispatched by China to assist in construction in recipient countries will have the same standard of living as experts of the recipient country. Chinese experts are not allowed to make any special demands or enjoy any special amenities (Shelton and Paruk, 2008:54-55).

The above principles should be treated in a manner that will enhance positive relationship between China and Africa and which should hopefully continue. It is firmly believed that the above-mentioned principles have the potential to strengthen relationship between Africa and China as long as China adheres to its principles and promises and Africa also does what it is supposed to do without compromising its own policies and principles.

4.3 POOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE IN AFRICA

Politicians, economists and analysts concerned with Africa's economic development in general, have identified a number of causes associated with Africa's economic decline and lack of development. Africa's debt, poverty, malnutrition, unclean environment, leadership, lack of patriotic spirit, wars and political instability are among those cited as major causes of Africa's failure to perform well in economic development. During the 18th century, the world experienced underdevelopment and poverty, and Africa was not exempted from the situation. Why does Africa continue to perform badly and poorly for so long? This question is important in that Africa is a continent naturally rich in all kinds of minerals and other resources. The colonisation of Africa by the West, if not the rest of the world, is cited as one of the reasons for Africa's poor economic performance. The negative impacts of colonisation left Africa in serious political instability which has hindered growth in Africa.

Mbeki (2009) argues that the colonial scheme was not made to grow the industrious ability of colonies. The main aim of the colonial scheme was only intended to dig out the minerals and raw agricultural material in Africa for purposes of enriching and developing the home countries of the colonisers through the processing, manufacturing and production of goods for themselves. In addition, Mbeki emphasises that lack of investment by African countries has contributed to its poor economic performance and lack of development. This point is carefully elaborated upon by Moeletsi Mbeki's recent work entitled: 'Architects of Poverty'. In his study, he maintains that "unable to find employment, Africa's people start migrating from country to country and eventually, masses of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled people cross the oceans to Europe. In order to keep their governments running in the face of declining revenues, Africa's elites borrow from abroad to make up for revenue shortfalls, thus increasing their countries' indebtedness to international financiers and foreign governments. With time, African governments are unable to service their debts and become dependent on gifts or donations from governments of wealthy countries or from whoever wants to exploit Africa's rich natural resources" (Mbeki, 2009:30-31). According to Mbeki, this has led to economic

stagnation caused by enormous debts and the aid received by Africa is usually with conditions.

According to the United Nations Trade and Development Report, lack of proper investment in the form of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has played a major role in underdevelopment and economic challenges constantly experienced in Africa. It is an undeniable fact that the international community has acknowledged the fact that investment is an imperative vehicle to take any country that desires economic development to its economic destiny. The move by African countries to make the investment environment more liberal has not produced the desired FDI. The cause of Africa's poor economic and development performance is triggered negatively by lack of foreign investment and due to well-known historical, ideological and political reasons. This wariness is seen in different forms taking into account business environment factors that hinder better foreign flows. Africa's lack of promoting and attracting more FDI is the result of failing to fully boost its economy and improving performance on economic development which can be achieved through the potential of private capital to impact economic development and integration with the global economy.

On the whole, rewards gained from FDI in relation to developing economies are well documented. This is realised when FDI policies of the host-country and its foundational level of development place FDI in a better position to yield technological spill-overs, contribute to international trade integration, assist human capital formation, help create a conducive economical business environment and boost business development. All of these help to stimulate higher economic growth, which is the most important ingredient for reducing the levels of poverty in Africa and China. Moreover, some host country authorities perceive an increasing dependence on internationally operating enterprises as representing a loss of political sovereignty. Even some expected benefits may prove elusive if, for example, the host economy, in its current state of economic development, is not able to take advantage of the technologies or know-how transferred through FDI.

In addition, FDI has the ability to improve the environmental and social conditions of any country that seeks FDI strategies for economic development (UNCTAD, 2008). African countries fail to invest effectively due to the dependency tactics of western countries. Their aim is to amass wealth from the continent and they are not willing to uplift Africa to economic prosperity.

4.3 HOW CAN AFRICA'S ECONOMY BE IMPROVED?

In order for Africa to improve its economy, firstly, it is important for Africa to ensure that it promotes the principle of Good governance, peace and security. Secondly, Africa must find ways and means to invest in its human capital and programmes aimed at stimulating economic growth. Another important aspect necessary to assist Africa improve its economic endeavours is the employment of methods that can assist in poverty alleviation. Thirdly, it is imperative that African leaders encourage fair trade, better financial capital and harness strong partnership with developing and developed countries. In this case, China is the most recommended friend.

According to the article entitled "Africa: Economic Growth Improving by Africa Focus Bulletin", Africa can improve its economic and development growth only at the level of its economic, political and social levels by doing the following:

" At the economic level, priority must be given to: Minimising dependency on the vagaries of the climate, through agricultural transformation; reducing exposure to commodity price shocks through the diversification of exports; consolidating macroeconomic stability through prudent fiscal and monetary policies underpinned by effective expenditure tracking systems and an efficient public sector; mobilising domestic savings to finance investments through macroeconomic stability and measures to deepen financial and capital markets; maximising job creation by minimising constraints to private sector investments and growth (e.g., complementary public investments in roads, utilities, etc., and minimisation of red-tape); minimising the unpredictability of ODA flows by negotiating greater donor coordination and commitment to streamline aid delivery modalities and, where relevant, ensuring greater effort

on the part of African countries to fulfill mutually agreed benchmarks with donors; and accelerating efforts of regional cooperation to effectively harness global forces for development.

4.4 SOCIALINTERVENTIONS

Interventions at the social level must be guided by the goal of improving the health and human capital of the citizenry. This can be achieved by:

- Maximising physical and financial access to health systems by the poor, through cost-effective investments in social services, including the design of financially sustainable social safety nets;
- Addressing the adverse effects of major diseases such as malaria, and especially halting the spread of HIV/AIDS as well as addressing the needs of people living with AIDS; and
- Investing in education and ensuring that human capital (acquired either through formal education or skills training), is relevant to the workplace; and
- Putting in place effective policies to retain human capital and reverse brain drain (Afri-focus, 2014).

On the political level, the overriding objectives should be to:

- Secure peace and security through the development of credible democratic processes and institutions, including the respect for the rule of law and the rights and liberties of the citizenry; provide for the rule of the majority while respecting the rights of minorities;
- Make special provisions for least-developed countries and post-conflict economies; and
- Optimise global partnerships to level the playing field in the trade arena as well as develop and maintain the capacity for infrastructure development and effective management” (Afri-focus, 2014).

In the final analysis, Africa can improve in its performance in terms of its economy and development by diversifying with respect to trading partners in the continent and abroad. Attempts to secure more robust integration at the regional level have the ability to lift up low levels of both external and internal trade. The infrastructure and energy needs could be dealt with effectively by regional forces of economy and development. The critical move for Africa in this aspect will include well thought of strategies and plans at national and regional levels and also to formulate better interaction among southern partners which will contribute towards building a very strong South-South cooperation resulting in the diversification of markets and investment.

4.5 LESSONS FOR AFRICA

Firstly, it has been imperative for China to ensure that there is a sound and well-established financial structure in place. Secondly, agricultural reforms have been put in place. Thirdly, outstanding trade and industrial zones have been launched in and put in place such as in Shanghai meant to be a magnet for foreign investment. On the whole, China's open door policy has been incremental.

Furthermore, the policy of liberalisation has had an effect on the rapport between central and local governments. Until now, there has been a well centralised system of government. Nevertheless, decentralisation has been positioned as China embarks on reform development. In the process of reforms, local governments took over the approach towards development planning by attracting independent investment and negotiating with foreign investors. Chinese foreign missions overseas have been tasked with the responsibility of making available information about possible foreign investors with the aim of hunting out fraudulent investors and attracting authentic ones.

In the light of the above, Africa going forward should adopt the philosophy and learn from China and of course, other nations in order to further its development process.

4.6 AN OVERVIEW OF CHINA'S PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT

China's policy approach suggests that China has only one option with regard to the contemporary international environment. The choice is for China to approach the international community from the point of view of peaceful development in order to develop the continent using peaceful international environment and simultaneously ensuring world peace by employing its development programmes.

The idea of China's peaceful development is understood in different ways by many. For the purpose of this study, should the concept of peaceful development be understood in its international and historical context? The context to understand the idea of peaceful development is best explained by the full text entitled: China's peaceful development as follows:

"Viewed from the broader, global and historical context, the path of peaceful development may be defined as follows: China should develop itself through upholding world peace and contribute to world peace through its own development. It should achieve development with its own efforts and by carrying out reform and innovation; at the same time, it should open itself to the outside and learn from other countries. It should seek mutual benefit and common development with other countries in keeping with the trend of economic globalisation, and it should work together with other countries to build a harmonious world of durable peace and common prosperity. This is a path of scientific, independent, open, peaceful, cooperative and common development"(Wang, 2011).

Shelton and Paruk explain, that China's Peaceful Development move in the light of what they call President Hu's commitment to a 'harmonious world' is described as follows:

"To promote the concept of a harmonious world, an important aspect is to consolidate and develop relationships with big countries, especially with the United States, Russia and the European Union. Therefore, the key to building a harmonious world is building a harmonious relationship with big countries. Meanwhile, due to China's geographic location, we should strength harmonious co-existence with neighbouring countries, engage in full cooperation with

them on the issues of our common interest, and strive to build a harmonious relationship with neighbouring countries. As the world's largest developing country, China should take the lead among developing countries, pro-actively develop economic and trade cooperation and friendly exchange with developing countries as well as and strive to build harmonious partnerships" (Shelton and Paruk, 2008:13).

Peaceful development or peaceful rise as it is some time referred to, surpasses all understanding and endeavours for any kind of development insofar as the Chinese are concerned. Number one on the Chinese development desire is the inherent values they believe that peace can bring with in their quest for development. Commitment and prosperity can only be alive when their driving force is seen in the light of peaceful relations among nations and countries. Therefore, the fundamental aim of China's international relations is to fashion a peaceful and unwavering international atmosphere for its development. In the interim, China makes every effort to make its due input to world peace and development. It never employs hostility or expansion, never hunt for domination, and remains obliged to upholding regional and world peace as well as stability.

China's overall goal of pursuing peaceful development is to promote development and harmony domestically and pursue cooperation and peace internationally. Specifically, this means that China will endeavour to make life better for its people and contribute to human progress through hard work, innovation and reform carried out by the Chinese people and growing long-term friendly relations and promoting equality and mutually-beneficial cooperation with other countries. This has become a national commitment which is manifested in strategies for national development, and progress made in the course of China's development

The main goal of China's peaceful development is best documented by the full text entitled "China's peaceful development" as follows:

"To achieve modernisation and common prosperity for the people is the overall goal of China's pursuit of peaceful development. Following the introduction of the policies of reform and opening-up to the outside world in the late 1970s, China adopted and implemented a

three-step strategy for achieving modernisation. The first step was to double the GNP of 1980 and ensure people's basic living needs. The second step was to redouble the output of 1980 and achieve initial prosperity by the end of the 20th century. The goals of these two steps have been met. The aim of the third step is to ensure that the per capita GNP reaches the level of medium-developed countries, bring about general prosperity, basically realise modernisation and build China into a rich, strong, democratic, civilised, harmonious and modern socialist country by the 100th anniversary of the People's Republic of China in the mid-21st century. The central goal of this three-step development strategy is to improve people's material and cultural lives, make the people rich and the country strong. Meanwhile, as its comprehensive strength increases, China will shoulder corresponding international responsibilities and obligations (Weiguang, 2008).

In the final analysis, it is befitting to point out that by and large, China, in its quest for peaceful development, works hard to enhance development and peace within the country and chases international cooperation and peace. The unwavering intention is on ensuring that a better life for all is realised and continue to impact humanity by working harder and bringing progress in the form of technology, reform and innovation by the Chinese people and maintain sustainable friendly contacts and supporting beneficial cooperation on equal footing within the international eye. This can actually be understood in terms of foreign relations as China's foreign policy and national interest with plans and strategies for national development.

4.7 THE IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND AFRICA

The partnership between Africa and China has improved over the years and is controlled by China's international trade and industrial development curiosity. It is remarkably observed that the economy of China has grown tremendously and its priority on acquiring natural resources is highly noticed. China's expansion compared to the unlimited natural resources of Africa has necessitated China-Africa strategic partnership.

Politically, Africa considers China as a main companion in the international stage that embodies the reallocation to multi-polarity. China's standing within the international

community, a member of the G77 and, a member of the Global South notwithstanding the fact that China is the number one developing country among developing countries; all make China to be very significant in the light of Africa's relationship with the world. The role that China continues to play in peacekeeping in Africa is also seen as one of the most important ingredients Africa cannot survive without, considering the priorities of peace and security of Africa.

In his article entitled "Sino-Africa relationship: towards a New Strategic Partnership", Zhang Chun argues that what makes the partnership significant is the transition from a one way relationship to a relationship that has many facets for partnership between the two. Chun describes this partnership as follows:

The Sino-Africa relationship is fading away or changing from being an emotional/ideological one to one which is more economically related. This shift is due to the change of the era of old leaders to current leaders who are western educated. Other pressing issues include the dire economic stressing seasons of the current global climate. The eruption of the 'Arab Spring' painted the importance of protecting China's overseas economic interests and national citizens. Based on the principle of 'people first', protecting overseas Chinese and economic security remains a top priority on China's foreign policy in general and China's policy towards Africa in particular (Zhang, 2011: 17).

In the final analysis, in order for the strategic partnership between China and Africa to accomplish its desired goals, it will be important that going forward, China must play a pivotal role in making sure that the interdependence between China and Africa is realised. As a recognised emerging power, the ball is upon China's shoulders to safeguard and empower this kind of relationship. In so doing, with Africa, China will be increasing its competitive advantage as a welcomed partner for developing countries.

4.8 CONSTRAINTS FOR THE AFRICA-CHINA PARTNERSHIP

Opponents of China's strategic partnership with Africa indicate that there is a possible long-term harm that can be caused by China's increased interest in African countries. Critics hold

that Beijing's need for oil, including the extraction of raw materials, unavoidably helps to keep alive Africa's dependence on such exports and hold back the development of more labour-demanding industries such as agro-business and manufacturing. Opponents also point out that the idea of China's aid for Africa's development is related to Chinese multinational companies' *lebensraum* throughout Africa and borrowing from Chinese Banks and other financial institutions which have the potential to develop into Africa's vicious cycle of debt for many years ahead.

It is important to emphasise that China's engagement with Africa is no different and will not be different from those of other powers should they have the same opportunity that Africa is willing to afford China in particular taking into account the economic and underdevelopment pain inflicted in Africa by major powers in the past.

4.9 CONCLUSION

In as much as relations between China and Africa have been in the main of first-class, there has been a number of challenges and opposition to such relations. The challenges and opposition that China and Africa are confronted with in present-day times is mainly influenced by the international environment and the transformation currently taking place. Indeed, Africa can copy from China with respect to China's stable control of its economic growth as well as the level of foreign investment. China should invest in Africa in order to create jobs and expand the economic base of African countries.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the recommendations, conclusions drawn from the study and areas for further research. The recommendations emerged from the aims and objectives of the study. Recommendations made in the study are aimed at assisting in dealing with problems faced by African countries.

5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1.1 African renaissance

Boloka (1999) and Okumu (2002) give credit to former President Thabo Mbeki of the Republic of South Africa. They consider him as the modern champion and driver of the need for the notion of African renaissance. Mbeki has been labelled as one of the strong advocates of the African renaissance notion because he considered the concept as a manifestation of Africa's empowerment (Okumu 2002). For Boloka (1999), renaissance would be a vehicle for the South African and Africa's brand to showcase their good story and strategic importance to the international community.

The idea comes out of the Africa Harlem Renaissance and attributes of post-apartheid regime in the new South African dispensation, the continent and the nation's attempt to redress its undesirable history of oppression. Okumu (2002) maintains that a new start for Africa is important in order to bring to the fore Africa's image from enslavement to self-empowerment. According to Louw (2002), the mobilisation for an African Renaissance is an endeavour driving politicians to uphold social cohesion and change.

In the final analysis, the main motive behind the African renaissance stems from the quest by African leaders to solidify and resurrect the positive identity and dignity of the continent to the highest level of self-worth and appreciation.

5.3 AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS

According to Lauren, “the idea of ‘African solutions to African problems’ has become a compelling maxim of the African Union (AU) and its leading member states such as South Africa. It is an emotive, politically charged call that resonates equally among governments and civil society on the continent (Nathan 2013:40).

Lauren further maintains that a number of issues form part of the African solutions to African problems dictum. He argues that health, education and development are cited as part of the maxim. However, emphasis is on peace and security as all of these are evident when taking into account what is contained in the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) regarding the subject matter and further extended to the Peace and Security Council, the Continental Early Warning System, the African Standby Force, the Panel of the Wise and the Peace Fund (Nathan 2013:48).

History holds that since independence, Africa is one continent that has been associated with economic and development scandal. What remains open for discussion is the purported increase of financial relief for Africa countries. It is important to understand that such financial assistance has the potential to harm expansion as this can render countries receiving aid immobile in relation to better economic mobility envisaged. It is argued by many commentators on the subject of aid to Africa that this attempt has drastically failed to prove that it is capable of bringing or yielding appreciable capital in terms of institutional, human and societal capabilities. Emphasis should be on infrastructural development and regional integration in order to initiate a holistic approach to address matters of common interest among African states including solving problems that are common to African countries. Trade and Investment environment, technological capacity, financial resources, relevant expertise and governance are among the areas that require the creation of a conducive environment for willing participants in the global arena.

Bjorn (2009:16) concludes that no matter how popular the phrase ‘African solutions to African problems’ may be, it is neither obvious that ‘Africa’ could or should solve all the continent’s

problems. The ambitions of the African Union, the various sub-regional organisations on the continent and national leaders are obvious and the determination to strive for their realisation seems sincere, at least, in most cases. However, that there is a wide gap between these ambitions, plans and organisational setups and the actual accomplishments should come as no great surprise. It would be surprising if the world's poorest continent was able to solve the world's most frequent and widespread problems as well as deadly conflicts. However, this does not mean that the endeavour is completely futile or should not be undertaken. Both the AU and sub-regional organisations have actually succeeded in bringing at least relative peace in countries such as Burundi, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Sudan (with the significant exception of Darfur) in situations where the rest of the 'global community' has procrastinated. It does not seem ethically justifiable to vest all African countries with special responsibilities for helping solve conflicts anywhere on the continent – usually conflicts for which the rest of the continent's 53 states cannot possibly be blamed – but that Africans accept that this responsibility can only be applauded as heroic. The main problem with the phrase may thus be that it is all too convenient to let the West 'off the hook.'

5.4 CHINA'S POLICY EXPERIENCE AND RELEVENCE IN AFRICA

China's policy experience and relevance in Africa should be viewed in line with its matchless economic and political points of view. It cannot be denied that China benefits enormous economic returns from countries in Africa. Ignoring that such economic gains for China from Africa are of no greater value and that they are the only drivers of China's policy approach towards Africa will be tantamount to serious misconceptions.

It is in the public domain that China's partnership with Africa is driven by its need for Africa's raw material, energy resources, markets, and investment competitive advantage for its fast growing economy and insufficient employment. The criticism levelled against China has often been on the basis of the vulnerability of African economies. China is aware of the fact that there it is necessary to include of including Africa's needs on its agenda for more foreign direct investment in order to boost Africa's development and growth. Chinese leaders protect

their policies in Africa and try to oppose the point of view that China's attachment to Africa is mischievous rather than helpful.

As noted by Oche and Omoweh (2003), "on the whole, Chinese policy in Africa resulted from the diplomatic initiatives of China rather than from African states themselves. This raises a few questions as follows: Why is China interested in Africa? Has there been a coherent policy towards Africa or is it simply a policy of fomenting revolutions everywhere, and, especially in places where revolution is detrimental to the interest of the imperialists?" (Oche and Omoweh, 2003:40)."

Thus, China's policy towards Africa should not be understood in the context of an ordinary search for resources, but in the light of its diplomatic intentional quest and its national interest policy objectives – this includes, strengthening its place as a major power in comparison with permanent members of the UN Security Council. In order to continue its economic development in its endeavour to attain economic prosperity, China is working tirelessly to win the support of the UN at both diplomatic and political levels. Africa is regarded as the biggest regional group within the UN system. It is therefore Africa that is an innate collaborator on which Beijing has become closely dependent on in order to advance its political objectives.

5.5 CONCLUSION

The relationship between China and Africa appears to be growing stronger each passing day. The results of this relationship, whether negative or positive, for economic development, are still to be seen. However, Africa has been singled out as the main beneficiary of the economic development produced by Chinese economic growth. It is obvious that in looking for solutions to African problems within the Chinese **Lebensraum**, African leaders continue to have more confidence in China as a means or vehicle that can assist Africa deal with all its challenges such as economic, political, environmental, poverty eradication, the treatment of diseases, and technological, developmental and military assistance to a certain extent.

In the final analysis, advocates and critics of the Africa-China partnership have a common ground regarding the fact that African leaders and policy-makers have a joint responsibility to

ensure that Africa continues to harness and create a conducive environment that would attract Chinese trade and investment. This should be in a reciprocal manner with the capacity of presenting Africa with substantial benefits for Africans including economic stability and good governance. The above has the potential to position Africa in such a way that the continent is better empowered to offer ***African solutions to African problems in the age of Chinese Lebensraum.***

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Afri- focus (2014) **Talking Points on Health as a Human Right**, <http://www.africafocus.org>
Accessed 30 May 2014
- Aremu, F. A. (2011) ***Asymmetrical Foreign Policy Behaviour Of Japan and China***. Ibadan: College Press & Publishers Limited
- Brautigam, D. (2009). ***The dragon's gift: the real story of China in Africa***. Oxford University Press. Page 12
- BBC History (2011) **Persecution and Genocide Under the Nazis 1933 - 1945 - non interactive version**, available at http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/genocide/nazi_genocide_timeline_noflash.shtml , accessed 23 May 2014
- Butler T., (2005) ***"Timber Hungry China Moves into Africa"*** (Online) Available From [http:// news.mongabay.com/2005/0420x-tina_butler.html](http://news.mongabay.com/2005/0420x-tina_butler.html) (Accessed : On June 02, 2014)
- Chris R (2007) **What is 'Development'?**page 11 available at [www.sagepub.com/upm-data/18296_5070_Sumner_Ch01. pdf](http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/18296_5070_Sumner_Ch01.pdf) , accessed 31 October 2014
- Chan, C. (2007)**China in Africa—spreading the wealth***Canada Asia Commentary*, 44, page 1
- Chung, Z. ***The Sino-Africa Relationship: Towards a New Strategic Partnership***. Available (Online) From www.lse.ac.uk/ideas/publications/reports/pdf (Accessed: on 03 June 2014)
- Campbell, H. (2008). **China in Africa: challenging US global hegemony.***Third World Quarterly*, 29(1), page 4.
- Dibek E(2012) **What are the basic concepts of neorealism?**, available at http://www.researchgate.net/post/What_are_the_basic_concepts_of_neorealism, accessed on 1 November 2013

Davies, M., Edinger, H., Tay, N., & Naidu, S. (2008). **How China delivers development assistance to Africa.***Research paper by the Centre for Chinese Studies, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.* Page 11

Fang, Gaumut and Sang ***China: A New Model for Growth and Development*** , (online) Available From www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjb/zzjg/fzs/default.htm (Accessed: on May 20, 2014).

Gill, B., Huang, C. H., & Morrison, J. S. (2007)**Assessing China's growing influence in Africa.** *China Security*,3(3), page 4

Goralczyk B(2010)**The Role of China in a Globalised World** available at http://www.ce.uw.edu.pl/pliki/pw/y13_goralczyk.pdf, page 61, accessed 29 October 2014

Gill, B., Huang, C. H., & Morrison, J. S. (2007). **Assessing China's growing influence in Africa.** *China Security*, 3(3), page 4

Kamugisha, E.T.((2012) ***Why Africa Fails: The Case For Growth BeforeDemocracy.*** Cape Town. NB Publishers

Kaplinsky, R., McCormick, D., & Morris, M. (2007). **The impact of China on sub-Saharan Africa.** Page 3

Kolstad, I& Wiig, A. (2011). **Better the devil you know? Chinese foreign direct investment in Africa.** *Journal of African Business*, 12(1), 32

Lafargue, F.(2005)**China's presence in Africa.** *China perspectives*, (6)

Louw, D (2002). **A practical Theological Ecclesiology Of Relocalisation and Globalisation from below: Towards a viable African Renaissance.** *Journal of Southern Africa*. 112. March 2002, p 69-87

Mbeki, M. (2009) ***Architects Of Poverty: Why African Capitalism Needs Changing.*** Johannesburg, Picador Africa

Muekalia, D. J.(2004)**Africa and China's strategic partnership.** *African Security Studies*, 13(1), page 5

Moravcsik A (2010) **liberal theories of international relations: a primer**, available at www.princeton.edu/~amoravcs/library/primer.docpage 3 , accessed 29 October 2014

Mohan, G., & Power, M. (2008). **New African choices? The politics of Chinese engagement.** *Review of African Political Economy*, 35(115), page24

Nathan L(2013) **African Solutions to African Problems South Africa's Foreign Policy**, page 40,available at <http://web.up.ac.za/sitefiles/file/46/1322/17295/WeltTrends-92-Thema-Nathan-S%C3%BCdafrika-Afrikanische-Union-Sicherheitspolitik-Diplomatie.pdf> , Accessed 10 June 2014

Ojo, O and Sesay, (2011) **A Concepts in International Relations. 3rd Ed. Nigeria.**Classy Prints & Co

Oche ,O. and Omoweh (2003) **Nigeria- China: Bilateral Ties In A New World Order.** Logos. Nigirian Institute Of International Affairs

Ojo, O, Orwa, D.K. and Utete, C.M.B. (1990) **African International Relations.** Singapore. Longman Singapore publishers Pte Ltd

Okumu W A J(2009) . **The African Renaissance: History, significance, and strategy.** Trenton, NJ: African World Press.

Osuala, E.C (2005) **Introduction To research Methodology. 3rd Ed. Cameroon.** Press Book Limited.

(OAU (2014) **The Quest for 'African Solutions for African Problems' (ASAP)**,<http://www.unisa.ac.za/contents/institutes/tmali/docs/4th-african-unity-renaissance-conference.pdf> , accessed 10 October 2014

Reid, L. J. (2008) **CHINA IN AFRICA: A CHALLENGE OR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CANADA.** Page 1, available at <http://www.cfc.forces.gc.ca/259/290/294/287/reid.pdf> , accessed on 30 October 2014

- Rotberg, R. I. (Ed.). (2009). ***China into Africa: Trade, aid, and influence***. Brookings Institution Press. Page 1
- Spring H. P .S (2008) **PSC 124.200: International Relations**, available at faculty.maxwell.syr.edu/hpschmitz/.../PSC124CompareTheories.doc page 1, accessed on 1 November 2014
- Shim D. H (2011)**China-Africa Relations: The Big Picture**,available at <http://www.internationalpolicydigest.org/2011/12/06/china-africa-relations-the-big-picture/> , accessed 3 November 2014
- Shelton, G. And, Paruk, F. (2008) ***The Forum On China-Africa Cooperation: A strategic Opportunity***. Institute For security Studies.
- Shimn,D..H. ***China Growing Role in Africa***<http://www.internationalpolicydigest.org>
Accessed 28 May
- Smith B., (2006) ***“Western Concern at China’s Growing Involvement in Africa”***, (Online) Available from www.asiantribune.com/show_article.php?id=3102 (Accessed June 10, 2014)
- Jackson, R., & Sørensen, G. (2012)**Introduction to international relations: theories and approaches**. Oxford University Press. page 54
- Taylor, I. (2006). **China's oil diplomacy in Africa**,*International affairs*, 82(5), page 17.
- The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (2013)**Political Realism in International Relations**, available at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/realism-intl-relations> , accessed on 28 October 2014
- Tull, D. M. (2006)**China's engagement in Africa: scope, significance and consequences***The Journal of Modern African Studies* page 3
- WeiguangW (2008) **China’s Reform, Opening up and its Path of Development**, available at <http://ilas.cass.cn/uploadfiles/ens/%7BED7B5A7A-AB19-4962-B321-007EDFD1E13F%7D.pdf> , Accessed on 01 June 2014
- Wang Y (2011) **Full Text: China's Peaceful Development**, available at http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2011-09/06/c_131102329_2.htm , Accessed 01 June 2014

Zezeza, P. T. (2008) **Dancing with the dragon: Africa's courtship with China**, *The Global South*, 2(2), page 29

hang C (2011)**The Sino-Africa Relationship:Toward a New StrategicPartnership** , page 10 available at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/ideas/publications/reports/pdf/sr016/sr-016-chun.pdf> , Accessed on 03 June 2014