

Abstract

The rigorous thesis deals with China's increased engagement in Sub-Saharan Africa after 2000 and its impact on U.S. political and economic interests on the continent. In the first decade of the new millennium, China's search for natural resources, especially oil, to satisfy its growing demand, need to find new markets for exports, as well as China's aspiration to enhance its position at the international stage led Beijing to pay greater attention to Africa. China started to engage African countries through a combination of development assistance with no strings attached, except for the one-China principle, and high-profile diplomacy. The United States has become concerned that China might jeopardize its programs on democratization and governance and become a fierce economic competitor in Africa. In the first two chapters, the thesis describes the interests of China and the U.S, respectively, the main actors involved in the countries' respective Africa policies, and strategies and concrete policies these two world powers implement in Africa. The third chapter compares the U.S. and China's engagement in three case studies – on Nigeria, Angola and Sudan. The fourth chapter provides a comparison of the general features of the American and the Chinese policies towards Sub-Saharan Africa. The chapter then verifies the hypothesis of the author that China does not seek to push the U.S. away from Africa. It subsequently analyzes the impact of China's engagement in Africa on particular U.S. interests and offers suggestions on how the U.S. can minimize the negative impact of China's activities. By doing so, it works with a hypothesis that there are both areas where the American and Chinese interests converge and areas where the interests diverge.