



Research Article

Volume-05|Issue-07|2024

Understanding The New Dynamics of China – Nigeria Bilateral Economic and Security Relations

Ifeanyi Godwin Araraume¹, Chigozie Enwere Ph.D^{*2}¹Department of Political Science and International Relations, Nile University of Nigeria Abuja, Nigeria

Article History

Received: 15.02.2024

Accepted: 14.03.2024

Published: 24.07.2024

Citation

Araraume, I. G., Enwere, C. (2024). Understanding The New Dynamics of China – Nigeria Bilateral Economic and Security Relations. *Indiana Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 5(7), 48-57.

Abstract: The whole globe shifted substantially from 2013 to 2022 as a consequence of the shift in economic and security cooperation between China and Nigeria. Enhanced trade, investment, and infrastructure development projects witness to the strengthening of economic linkages during this time. In addition, the two governments have partnered on security-related initiatives, notably those involving anti-terrorism operations and peacekeeping missions. Many Chinese corporations have set up shop in Nigeria, injecting money into the country's infrastructure, energy, and industrial sectors. As a result, commerce between the two nations has flourished, and China now has a substantial consumer base in Nigeria. More economic cooperation between the two nations is being pushed by the Belt and Road Initiative, which has also offered a framework for constructing infrastructure. China and Nigeria's economic and security cooperation from 2013 to 2022 was examined in this paper. The major purpose of this paper is to outline the results and problems of the economic and security cooperation between China and Nigeria from 2013 to 2022. This paper utilises a qualitative technique to explore political science and international relations. Archival and historical sources, as well as print and online scientific journal articles, supplied the secondary data employed in the paper. The paper makes the argument that there is strong evidence Nigeria has profited from bilateral relationship with China in terms of economic growth and counter-security efforts. In conclusion the paper reveals that while bilateral collaboration between China and Nigeria has its virtues, there remain significant impediments in the international connections between the two governments. Therefore, the study indicated that China and Nigeria should create, maintain, and strengthen grassroots networks for trade involvement.

Keywords: Economic Cooperation, Security Cooperation, China – Nigeria Relations, Bilateral Relations, African Union, The People of Republic of China.

Copyright © 2024 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0).

INTRODUCTION

So many decades ago, before the creation of the formal Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) and the present Africa Union (AU), China established relations with Africa (Olofin *et al.*, 2014). Thus, after China's independence in 1947, its relations with Africa began after the Bandung Indonesian conference in 1955 in which China initiated ties and offered economic, technical, and military support to African countries and liberation movements to unite with them against colonization by the West (Renard, 2011; Yin & Vaschetto, 2011). Like that of most African countries, China-Nigeria relations included politics, trade, investment, aid, technical, scientific, cultural, education, health, and military (Ogunkola *et al.*, 2008; Taylor, 2007; Gold *et al.*, 2017; Gold & Devadason, 2018). Using the diplomatic agreement as to the benchmark, China - Nigeria relations dated back to February 10, 1971, when the diplomatic relationship was established (Gold, *et al.*, 2015; Ogunkola *et al.*, 2008). Coincidentally, on November 25th of the same year, the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) officially replaced the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the United Nations and in the UN Security Council against strong opposition from the USA to recognize Beijing's 21 years clamour for global recognition as one true government of China (Egbula & Zheng, 2011). This feat was achieved with the help of

Nigeria, and other African, Latin American and Asia countries. Aside from limited exchanges, China and Nigeria's diplomatic relations were minimal for about 30 years. Nigeria, all through the time, had military regimes and unstable polity, while China was metamorphosing economically (Egbula & Zheng, 2011).

Though it was short, General Sani Abacha, the late military ruler of state of Nigeria from 1993 to 1998, restored contact with the Chinese government and formed the Nigerian Chinese Chamber of Commerce in 1994. China-Nigeria connections consequently grew as a consequence of Olusegun Obasanjo, the democratically elected president of Nigeria from 1999 to 2007. Sino-Nigeria relations were created and improved during this period (Egbula & Zheng, 2011). The signing of various agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) following visits at the highest political level 1 serve as further evidence of this. Consequently, in January 2006, Nigeria became the first African country to sign a Strategic Partnership Memorandum of Understanding, showing Nigeria's relevance to China among other African states. In addition, the first Chinese newspaper was published in August 2005 by China's Southern Airlines Company (CSAC), which also intended to launch the country's first direct route from Beijing to Lagos via Dubai on December 31, 2006 (Taylor, 2007). Another agreement

involved the development of an intergovernmental Nigeria-China Investment Forum in 2006, as well as a China Investment Development and Trade Promotion Centre in Nigeria and a Nigeria Trade Office in China (Oyeranti *et al.*, 2009).

Chinese support and investments in Africa have surged from \$9.68 billion in 2000 to \$1.3 trillion in 2013. These investments serve as a tool for China to utilize African resources in the twenty-first century as well as to assist the expansion of African economies. The quantity of profits that are legitimately and illegally repatriated to China from Africa has doubled as a consequence of China's exponential expansion in its investments in the continent. From 2006 to 2013, the Continent received taxes totaling a pathetic 15% of the profits. According to the World Investment Report (2012, 17), Nigeria is the largest receiver of Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) into West Africa, accounting for 71% of the sub-regional total of \$87 billion and 11% of the continent's overall investment of \$1.3 trillion. Of this sum, about 80% of the Chinese foreign direct investment into Nigeria came from the oil industry alone. According to the research, many African nations still depend on China for industrial imports in return for their low-value primary products, which has skewed the scales of both the trade and payment balances in China's favour.

Nevertheless, several writers assert differently, including Akinterinwa (1994), Agbu (1994), Oche (1997), Comelissen (2000), Daopeng (2003), and others. They contend that China's diplomatic strategy in Nigeria is the product of a conflicting agenda that includes its political need for Nigeria's support in international organisations to fend off pressure and interference on human rights issues from the West, as well as its economic demand to integrate Nigeria into the global system in order to aid in its own modernization process. Oche (1997: 65) was concerned that the success of the Chinese model may have informed the on-going quest for economic reform and development in Nigeria. Similarly, Agbu (1994) observes that it is in Nigeria's overall interest to consciously improve her economic relations with China, especially in the areas of agricultural production and adaptation of appropriate technologies since it is obvious that previous efforts from other sources yielded little or no benefits.

Trade and investment appear to be the key conduits, according to study of these channels. In terms of China's purpose in its relationship with Nigeria, these channels function in conjunction with one another. Nigeria provides a beneficial market for China's imports and exports owing to its wealth of natural resources, notably crude oil, and its relatively strong population. China requires raw resources from Nigeria to sustain its remarkable growth. (Ogunkola, *et al.*, 2008). Alongside the increase of China-Nigeria trade and investment connections, there has been a spike in the economic

migration of state-sponsored construction teams, mining and oil sector people, and private merchants to Nigeria. Sociopolitical concerns have hampered Chinese and Nigerian immigration and emigration. Nigeria was producing labor-intensive, light items under the import substitution industrialization plan, which accounts for the bulk of Nigeria's imports from China. There is evidence of import rivalry between the two countries in the form of simultaneous import and export of some commodities, with Nigeria's imports of particular goods greatly surpassing its exports. Cotton (HS 52), rubber, electrical and electronic equipment (HS 85), tools, and implements are some of the important commodities in this category. China's investments in Nigeria have lately been vulnerable to a variety of security threats as a consequence of the country's security difficulties, including the bombing that left passengers on the Abuja-Kaduna train hostage. A notable Chinese investment in Nigeria is the rail line. Thus, the goal of this study is to examine the economic and security cooperation between China and Nigeria while also investigating their bilateral linkages. Against the background, this paper aims to examine Nigeria – China bilateral relations with the appraisal of their economic and security cooperation between 2013 – 2022.

Theoretical Framework

This paper adopts theory of interdependence. This theory argues that the relationships between sovereign nations are so extensive and dynamic that many different analytical philosophies may be drawn to them. Hence, Okolie (2006) argued that “many a scholar usually falls into the temptation of deploying the dependency theory, which in most cases, misdirect the attention of the researcher by emphasizing the untenable policy of delinking, a situation that is quite impossible and impracticable in the present world global village.

Given that the modern globalised world runs under capitalism and adheres to socio-economic liberalism as its paradigm, the theory of complex interdependence is employed as a beneficial analytical tool in this study. Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye (1977) presented the complex interdependence hypothesis in international relations as a critique of political realism. It presents the point that states' fortunes are indissolubly intertwined. Richard Cooper's work helped to popularise the notion of economic interconnectivity.

"Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye went a step further and analysed how international politics and trade relations are transformed by interdependence" (Crane and Anawi, 1997) in their critique of political realism, employing the analytical notion of complex interdependence. Theorists noted that while the use of military force and power balance is falling but still plays a major role, the diversity and complexity of transnational ties and interdependencies between states and civilizations were expanding. Keohane and Nye

(1997) employed the notion of interdependence to study the role of power in politics and relationships between international participants, while also differentiating between interdependence and dependency. Complex interdependence, on the other hand, is founded on particular features that challenge the implicit and explicit presumptions of conventional international politics, namely the primacy of the state and a hierarchy of problems with military force and power serving as the primary leverage in international relations—a definition of political realism in political science traditions.

Nye and Keohane (1977) consequently believe that the diminution of military strength as a policy weapon and the rise of economic and other sorts of interdependence should improve the possibility cooperation among states. Theorists' work arose in the 1970s, opposing political realism theory in international politics and providing the framework for modern perspectives generally characterised as liberal, neoliberal, and liberal institutionalism. Since the advent of neoliberal economics and the need to explain international relations theory, classic criticisms of liberalism and political realism are typically framed in terms of their disdain for the social dimension of interactions between states and the social fabric of international society. In his most recent self-description, Keohane (2002:2) declared himself an institutionalist. It is hard to overestimate or undervalue the relevance of this idea for grasping the investment ties between China and Nigeria. The theory will aid us in opposing popular opinion and the improper application of dependency theory to the study of international relations.

Furthermore, the theory is useful to describing the contemporary world, in which no country can remain as an island unto itself as no nation is blessed with all the resources required for self-sufficiency; rather, governments must collaborate with one another in order to prosper. This theory's key contribution is to call attention to how intertwined nations are—to the point where no country is competent to make choices entirely on behalf of another. However, this does not diminish the necessity for winners and losers in any partnership. As a consequence, the theory admits and shows the reality of unequal advantages from trade between two or more interacting nations.

REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE

International Economic Relations

Current research in international economic relations tend to focus on the impacts of globalization within the larger framework of how it influences transnational economic flows, and how these have generated newer issues and actors which state governments have to grapple with. These new intellectual interests on issues such as giving greater focus to the activities of Transnational corporations,

transnational economic agents such as international economic organizations, and transnational economic machineries such as GVCs and GPNs are robust and interesting (Phillips, 2017). In the area of economics, these evolving issues have stressed traditional international trade theories, for example, as political determinants are not fully accounted for in explaining the dynamics of international trade. More so, the peculiarities surrounding unique bilateral trade arrangements is one that needs multidisciplinary attention. Against this backdrop, if this research is to fruitfully analyse the politics of Nigeria-China trade relations, then it would be veritable to conceptually delineate international trade. This section of conceptual review will therefore focus on the meaning of international trade; present the forms which international trade take; trace some of the evolutionary history around international trade, as well as what factors inform trade relations especially in contemporary times. Finally, we will present some of the recent theoretical debates circulating in the literature on international trade relations.

International trade is not a contested concept. International trade involves the exchange of goods or services and other factors of production, such as labour and capital, across international borders (Nitisha, 2021). For Robinson *et al.* (2010), it comprises all economic transactions that are made between countries. These economic transactions include an eclectic spectrum of valuable goods and services. According to Spacey (2018), the goods and services exchanged in international trade include natural resources, materials, components and parts, finished goods, consumer services, business services, ecommerce et cetera. International trade expands the quantity of goods that domiciled consumers can select from, reduces the cost of those goods through the market mechanism of competition, as well as allows domiciled corporations and industries to export their products abroad (Radcliffe, 2019).

Security

Security is not a revolutionary notion. Since the dawn of time, it has been important to all human economic activities. The Social Contract, which compelled people to willingly transfer their rights to an organized structure (the government), which is in responsible of insuring everyone's survival, was rendered essential by the need for security. Security-related issues have traditionally tended to take centre stage in talks on development. There have been efforts since the end of the Cold War to conceptualize security in a manner that is less state-centric and more individualized. Human security, which combines components of national security, is still frequently described by reference to national development and human rights. The attempts to broaden and extend the notion of security from the level of the State to Societies and people, and from military to non-military concerns, are at the basis of this argument

(Krahmann, 2015). Most commonly, the idea of human security is founded on two competing perspectives. One is a theoretical framework rooted on neo-realism, which underlines the significance of the state in the idea of security. It frequently describes security from the standpoint of the state's fundamental role. In this respect, Buzan (2010) stated that the military "straitjacket" approach to security that dominated Cold War discourse was "simple-minded," which in turn led the notion to underdeveloped. According to him, vulnerabilities to social, political, economic, and environmental security also include military ones. Accordingly, Buzan (2010) stated that sovereign states should continue to be the most effective source of security while revealing a tripartite concept analysis of security based on the international system, state level, and person level.

The second approach is a postmodernist or pluralist view that seeks to displace the state as a major provider of security but rather places greater emphasis on non-state actors. Advocates of this approach tend to argue that the concept of security goes beyond a military determination of threats. According to Booth (2014), States and implicitly governments must no longer be the primary referents of security because governments which are supposed to be the 'guardians of their peoples' security' have instead become the primary source of insecurity for the many people who live under their sovereignty. As a result, Booth (1994) further argued that human security is ultimately more important than state security. While concurring with both, Nwabueze (2017) posited that economic security of the individual is or should be of far greater concern to the government and society than the security of the state. Thus, some scholars seem to place emphasis on absence of threat to acquire values or tendencies that would undermine national cohesion and peace as criteria for determining what security connotes (David 2016; Wolfrs 2013; Oche 2010).

International Bilateral Economic Cooperation

The shaping of trade policies is one of the most politically contentious exercises (Hocking, 1999: 1). Policy makers all over the world, from the rich nations of the North, through the emerging markets, to the poor nations in the South are kept on their toes as they try to grapple with the ever-evolving complex economic issues and dilemmas brought about by an ever-shrinking world. The socio-political and economic changes and challenges of today are getting ever more complex. While the traditional issues concerning international trade such as protectionism versus free trade will always be one policy makers contend with, there are newer political dimensions that are contentious: While the old issues concerning the trade of agricultural products remain, there are new issues concerning genetically modified agricultural products as well as vertical farms that policy makers have to contend with; while the old issues concerning industrialization and the building of factories remain, there are new issues concerning how

best to manage toxic waste and global warming; and while the old issues concerning the need for international economic organisations to conduct free and fair trade remain, there are new issues concerning TNCs, their search for cheaper labour in the Global Value Chains, as well as the attendant debates regarding the impact of their economic activities on domestic markets (Hocking, 1999). These new political issues on trade are dynamic, global, contextual, and peculiar to various regions and countries, and the literature on the politics of international trade offers a wide array of discussions regarding some of these salient broader and deeper issues (Hocking, 1999; Woolcock, 1999). Preponderant among these concern the current and ever dynamic debates on WTO rules, fair trade, trade barriers, the impact of domestic politics on trade as well as the collision between domestic political pressures and international trade diplomacy, the impacts of trade on the environment and the ethical issues therein, TNCs/MNCs, the politics of aid, the dynamics of trade alliances inter alia. These newer issues contrast with the trade relations of the interdependence economic system mentioned above. Indeed, these evolving politico-economic issues subsist in what can rightly be referred to as what Kobrin (1997: 153) calls a 'networked world economy'. Indeed, the complex form which these reemerging issues assume in a networked world economy have now begun to raise such questions concerning the status and authority of the sovereign state in the unhindered conduct of trade diplomacy and the formulation of trade policies.

Nigeria – China Bilateral Relations

Nigeria's first contact with China took place in 1960 when a Chinese Delegation, on the invitation of the Nigerian government, attended Nigeria's independence celebrations (Ogunsanwo 2018). The delegation brought a message from Chinese officials praising Nigeria on their successful battle against colonisation. Over 10 years after attaining independence, Nigeria ultimately established diplomatic ties with China in February 1971. Within the year, embassies of both countries were established in each other's cities. Since then, the bilateral relations between China and Nigeria have expanded relatively slowly.

Soon after the Nigerian civil war, in which China supported the Biafra, General Gowon, then the military Head of State, made his first official visit to China in 1972 to solicit financial aid for the post-war reconstruction initiatives (Pease 2010). Following the repression of Chinese political oppositions at Beijing's Tiananmen Square, which culminated in China's international isolation in 1977, General Abacha also supported China. In 1998, Li Peng, the Chinese premier at the time, also came to Nigeria with the purpose of restoring China's sagging trade with the country (Reno 1999).

The purpose of Olusegun Obasanjo's 2001 journey to China was to attract Chinese businesses to come and make investments in the Nigerian economy. The two countries' bilateral agreement during the visit concentrated on economic agreements relating to the petroleum industry, which led to Chinese businesses actively investing in Nigeria's oil, gas, and petrochemicals sectors both upstream and downstream. Actually, in exchange for China's needed expenditures in the oil downstream and transportation sectors—particularly in the areas of oil exploration and the development of roads and rail lines, respectively—Obasanjo awarded China the Right of First Refusal (RFR) on oil blocs at discounted rates. China's National Petroleum Commission (CNPC) obtained two oil production licences and four oil blocs in the 2006 oil block bidding round. In return, China agreed to donate \$2 billion to repair Nigeria's Kaduna oil refinery. Additionally, there was the Oil for Infrastructure exchange programme between the two countries, in which China was contracted to construct \$5 billion worth of roads and trains in return for obtaining crude oil equivalent to the cost of the project.

In 2006, Nigeria and China also forged a strategic alliance that gives unfettered access to each other's markets for their respective goods and services. The oil for infrastructure plan was terminated and replaced with the Oil for currency policies, which enable China to pay the equivalent currency of oil bought from Nigeria. The oil infrastructure projects were carried out under a public-private arrangement between Nigeria and some private enterprises in China, including the one between the China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) and the Nigeria National Oil Corporation (NNPC), a Nigerian public enterprise in the oil sector. The significant degree of corruption in the oil bidding process and the poor or non-execution of projects by many Chinese investors contributed to these events. Together, the two corporations executed a \$23 billion transaction, backed in part by \$8 billion by Sinosure and China Exim Bank, for the creation of a crude oil refined fuel complex and the restoration of three refineries in Nigeria. Eighty percent of the expenses were covered by the CSCEC, while the remaining twenty percent was financed by NNPC. Additionally, the Chinese business supported Nigeria with the 2007 launch of the NIGCOMSAT-1 satellite.

After Obasanjo stepped down as president on May 29, 2007, Umar Musa Yar'Adua examined the "oil for infrastructure" agreements between Nigeria and China. This resulted in the contracts being suspended because, according to the Chatham House report, Nigeria lost up to \$6 billion on failed oil deals with China because there were no mechanisms in place to enforce the agreements, which caused many projects funded by Chinese investors in Nigeria to be partially or completely abandoned. Furthermore, the investigative

committee's examination concluded that several of the oil blocs were granted to Chinese bidders who were strongly tied to the corridor of political power in Nigeria, but with little industrial competence. Despite the Chinese offer of \$50 billion as an alternative finance source for Nigerian infrastructure development, the Yar'adua government rejected to sell a considerable number of oil and gas holdings, thought to possess six barrels of oil reserves (This Day 2010). With substantial offshore activity in Nigeria, Canada Addax was one of the greatest oil producers in West Africa and was bought equally by the China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (SINOPEC).

Nigeria and China's Exim Bank negotiated three loan deals together during the Goodluck Jonathan government. The \$500 million contract for the Abuja Light Rail Project, the \$500 million deal for establishing four airport terminals countrywide, and the \$100 million contract for increasing the galaxy backbone's link throughout Nigeria's federal agencies are the three agreements (NICAF, 2013). During Goodluck Jonathan's 2013 official visit to the People's Republic of China, Chinese corporations indicated interest in investing over \$25 billion in Nigeria. This includes a \$20 billion Memorandum of Understanding inked by the Ministry of Energy in China and the Ministry of Energy in Nigeria to manufacture 20,000 megawatts of power for Nigeria. Additionally, under Muhammadu Buhari's government, China gave Nigeria a \$6 billion loan for infrastructure development projects and a \$1.5 billion loan for infrastructure development in Nigeria, which included the expansion of four airports: Lagos, Kano, Abuja, and Port Harcourt. Additionally, the Buhari government struck a currency swap arrangement between Nigeria and China, whereby Nigerian Naira is swapped for Chinese Yuan at face value rather than first being converted to US dollars for import and export commercial operations. In reality, the programme has cut the cost of importing things into Nigeria from China and vice versa, which has lowered the selling prices of commodities in both countries.

Nigeria – China Bilateral relations and the assessment of Economic and Security Cooperation Nigeria – China Railway Economic Cooperation

China has been increasingly active in Nigeria's railway business in recent years. While it has been neglected and ineffectual, Nigeria's rail communication network is still recognised as the biggest in Western Africa. Following independence, Nigeria's railway system was not upgraded and gradually disappeared. Financial restrictions hindered modernization and necessary maintenance. The matter was being postponed by successive administrations. The efficiency of the trains and tracks was diminishing, and the required investment was never supplied.

President Olusegun Obasanjo started a restoration plan for Nigeria's railroads in 2006. China

was a significant component of the approach from the outset. China Exim Bank was expected to provide the money for the \$8.3 billion contract that was handed to China Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC). The project asked for the building of new lines and the restoration of the present ones. At that time, the network would link every state in Nigeria, strengthen capital linkages, and upgrade the Western line. The Lagos-Kano (Western) line was planned to undergo the most development. The old, British-built rails from the 20th century were to be paralleled by the new, standard gauge ones. The old tracks would then be replaced with the new ones. Additionally, a few extra branches were scheduled to be developed. The road would connect to Abuja, the capital, in addition to reaching the northern border with Niger. The necessity for improved communication between the East and West was another motivating element for the modernization endeavour. Due to the British Empire's economic needs, the majority of the train lines were now aimed from the north to the south. Nigeria should, however, have more unique ties as a country expanding a range of economic sectors. Developing a new route between Lagos and Calabar would further worsen the situation. The line would connect Lagos and Port Harcourt, two significant ports along Nigeria's coast. This section will explore the following routes and the role that Chinese people play in them: Lagos-Kano, Lagos-Calabar, Abuja-Kaduna, and Ajaokuta-Warri. Those have been picked based on their significance, expenditures, and media attention. All of them were created with the support of Chinese banks or enterprises (Tom-Jack, P.I. (2016).

China-Nigeria Oil Sector Economic Cooperation

Nigeria is the leading oil producer in Africa and the ninth biggest producer globally. About 80% of Abuja's revenue is earned from oil. Nigerian crude oil is of outstanding quality and is defined by its sweet grade, which is marked by light sulphur level and high petrol content at comparably cheap processing costs. Former Nigerian Energy Minister Edmund Daukoru asserts that exploration has boosted the nation's oil reserves from five billion barrels in 1999 to over 35 billion barrels. After adding 500,000 barrels in 2005/06, production capacity is now at around three million barrels per day. The growth in industrial capacity was anticipated to occur between 2005 and 2010 at a pace of about 6% per year. Nigeria is plainly in a better situation than other major oil producing nations, with an average capacity growth of roughly 3% annually. An estimated \$100 billion was spent on industry altogether between 2007 and 2010 (an average of \$20 billion per year), up from \$5 billion in 2000 and \$10 billion in 2006 (Bruce, 2020).

Regarding Beijing, in the past, Western Oil Companies with a track record in Nigeria kept China out of the country's oil industry. But this is gradually changing because to a mix of savvy diplomacy and sweetened deals, which are frequently linked to the oil industry itself. One such illustration of how Beijing is

able to swiftly develop enormous goodwill with the Nigerian administration is the vow Beijing made to construct and launch a communications satellite for Nigeria. This goodwill is then evident in the granting of PSC agreements and oil contracts. About particular Chinese oil contracts in Nigeria, NNPC and the state-owned Chinese oil company Sinopec inked a development deal for Oil Mining Leases (OML) 64 and 66 in the Niger Delta in December 2004. Five exploration wells have been drilled by OML 64; one of these wells identified hydrocarbon resources. With 18 exploration wells drilled and 12 wells revealing hydrocarbon resources, OML 66 has had significantly greater success. Sinopec is also under contract to develop the 500 million barrels of total reserves in the Okono and Okpoho fields, which are held by the NPDC and Eni of Italy. Nigeria was projected to require an annual investment of \$10 billion in order to fulfil its reserve target of 40 billion barrels in October 2004. In order to locate upstream oil and gas assets that may be put into downstream projects, the Nigerian government and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) formed an agreement. Subsequently, in July 2005, CNOOC and NNPC negotiated a \$800 million contract that, subject to yearly review, provided China 30,000 barrels per day for five years (Ogunde, 2011).

China-Nigeria Bilateral Relations and Security Cooperation

Supposed to produce an expected outcome. Therefore, the essence of every bilateral or multilateral engagement between nations or between continent and a nation as in under China Africa relation or Nigeria-China relations is to improve the lot of parties involved especially as it concerns the areas of agreement. Peace and security cooperation Nigeria under the renewed vigour that FOCAC presence produced some significant outcome. Respondents from the Ministry of Defence revealed that before the establishment of FOCAC in 2000 or any other security between Nigeria and China, the countries already had security cooperation which opened the way for the conduct of training programs, manpower development for many Nigeria's military officers from the Nigerian Army, Air Force and Nigerian Navy. Specifically, the Naval force in Nigeria benefitted immensely by collaborating with the Chinese Naval Force because the Chinese government regarded the security of the Nigerian water ways as important for its export of raw materials and the importation of its finished goods for the consumption of the Nigerian market.

It was also discovered that leveraging on renewed vigour of security cooperation and engagement in Nigeria pursued through the platform of security, Nigeria government signed various security agreement especially for manpower training and also purchased arms from the Chinese government. The Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in 2005 also led to the Chinese government granting the Nigerian government some money for security relations issues especially to the

challenges posed to Chinese interest in the Niger Delta region where Chinese nationals were victims of kidnapping and sea piracy. According to top officials and respondents from the Chinese Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nigeria, after the FOCAC III, Beijing, China (2006), the Nigeria government in partnership with its Chinese counterpart agreed to help resuscitate the Defence Industry Cooperation of Nigeria which is located in Kaduna. The agreement similarly led to the setting up of ammunition plant in Kaduna was a major take away of the post FOCAC III summit in China. Other benefits have accrued to the Nigerian military establishment courtesy of subsequent FOCAC meetings where the Chinese government had taken steps aimed at addressing insecurity challenges in Africa and Nigeria in particular with the undelaying objective of securing it investment and nationals in the continent. According to respondent from the Nigeria Ministry of Defense:

The above agrees with the various findings on military cooperation and equipment supply by the Chinese government to Nigeria. For example, there has been improved security engagement between Nigeria and China, the later sold to Nigeria in 2005 15 Chinese F17 aircraft at the cost of \$251 million; in September, 2005 also, it also sold 12 F-7N1 and FT-7N1 and patrol boats for combating piracy on the Nigeria sea. In 2008 post-FOCAC III, the Chinese government granted the Nigerian government \$1 million for military facility upgrade to meet up with the growing security challenges in the country. Alli (2018) states that, the Chinese government donated Offshore Patrol Vehicles (OPVs) to the Nigerian Navy and in 2016, it delivered the OPV NNS unity boats to Nigeria (Adekeye, 2023).

China Efforts towards Nigeria's Growing Security Challenges

The efforts of China as regards joining hands to combat the mirage of insecurity issues confronting the continent of Africa in general and Nigeria in particular is raised by Ubi (2013) when he states that some people have queried the aloofness of China vis-à-vis Africa's security needs. How can China embrace a continent that is home to a catalogue of security challenges like wars, terrorism, insurgencies, mass upheavals, or refugees that have condemned many Africans to misery, and even threatened the very existence of states across the continent and yet still maintain a policy of non-interference and non-intervention in the internal affairs of these countries? This and many other questions have raised the issue of Chinese security cooperation and engagement with Africa and Nigeria given its investment and interest in the continent.

However, given China's clearly articulated policy of non-intervention and noninterference in the domestic affairs of other nations, the country has established a distinct approach to engaging with countries in solving the challenges posed on the continent and its people through holistic economic

development framework that provides human basic needs, lack of which according to (Ubi, 2020) is a major instigator of conflicts ravaging the continent. It is viewed that insecurity in Africa is largely hinged on economic inequality amongst the majority of the citizens. Therefore, China's efforts in ensuring the security and peace of Africa in general and Nigeria is contained in its objective as enunciated at the opening event declaring the establishment of FOCAC in Beijing, where the ministers agreed that they decided to vigorously promote further China-Africa cooperation in the economic, trade, financial, agricultural, medical care and public health, scientific and technological, cultural, educational, human resources development, transportation, environmental, tourism, security and other areas on the basis of the principles enshrined in this declaration and the program for China Africa Co-operation in economic and social development adopted at the Forum so as to promote the common development of China and Africa (FOCAC, 2000).

Since the establishment of FOCAC and the convening of the first summit in 2003, the FOCAC platform and its Action Plan have focused exclusively on China-Africa peace and security cooperation and engagement. Also, succeeding FOCAC outcomes have furthered this aspiration and commitment by agreeing that national, regional conflict, home grown terrorism, insurgency, kidnapping and other non-traditional security issues are fundamental threat to world peace and security and also threatens Africa's development agenda which must be eliminated through close and concerted cooperation at the international level. The place of peace and security was a major point thrashed at the FOCAC-Addis Ababa Action Plan of (2004-06); the issues of Peace and Security in Africa was also a major point addressed at the fifth FOCAC which led to the establishment of China-Africa Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Security. The 2015 FOCAC summit also birthed the Second Africa Policy Paper on Peace and Security, all of which are meant to mitigate the challenges posed by insecurity on the continent. China's security efforts in Africa were also a major point of discourse at the fifth FOCAC summit held in 2012 under the theme: "Build on Past Achievements and Open Up New Prospects for a New Type of China-Africa Strategic Partnership". The plan of action raised for strategic relations with Africa was meant to serve as a follow-up to the fourth Ministerial Conference held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in 2012.

Challenges Confronting China-Nigeria Security Cooperation

Nigeria and China have a very cordial relationship and cooperative security strategy, and the Chinese government's efforts in this area are particularly noteworthy. The entire Sino-Nigeria military security cooperation is observed to be unbalanced in terms of reciprocity, notably with respect to defence procurements and training exchanges. Nevertheless, the

breadth of collaboration has so far been confined to the areas of high-level diplomatic exchanges, defence procurements, and training. The following are some barriers that might make it tougher for these good aims to come true: MOU that was ill-prepared and implemented. It is observed that the Memorandum of Understanding underpinning the security cooperation arrangement between China and Nigeria is primarily created from formal statements and broad agreements made at different fora by persons holding key leadership positions in both states. Comparing it to other similar MOUs between Nigeria and other countries, meanwhile, makes it look less detailed. The Memorandum of Understanding between China and Nigeria is occasionally marked by ad hoc responsibilities that aren't always backed by defined standards that should govern the entirety of its implementation. There have been situations where the callous attitude of particular persons or groups has affected the agreed-upon projects' implementation processes. As a consequence, actions must be made to assure that the aims of both sides' security cooperation are clearly articulated and carried out for their mutual gain (Ozemenam Mbachu, 2007).

Language Barrier: One small hurdle to China-Nigeria military coordination has been the linguistic difficulty. This is particularly noticeable at the tactical and operational levels, where weak command of the Chinese language creates issues with equipment and system maintenance and operation. The Chinese government's yearly supply of select language study slots to Nigerian military personnel is a noteworthy first step in this approach. However, given the rising requirement for their military personnel to speak both Chinese and English fluently in order to operate both present and future Chinese military technologies more successfully, more may need to be done by both sides to relieve the situation. Therefore, an aggressive policy that would guarantee the dedicated instruction of both countries' official languages to personnel through the establishment of language learning laboratories in specific military institutions as applicable Influence of Major Powers in Nigeria's Oil Sector must be formulated. Major countries with major economic holdings in the oil sector, such as France, the US, and Italy, tend to have a big impact on Nigeria's oil business. For example, almost half of Nigeria's exports are to the United States as oil imports. China has bought a 45 percent part in an offshore oil field, reflecting its rising economic interest in Nigeria's oil sector.¹⁶ Some industry experts feel that this directly violates US economic aims. On the basis of the well-established win-win, mutually beneficial idea, Nigeria may be more oriented towards China; yet, this can generate a conflict of interest for the various parties. Nigeria is consequently confronted with a problem in striving to keep peace between such strong countries as the US and China (Saw Swee-Hock, 2008).

Nigeria's Frail Soft Power Resource Base: It is said that military to military cooperation and training

programmes can establish trans-national networks that enhance soft power. Despite her commendable regional stature in the maritime environment of the Gulf of Guinea (GOG), Nigeria's current status as a developing nation indicates inadequate science and technological resources to back up the exercise of adequate soft power. This could probably be ameliorated if the Chinese government considers boosting the operational capability of the Nigerian Navy (NN) in the GOG through the donation of some maritime platforms. China, as a strategic partner, supporting Nigeria as such would complement the Nigerian Navy professional capability at providing better support for China's shipping and maritime interests within and around the GOG.

Poor Actualization of Training Priorities: A careful observation of the training and manpower development aspect in the areas of cooperation, gives an indication of some arbitrariness in the method of demanding and offering of the slots/vacancies between both countries. For example, only 28 of the 44 slots offered by the Chinese government were taken up by Nigeria implying that 36 percent were left void. This could bring about strategic financial losses as provisions already put in place by the Chinese MND and the PLA can rarely be re-assigned to other countries within a short time. Hence, there is need for the creation of an adequate forum for the harmonization of priorities (Yan Yu, 2005).

Identified Prospects in China-Nigeria Security Cooperation

This study's component identifies opportunities for Sino-Nigeria security cooperation in areas like bolstering naval diplomacy and cooperative exercises, exchanging military personnel, exchanging expertise in Peace Support Operations (PSO), forming alliances in the aviation, ordinance, and shipbuilding/maintenance sectors, and cooperatively setting up a satellite launch site in Nigeria. We'll discuss about them shortly. Joint drills and naval port visits (naval diplomacy). Joint military exercises are now commonly recognised as crucial components of peacetime preparedness and diplomatic policing, as well as strategic necessities. The PLA Navy has performed bilateral or multilateral joint maritime exercises with foreign fleets during her mutual port visits and other engagements. China deployed a medical team to Africa for the first time in 2009 as part of a collaborative operation called as PEACE ANGEL. The mission's goals included performing medical training and rescue exercises with Gabon and delivering medical support to local inhabitants. The Hospital Ship (PEACE ARK) has made port visits in Kenya and Djibouti, among other African states. Based on this premise and rising Chinese economic interests in Nigeria, it would be a strategic gain for both countries, especially their navies, to consider possibilities of conducting joint military exercises in order to promote capacity building, global peace and security cooperation through engagements in flag showing and port visits (naval diplomacy). Developing interoperability,

equipment harmonisation, operational strategy, and tactics may all begin with joint maritime exercises (Orjiude MN, 2008). Through these partnerships, Nigeria's security agencies would be better able to secure its inhabitants and foreign enterprises, notably those held by China.

Military Personnel Exchanges in Military Educational Institutions: The growth and concretization of military cooperation are enhanced by joint military training. To promote security relations between countries, exchanging supervisory cadre employees—such as professors, directing staff, and instructors—has become common practice. The aforementioned unique strategy has not been completely explored in military education and training exchanges between China and Nigeria, which are largely supported by the Chinese side. Therefore, it would be advantageous for both nations to agree on the terms of such exchange in order to promote mutual trust, a better understanding of the innate national cultural traits and educational approaches used by both nations, as well as the sharing of experiences on other advantageous issues. Therefore, the formation of platforms for the exchange of seasoned persons across their various military institutions should be highlighted in any bilateral cooperation agreements between China and Nigeria (Godwin Nnanna, 2008).

Sharing Expertise in Peace Support Operations: International recognition has been given to Nigeria's expertise in PSOs. Nigeria developed a Peace Keeping Training Centre (PKTC) to build on these successes. Members of the armed forces, diplomats, and civic servants who are or may be involved in PSOs have been taught by this centre. Furthermore, China is claimed to have built up a PKTC. Thus, in order to boost security cooperation and further benefit both armies, China and Nigeria, two of the main personnel contributors to UN PSOs, may carry out exchange programmes in this sector (Yu Keping, 2008).

Aviation and Ordnance Industries: Strategic areas in the military industry, the aircraft and ordnance industries offer a plethora of undiscovered opportunities, notably in Africa. China and Nigeria may develop a joint venture in the aviation industry to repair and possibly construct or manufacture aeroplanes. Nigeria may act as a hub for other African states in order to achieve this. The huge hanger complex maintained by the Nigerian Air Force, which was once utilised for the manufacture and maintenance of the locally built Air Beetle training aircraft, provides as another proof of this. A hangar like this may be simply enlarged to operate as a regional repair centre for the variety of Chinese-built aircraft that Nigeria and other African governments have acquired. Comparable criteria may also be used to the defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), which is responsible for air defence systems, field equipment, tank upgrades, and ordnance production and maintenance. Therefore, military cooperation between

China and Nigeria in this sector may be profitable to both parties and have a favourable impact on boosting Nigeria's key defence capabilities (Audu SY, 2012).

Shipbuilding and maintenance: The Nigerian Navy today maintains its fleet at two big shipyards and a massive dockyard. On a minor level, both universities have also participated in commercial activity. They still have capacity underutilization, meanwhile, in part due of obsolete gear and technology. With agreement already gained for their growth via partnerships with competent and internationally renowned dockyards, China being properly seasoned and qualified in this sector can advocate for cooperation with Nigeria applying the pleasant connection between both countries. Similar to the aircraft and ordnance sectors, this may serve as a good platform for the creation of Chinese maritime technology in Africa, which would be useful to both countries.

Establishing Satellite Launching Site in Nigeria: China, a key player in space technology as proven by her numerous space missions, has helped Nigeria develop some competency in space technology with the successful launch of NIGCOMSAT-1R in China. This is a noteworthy achievement arising from the two nations' bilateral engagement. It is crucial to note that Nigeria resides near the equator, which gives some advantages in terms of technology for the launch of geostationary satellites. As a consequence, a satellite launched from Nigeria would reach the equatorial orbit more rapidly than one launched from a far-off latitude, but the cost would also climb. As a consequence, this provides prospective satellite launch countries in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East a powerful pull. For the mutual advantage of both nations, China and Nigeria may therefore look about building a cooperative satellite launch station in Nigeria (Luo Jianbo, 2012).

CONCLUSION

The article continues by claiming that Nigeria has recognized China as a partner in both commerce and security. Both countries have proclaimed their determination to expand their security and economic cooperation. That being said, there are still crucial concerns relating to the relationship between China and Nigeria that need to be solved in order for both sides to accomplish their objectives in terms of security and the economy. It is vital to specifically remark that the material at hand leads to the requirement of realizing that contemporary analysis must centre on the tactics that each developing nation may adopt to progress. For neither integration nor economic and security isolation can achieve economic and security growth. Diversification may be limited by strong export interests, substantial export income from a specific commodity, and specialization that is adverse to the economy's overall development. Export, over reliance and unpredictable pricing generate vulnerabilities that might undermine an economy. However, economic isolation

may result in considerable resource misallocation and inefficiencies that hamper an economy's potential to develop over the long run: The capacity of the economy to evolve on its own is vital for both economic progress and independence. In the end, the work rests on its own political and economic leadership. Nigeria must have advanced infrastructure and technology in order to benefit from trade with China if the trade imbalance is to be rectified. Nigeria's economic prospects are mainly based on the political will and determination of its leaders to diversify their economy and pursue an export-led strategy. Doing so will enable us to maximize our foreign currency gains and make sure that the so-called rehabilitation schemes that the imperial powers regularly impose on us are rigorously evaluated. When the trade imbalances are adjusted to reflect this win-win collaboration, the bilateral economic ties between China and Nigeria would be more favourable.

REFERENCES

1. Adekeye, (2023). Challenges and Prospects in Nigeria-China Relations. *African Renaissance*, 2023(si1), 171-189.
2. Crane, A. (1997). The dynamics of marketing ethical products: A cultural perspective. *Journal of Marketing Management*, 13(6), 561-577.
3. Egbula, M., & Zheng, Q. (2011). China and Nigeria: A powerful south-south alliance. *West African Challenges*, 5, 1-20.
4. Gold, K. L., & Devadason, E. S. (2018). The engagement of China in Nigeria's oil sector: Is the transformation positive. *Contemporary Chinese Political Economy and Strategic Relations: An International Journal*, 4(3), 1025-1060.
5. Gold, R. L. (2017). Roles in sociological field observations. In *Sociological methods* (pp. 363-380). Routledge.
6. Krahmann, E. (2015). Regulation Through Procurement Policies. In *Routledge Handbook of Private Security Studies* (pp. 248-257). Routledge.
7. NITISHA, A., & LILLY, M. (2021). Jejunojejunal Intussusception in an Adult-Secondary to Lipoma. *Journal of Clinical & Diagnostic Research*, 15(8).
8. Ogunkola, E. O., Bankole, A. S., & Adewuyi, A. (2008). *China-Nigeria economic relations*. AERC Scoping Studies on China-Africa Economic Relations.
9. Okolie, N. J. C. (2006). Larvicidal effects of paw paw (*Carica papaya*) aqueous extract on mosquito vectors. *International Journal of Natural and Applied Sciences*, 2(4), 417-420.
10. Olaniyan, O., Oyeranti, O. A., & Bankole, A. S. (2009). Sustainable Development in Nigeria.
11. Olofin, S., Salisu, A., Ademuyiwa, I., & Owuru, J. (2014). Determinants of a successful regional trade agreement in West Africa. *Regional economic integration in West Africa*, 181-211.
12. Phillips, N. (2017). Power and inequality in the global political economy. *International Affairs*, 93(2), 429-444.
13. Radcliffe, J. (2019). Liquid air energy storage: Price arbitrage operations and sizing optimization in the GB real-time electricity market. *Energy Economics*, 78, 647-655.
14. Renard, M. F. (2011). China's Trade and FDI in Africa. *China and Africa: An emerging partnership for development*, 25, 1-38.
15. Taylor, I. (2007). Unpacking China's resource diplomacy in Africa. *China in Africa*, 35(10), 1-34.
16. Tom-Jack, P.I. (2016). The Evolving Geopolitical Relations of Nigeria and China: What is the impact of the Nigeria-China Trade and Direct Investment on the Nigerian Economy? (Master's thesis, University of Ottawa, Ontario).
17. Yin, J. Z., & Vaschetto, S. (2011). China's business engagement in Africa. *Chinese Economy*, 44(2), 43-57.