

New Dynamics in the Global System along Afro-Asian Perspectives. Comparing the Chinese, Japanese and Indian Approaches towards Africa.

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African states are changing and transforming in a number of ways due to some major new forces at play. In line with these changes, the perception - the 'image of Africa' - is also changing, as this panel suggests, both "locally and in other countries".

All of the new emerging actors and their relations need to be taken seriously, not just individually for their own sake, but rather in wider contexts. The China–Africa ties should be looked at from within the broader context of Afro–Asian relations in a comparative approach; the Brazil–Africa relations from within the Latin-American–African system of relationships, etc. In addition, all the bi-, tri- and multilateral types of South–South and North–South co-operation need to be analyzed in the global arena as such for they hold implications for the entire system.

Each country, whether China, India, Japan, or for that matter Korea, and not missing the United States and the European Union, is bound to first and foremost operate in its own national interest. Whether any of these "involvements" in Africa is also good for Africa itself needs to be answered first of all by the Africans themselves. What African governments want from the emerging and powerful (and rich!) actors is clearly seen in most of the cases: unconditional support in exchange of their natural resources, concessions over their resources, mainly. Here is the fear of a far too short-sighted African approach: fast money in an easy way, but what about the strategic resources in the long run? All in all, strategic approach is badly needed from the African side. African actors, both on an individual and a continent-wide basis (African Union) must develop their own China, India, Brazil, etc. strategies.

This paper will look into and compare the approaches of three Asian countries, i.e. China, India and Japan in their attitude, behavior, engagement and activity outcome towards Africa.