



# The Belt and Road Initiative: Implications for Europe-China-Africa Relations

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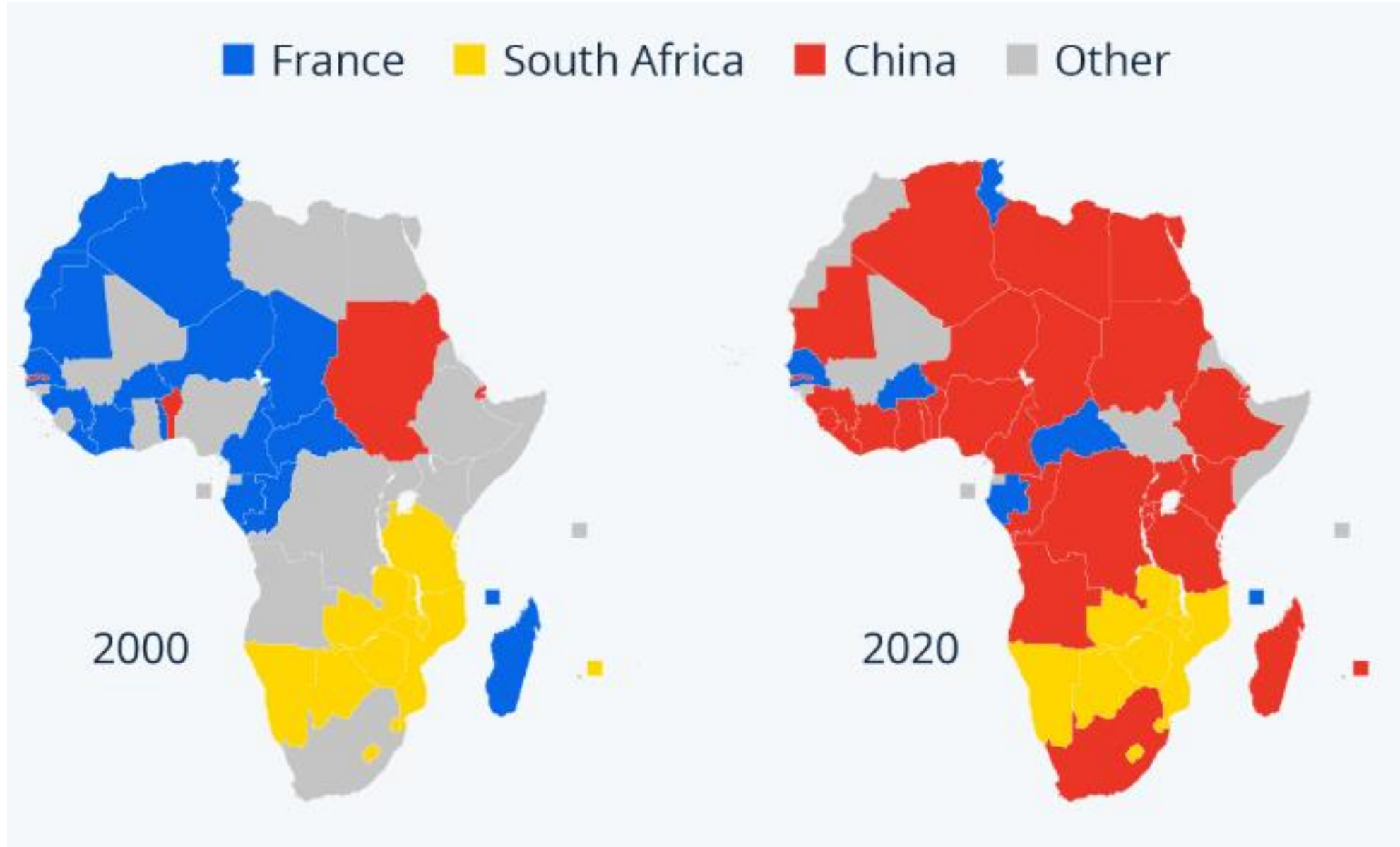
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中、非人民情誼深

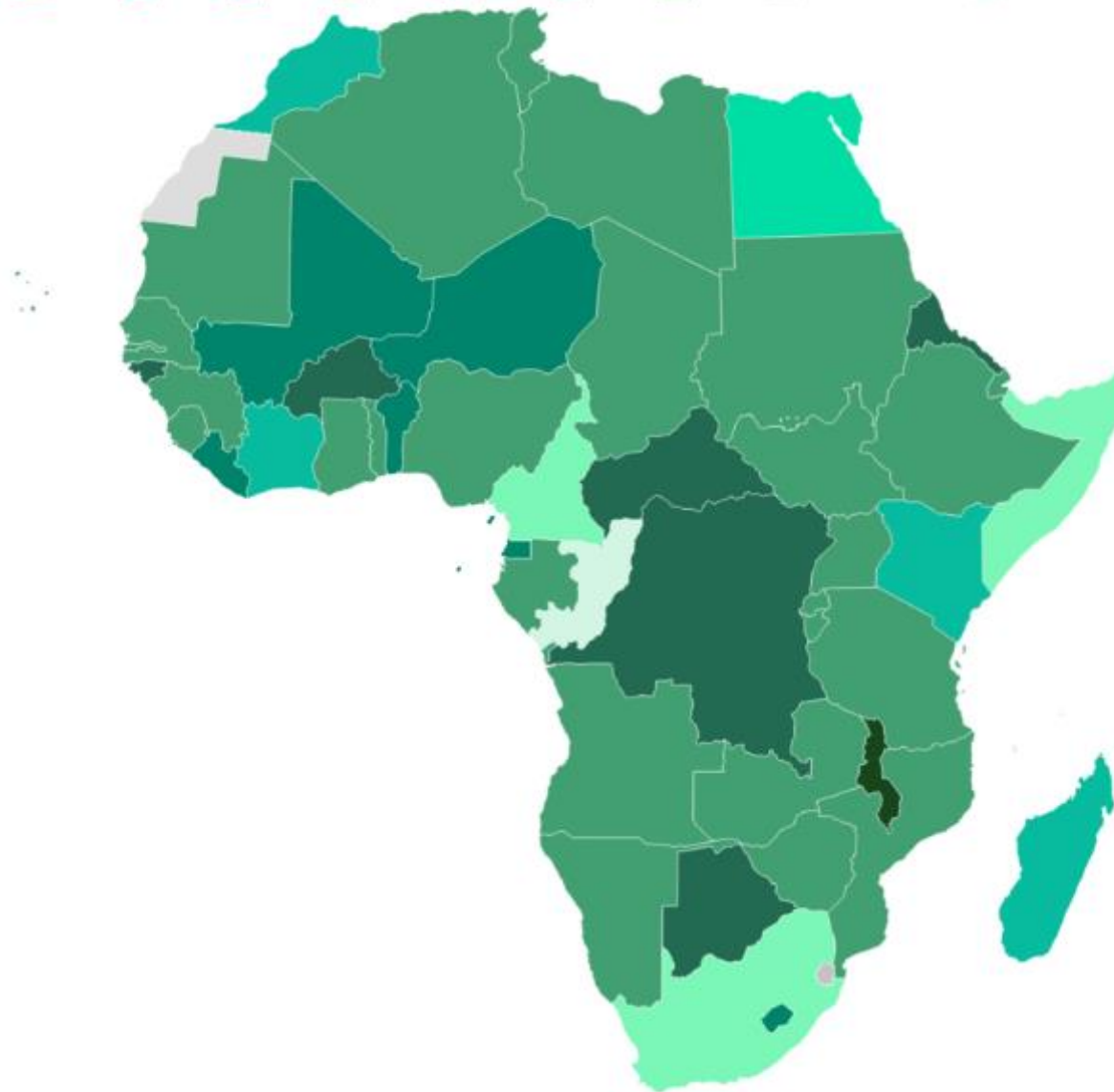
# Top source country for imports



# African Member States of the Belt and Road

Year of BRI Memorandum of Understanding

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2021 2022 no MoU / data unknown date



Data as of April 2022.

Map: C.Heidbrink (2022) • Source: Green Finance & Development Center • Created with Datawrapper

# 要想富先修路

Yào xiǎng fù xiān xiū lù

“Through BRI projects, China has helped build more than 6,000 kilometers of railway, over 6,000 km of highways and more than 80 large power facilities on the African continent”.

China Daily, 2023



“We will support **smart** investments in quality infrastructure, respecting the highest social and environmental **standards**, in line with the EU’s **values** and standards. The Global Gateway strategy is a template for how Europe can build more resilient connections with the world”.

Ursula van der Leyen, EC President

“By scaling up high-quality geostrategic investments, it aims **to advance European interests** and to position the EU more prominently in a geopolitically contested world by strengthening our bilateral and regional partnerships”.

EC (2022)

Europe | Charlemagne

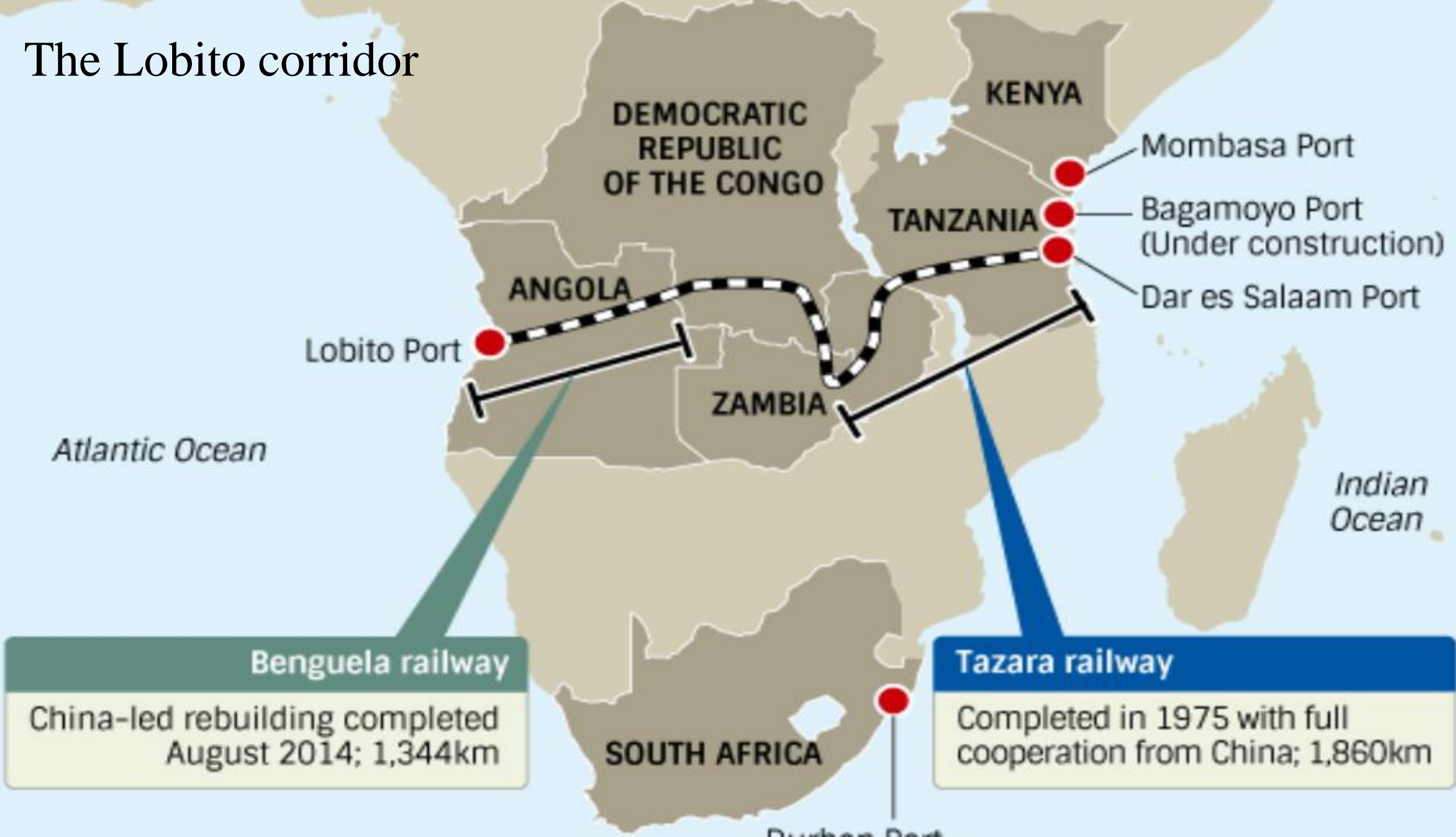
# Why bullshit rules in Brussels

The €300bn Global Gateway initiative is a prime example

“... a mixture of existing commitments, loan guarantees and heroic assumptions about the ability of the club to 'crowd in' private investment rather than actual new spending”.



# The Lobito corridor



“... much faster and easier than dealing with an often divided Europe which attach too many and, frequently, hypocritical conditions to their investments”.

Koffi, 2022

““Europe has been using fossil energy for decades to grow her industry while damaging the world environment’, comment African authorities and citizens alike. ‘Now Brussels is asking us to use green energies for our people while their oil companies keep looking for and finding oil and gas on our territory’”.

Koffi, 2022

“China understands what it’s like to see its culture threatened, [...]. Europe denied African cultures at least until our independence in the 1960s, which is why it would have never financed such a work”.

Hamady Bacoum, Director of the Dakar’s Museum of Black Civilisations

“The respondents characterized the unfolding competition between the European Union and China in Africa variously, for instance, in negative terms: ‘*powder keg*’, ‘*gloomy future for Africa*’, ‘*shaky*’, ‘*time to get rid of the EU*’, and in positive terms namely, ‘*great opportunity to bargain*’, ‘*promising buffet menu*’, and ‘*opportunity for growth*’”.

- Energy security;
- Green transition;
- Russia;
- Vaccines;
- International financial management;
- Brexit
- ...



भारत 2023 INDIA

- paternalistic stance
- aid paradigm in the EU-Africa relationship
- giver-recipient
- norms-setter vs. norms-taker
- carrot and stick

“The African side increasingly questions the values agenda, aid conditionality and underscores the need for more progress in trade and investment focus of the partnership. These stances often come across as pushback in the eyes of the EU”.

- Africa is an important stage of global powers competition;
- African countries can make good use of the opportunity;