

# China's Rapid Economic Transformation and the Active Changes of its African Policy

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## Abstract

The pace and scale of China's economic transformation have no historical precedent. Since opening up to foreign trade and investment and implementing free market reforms in 1979, China has been among the world fastest-growing economies. China is now the world largest economy (on a purchasing power parity basis). The paper examines China's rapid economic rise and the subtle changes that it has instituted in its foreign policy towards Africa. The author argues that since 1980s, China's foreign policy, more specifically, its African policy, has been decided by its strategy of development, and therefore undergone two strands of foreign policy changes in China Africa policy i.e. a shift from ideological considerations to economic diplomacy and a shift from a single form of aid to multiple channels of cooperation. In contrast to most analysts' claim that China's policy changed in recent years owing to its thirst for oil and other natural resources in Africa. The change is closely linked with the transformation of China's grand strategy. To analyze foreign policy change, the paper adopts Joakim Eidenfalk (2006) foreign policy change model which is one of the most relevant when applied to China's relations with Africa.

**Keywords:** Africa, China, Economic Reform, Eidenfalk Model, Policy Change



**Journal of Business  
Management and  
Economic Research**  
Vol.2, Issue.2, 2018  
pp.7-34

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\*Self-set Project of Zhejiang Provincial Key Research Base of  
Philosophy and Social Sciences –Center for African Studies at  
Zhejiang Normal University  
Project No. 16JDFZ03ZS