

# China in Ethiopia: The Long-Term Perspective

The relationship between China and Ethiopia is a tapestry of rich historical, political, and economic threads that have been intertwined for centuries. This article delves into the complexities of this enduring bond, examining its evolution from its early diplomatic encounters to the profound impact China's presence has had on contemporary Ethiopia.



## China in Ethiopia: The Long-Term Perspective

by Aaron Tesfaye

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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## Historical Roots: A Foundation of Diplomacy

The first recorded contact between China and Ethiopia dates back to the 13th century, when a Chinese envoy visited the court of Emperor Yekuno Amlak. Over the centuries, sporadic diplomatic exchanges continued, with Ethiopia sending delegations to China during the Ming and Qing dynasties.

# Ethio-China 50<sup>th</sup> Years of Diplomatic Ties

Belayneh Zelelaw Negash



August 2020

A friend in need is a friend in deed  
Ethio-China People's Friendship Association



August 2020, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## Political Dynamics: Shifting Alliances

In the 20th century, China and Ethiopia forged a new chapter in their relationship. Ethiopia's support for China's admission to the United Nations in 1971 laid the groundwork for a close political alliance. China, in turn, provided military and economic aid to Ethiopia during the Ogaden War and the Eritrean War of Independence.



## **Economic Engagement: A Transformative Partnership**

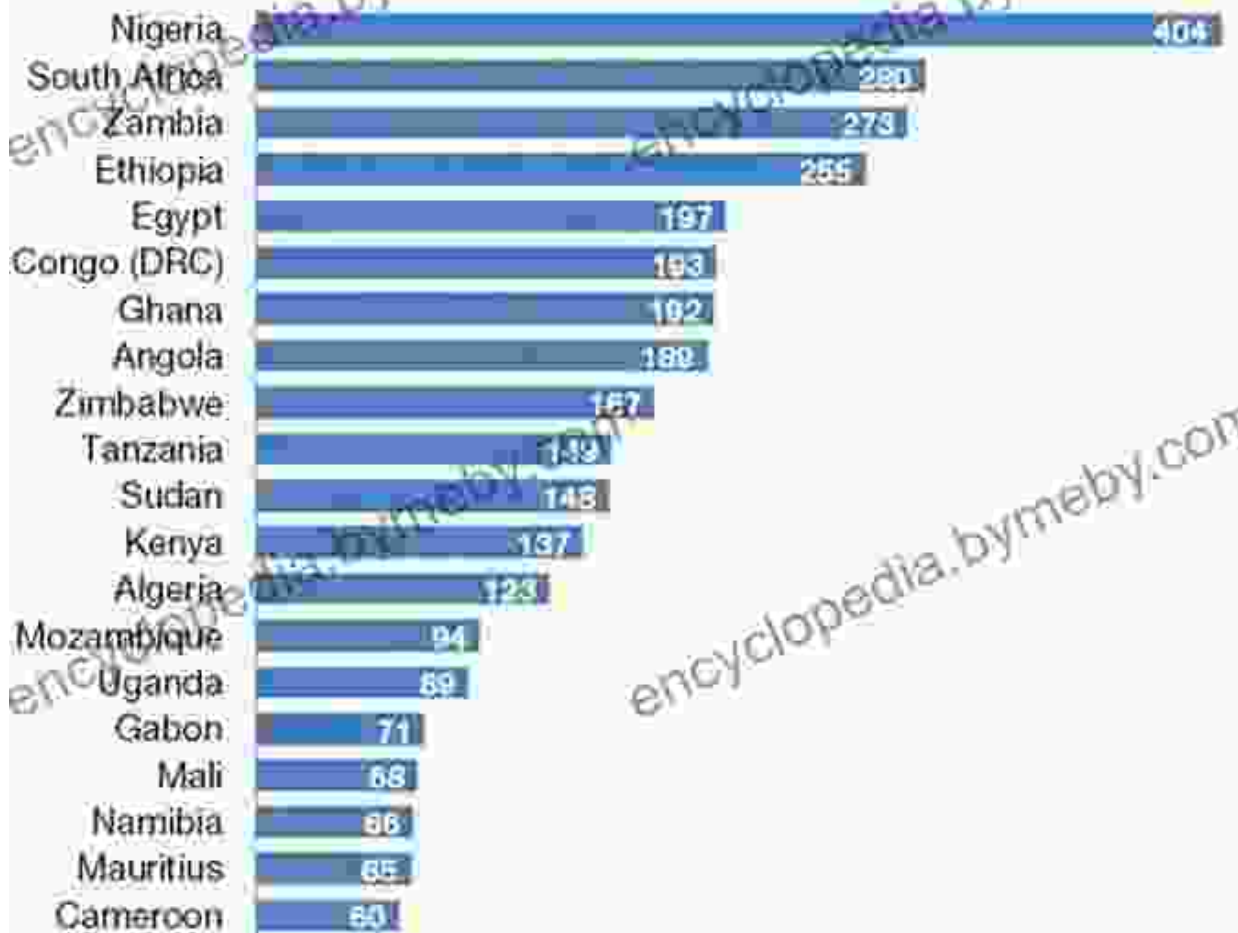
China's economic presence in Ethiopia has been transformative. Since the early 2000s, China has invested heavily in infrastructure, energy, and manufacturing projects. These investments have boosted Ethiopia's economic growth and created numerous employment opportunities.

# Where has China invested?

Top 20 destination countries for African investment by number of projects

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE ANTI-CORRUPTION CENTER



Source: <http://brook.gs/1KWTf0X>

## The Belt and Road Initiative: A Catalyst for Growth

Ethiopia is a key beneficiary of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a global infrastructure and development strategy. The BRI has facilitated the construction of roads, railways, and industrial parks, connecting Ethiopia to regional and international markets.



## **Cultural Exchange: Bridging Traditions**

Beyond economic and political ties, China and Ethiopia have also fostered a vibrant cultural exchange. Chinese language and cultural centers have been established in Ethiopia, promoting understanding and appreciation of both cultures.



## **Challenges and Opportunities: Navigating the Future**

While the China-Ethiopia relationship has brought significant benefits, it has also faced challenges. Concerns about debt sustainability, environmental impact, and labor practices require careful management. However, the long-term perspective adopted by both countries provides a stable foundation for navigating these challenges and seizing opportunities for mutual growth.

### **: A Shared Destiny**

The relationship between China and Ethiopia is a testament to the enduring power of diplomacy, economic cooperation, and cultural exchange. From its historical roots to its contemporary manifestations, this bond has shaped the destinies of both nations and continues to hold immense promise for the future. As China and Ethiopia embark on the next chapter of their

shared journey, the long-term perspective will continue to guide them towards a vibrant and prosperous future.



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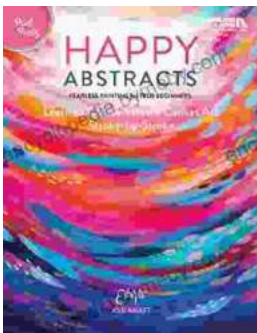
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