CHINA-AFRICA RELATIONS

As China seeks to increase its influence in Africa through its Belt and Road Initiative, it is important to dissect historic China-Africa relations. Particularly in the 1960’s and during the Mao period, China sought to improve economic and cultural relations with several countries in Africa.

1. Mao Zedong: “Africa’s Task is to Struggle Against Imperialism”
   In February 1959 during a meeting with the Union of Populations of Cameroon and the youths of Guinea, Kenya and Madagascar, Mao Zedong argued that the people of various countries should assist and support African people in the struggle for liberation.

2. Letter from PRC Ambassador Extraordinary in the Republic of Mali to the Government of the Republic of Mali
   The Chinese Embassy proposed the terms of sending Chinese experts to assist with agricultural development and production in Mali.

3. Record of Premier Zhou Enlai’s Conversations with the President of Ghana Kwame Nkrumah
   Over the course of three conversations, Zhou and Nkrumah discuss African regionalism, China’s position at the United Nations and its relations with the United States, non-alignment, decolonization, developments in the Congo, and an African nuclear-weapons-free zone.

4. Record of Conversation Between Premier Zhou and Second Vice President Rashidi Kawawa
   Zhou Enlai and Kawawa discuss the diplomatic competition between Taiwan and the PRC, political conditions in Tanzania and Zanzibar, and plans for the Second Asian-African Conference.

5. Conversation Between Mao Zedong and the Delegation of the People’s Republic of the Congo
   Mao Zedong offers advice to Alfred Raoul of the People’s Republic of Congo, telling him that “You should not go down the same winding path that we took.”