

**FROM IDEOLOGY TO COMMERCE: CHINA'S FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY
CONTRIBUTING TO DEVELOPMENT OF ROADS IN KENYA, 1985-2015**

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ABSTRACT

In the early post-colonial period, Chinese infrastructure construction in Africa was motivated by a foreign policy of ideological cold-war considerations, including support for freedom and Panafricanism. However, the end of the bi-polar global order and the rise of China as an emerging economic power subsequently led to a significant swing in its engagement with Africa. China has adopted a more commercial foreign policy. One of China's foreign economic principles is equality and mutual benefit. Literature reveals that although this principle is believed to assist in achieving sustainable development, China's soft power is also seen as the new imperial power with a colonialist project that will perpetuate Kenya's underdevelopment through trade agreements. The objective of this study was to examine the nature and impact of China's mutual development principle on development of roads infrastructure in Kenya. A conceptual framework of modernization, interdependency and realism theories was employed to guide the study. This study was carried out in Kenya. A descriptive survey research design was used. This design enabled the researchers to collect quantitative data that could be analyzed descriptively. The study population encompassed individuals from relevant state offices and Chinese corporations engaged in roads infrastructure development in Kenya. The study used purposive stratified and simple random sampling to obtain relevant institutions and officers. Interviews and questionnaires were used for data collection. Both qualitative and quantitative analyses were used. Data were presented in graphs, tables and pie-charts and later interpreted into meaningful information. The researchers have concluded that China's foreign economic policy is beneficial to Kenya. Among other recommendations, the authors propose that Kenyans should take advantage of the recently reduced export tariffs offered to them by China as a remedy for China's condition that Kenya provides a market for its goods in exchange for roads infrastructure developments.

Keywords: China's Economic diplomacy, foreign economic policy, Roads Infrastructure.