SINO-NIGERIA RELATIONS AND GLOBAL OIL POLITICS, 1999-2023: ASYMMETRICAL OR SYMMETRICAL?

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ABSTRACT
Nigeria's decreasing foreign investment has heightened Europe's and the USA's interest in investing amid this climate of uncertainty. However, China's quest for resources to ensure its energy security has countered this apprehension. China, the world's most populous nation, requires more imported oil to fuel its rapidly growing economy, while Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, needs infrastructure to accelerate its development. This paper examines Sino-Nigerian relations within the context of global politics, focusing on China's primary interest in securing access to Nigeria's natural resources to sustain its expanding economy. Unlike previous studies that predominantly framed Sino-Nigerian relations through a lens of simple economic exchange, this paper delves deeper into the intricacies of political and socio-economic interactions, highlighting how these factors create an interdependent relationship. It scrutinizes the bilateral agreements, investments, and strategic maneuvers that define the asymmetry or symmetry in this relationship, thereby offering a deeper understanding of how both nations negotiate their positions in the broader context of global oil politics. This approach provides a fresh perspective by combining geopolitical and economic analyses, thus moving beyond the traditional narratives and offering a richer exploration of the subject. This paper employs qualitative method using secondary and internet sources. The findings show that, despite China's positive economic reforms and political stability, which have driven its transformation, Nigeria has not experienced similar benefits. Consequently, the paper argues that, as China, an emerging global power with a booming economy, seeks oil, Nigeria should

be recognized as needing significant investment and diversification of its resources.

Introduction

Despite China's and Nigeria's growing significance in the global energy landscape, the study of Sino-Nigeria relations within the framework of global oil politics is still mostly unexplored. The majority of the research that has already been done has addressed China's involvement in Nigeria's oil industry in particular, but it has not gone far enough in analyzing the complex dynamics of their bilateral relationship. By investigating the asymmetrical and symmetrical aspects of Sino-Nigerian relations, especially in the oil sector—where China has emerged as a major actor owing to its growing energy demands and strategic investments in Nigeria—this study seeks to close this gap.

While much research has focused on China's "go out" policy and its effects on African economies, there has not been sufficient exploration of how this strategy specifically influences Nigeria's oil politics and, consequently, its overall economy. Furthermore, the current discourse typically overlooks the importance of a detailed analysis of power relations, failing to consider if the link benefits both sides equally or is skewed toward one. By focusing on our period, this paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the shifting dynamics of Sino-Nigerian relations within the framework of international oil politics. It thus provides fresh perspectives on the political, economic, and geopolitical facets of this bilateral cooperation.

Conceptual Clarification

The dynamics of Sino-Nigeria relations have been characterized by complex interactions that reveal both asymmetrical and symmetrical elements. Asymmetry in this sense is evident through China's economic leverage and strategic investments in Nigeria's oil sector. Since the early 2000s, China has positioned itself as a major player in Nigeria's oil industry, with state-owned enterprises such as the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) and the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) securing significant stakes in Nigerian oil fields (Agubamah, 2014). This investment influx has been motivated by China's growing energy needs to fuel its expanding economy, leading to substantial financial flows from China to Nigeria. However, this economic interdependence often skews in favor of China, as it wields greater bargaining power, making the relationship asymmetrical (Ogunnoiki, 2017).

Conversely, elements of symmetry can be identified in the mutual benefits and strategic partnerships formed between the two nations. Nigeria has leveraged its oil resources to attract Chinese investments not only in the energy sector but also in infrastructure development, such as railways, roads, and power projects, which are pivotal for its economic growth (Alao, 2020). Additionally, diplomatic relations have flourished, with both countries supporting each other in various international platforms such as the United Nations and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). This strategic partnership indicates a degree of symmetry, as both nations pursue mutually beneficial outcomes within the international system. Thus, the Sino-Nigeria relations in the realm of global oil politics, in our period, can be seen as a blend of asymmetrical economic dependency and symmetrical diplomatic collaboration (Onuoha, 2018).

Literature Review

Scholarly studies have extensively examined the connection between China and Nigeria and its implications for global oil politics. Nigeria confronts both chances and challenges as a result of recent changes in China-Nigeria relations, claim Ogunkola and Adewiyi (2008). They contend that in order to maximize the beneficial spillover effects of China's advancements in supplying necessary services and inputs, Nigeria's development plan should take use of China's growth, development, and poverty-reduction techniques (Ogunkola & Adewiyi, 2008:76). Although they offer insightful information about the opportunities and difficulties Nigeria faces as a result of the changing Sino-Nigeria relations, the power imbalances that can exist in it were not examined in their work, especially how China's political and economic factors could influence Nigeria's (foreign) policy choices.

Local merchants valued the willingness of several Chinese partners to fund their activities, according to Pat Utomi (2008) in "China and Nigeria". This was

viewed as a chance to participate in joint ventures and learn about Chinese business processes. The possible dependency and power disparities that could result from these financial ties—where Nigerian merchants might become unduly dependent on Chinese finance and markets—were not sufficiently examined by Utomi's analysis, though. The study also failed to take into account the possible harm to regional sectors, such as the overabundance of low-cost Chinese items in Nigerian marketplaces, which can inhibit local innovation and production.

Nigeria's growing oil exports to Asia were quantitatively described by Adeolu et al. (2010), who noted a notable increase from $8,995.77 million in 2006 to $13,973.39 million in 2008. Although the statistics indicated a significant rise in Nigeria's oil trade, the study did not investigate the underlying causes of this growth, such as adjustments in geopolitics, modifications to the demand for oil globally, or particular bilateral agreements between Nigeria and Asian nations, especially China. Furthermore, it did not critically analyse the wider economic and social effects on Nigeria, such as how rising oil exports affect employment, local industries, and the stability of the country's economy.

Gregory (2009) notes that without assuming ownership of their own network management, Chinese telecom companies aggressively entered the Nigerian market. Although this is a useful finding, Gregory's research ignored issues like capacity building, technology transfer, and competition that may have long-term effects for local telecom enterprises. Additionally, the report did not discuss how these activities impact Nigeria's regulatory framework or the country's possible reliance on foreign knowledge and technology.

Lawal (2009) draws attention to a noteworthy institutional advancement in Sino-African ties concerning the establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation (FOCAC) in 2000. The report did not analyze how FOCAC activities have affected bilateral relations, particularly in the oil industry, or fully examine the specific effects of the organization on particular African nations, such Nigeria. A critical evaluation of the power dynamics within the FOCAC, including whether or not African nations have real agency in the alliance or if they are primarily passive targets of Chinese policy, was also absent from the report.

In particular, Patey's (2014) analysis of China's increasing sway over the oil industry in Africa is insightful, since it highlights the state-owned Chinese corporations' strategic moves to obtain Nigerian oil resources. But Patey's work mostly concentrates on the actions and tactics of these Chinese organizations, paying little attention to the reactions and adjustments of Nigerian players, such as local businesses, communities, and the government. The study did not cover the wider geopolitical ramifications, such as how this relationship affects Nigeria's links with other major oil-importing countries and international oil markets, nor did it investigate the socioeconomic and environmental effects of Chinese oil investments on Nigeria. Furthermore, Patey's research ignores the possibility of reciprocal advantages as well as the dangers of exploitation and dependence in this bilateral relationship.

A thorough summary of the more general facets of Sino-Nigeria collaboration is provided by Garba and Alden (2019), with particular attention to initiatives pertaining to infrastructure and energy. Their study did not sufficiently address the possible socio-economic and environmental effects, such as job creation, ecological damage, or displacement, connected with large-scale energy and infrastructure initiatives, even though their work offered a useful macro-level insight. The power dynamics and potential asymmetries within these initiatives, particularly how they might favor Chinese interests disproportionately compared to Nigerian ones, were also not properly examined by Garba and Alden due to their cooperation-focused approach.

An insightful analysis of China's international energy policies and how they relate to its energy relations with nations such as Nigeria can be found in Andrews-Speed (2010). Although the study emphasized China's strategic goals, it did not adequately analyze the ways in which these goals impact Nigeria's local populations, economic stability, and domestic energy regulations. Furthermore, Andrews-Speed's research did not examine the potential political and economic imbalances resulting from this link, nor did it investigate the ecological and societal ramifications of growing Chinese participation in Nigeria's energy sector.

Insightful analysis of Nigeria's ties with China in the framework of global economic governance and the larger geopolitical ramifications of Sino-Nigeria relations is provided by Mellander and Wekesa (2019). The study, while emphasizing the wider geopolitical ramifications, did not adequately address Nigeria's and China's power and influence asymmetry

or investigate how these dynamics affect bilateral agreement negotiation and implementation, especially in areas like infrastructure and energy. However, although the research that is now available focuses on the diplomatic and economic aspects, a deeper analysis might address power dynamics, dependency on resources, and the mutual benefits or leverage that each party possesses.

Sino-Nigeria Economic Relations: An Overview

Prior to the Open Door Policy announced by Deng Xiaoping in 1978, China had made very few investments in Nigeria. Nigeria's economic structure and dependence on foreign aid and investment made it less appealing to Chinese investors than other African countries (Ubi, 2015). Nevertheless, when Nigeria recognized the People's Republic of China in 1971, it cut diplomatic connections with the Republic of China (Taiwan) (Ubi, 2015:111). Growing Chinese influence in Nigeria in particular has facilitated a collaboration that many view as an alternative to Western-style relationships in recent years (Zheng & Li, 2019). China and Nigeria are anticipated to have the two greatest economies by 2050, though on different scales, according to a Goldman Sachs prediction from 2005, with China likely to have the world's largest economy.

It is noteworthy that in 1993, China made the shift from being a net oil exporter to a net oil importer, mainly due to the inability of the national oil corporations (NOCs) in the country to keep up with the growing demand for oil (Moreira, 2013:141). China overtook the US in 2009 to take the top spot in the world energy consumption rankings (Pham, 2011). As of 2016, China's reliance on foreign oil accounted for 64.4% of its total demand; in a few years, this percentage is expected to rise to 76% (Lelyveld, 2019:19). China-Nigeria bilateral ties flourished and gained impetus during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) creation in 2000, particularly following the Beijing summit in 2006 (Abiodun, 2008). Their economic relations grew stronger, particularly when the FOCAC meetings were revived in 2018 and both countries underwent a number of reforms (Li & Adewumi, 2019). Remarkably, Nigeria continues to be the most populous country in Africa, with 229 million inhabitants, whilst China has an expected 1.4 billion people (UNPD, 2022).

It is important to note that China and Nigeria have already developed bilateral trade ties, although not as strong as in later years. The World Bank (2007) reported that US$307.3 million worth of four major commodities were exported in 2000. At US$273.7 million, or 90% of total exports, mineral fuel and lubricants was the main product, followed by US$33.3 million worth of crude materials, which did not include food or fuel (Zafar, 2007:110). Nigeria's exports to China increased by more than fifty percent to US$526.9 million in 2005 (Zafar, 2007:112). By 2010, they had reached about $8.4 billion USD (Utomi, 2008:42), and by 2015, they were estimated to be worth roughly $14.9 billion USD (Garba and Alden, 2019). Nigeria's exports to China reached a record high of around $16.9 billion USD by 2018 (Li & Adewumi, 2019), demonstrating the strengthening economic relations. Despite the negative impacts of the pandemic, commerce between China and Nigeria increased to 25.68 billion USD in 2021, a 33.3% year-over-year rise. Nigeria's exports to China reached 3.04 billion USD, a 22.4% year-over-year increase (Okonkwo, 2023). All these increased by over 142% between 2016 and 2021 (Okonkwo, 2023:6).

Sino-Nigeria economic relations have recently improved due to a number of causes. The market potential that fuels their connection is a major factor driving this improvement. As a result, Chinese manufacturing companies are actively looking for Nigerian markets for their intermediate and finished items, while Nigerian customers are eager to acquire reasonably priced Chinese goods (Mohammed, 2009). China has become one of Nigeria's top oil importers, and Chinese investments in Nigeria's oil and gas sector have benefited the country, even as Nigeria frequently asked China for development assistance. But there have been disagreements over the terms of these loans and Nigeria's debt load. Still, China frequently benefits from the trade balance, which has sparked debate about Nigeria's need to diversify its exports in order to reduce its dependency on oil. Nigerian-Chinese trade has grown significantly in the twenty-first century, although it still largely revolves around oil. In actuality, oil products make up over 87% of Nigeria's exports to China (Egbula and Zheng, 2011:6).

Therefore, Nigeria has seen both benefits and drawbacks from the Sino-Nigeria economic ties. Positive, it has promoted the growth of infrastructure, made technology transfer easier, and opened up investment opportunities. It has also raised questions about trade imbalances, debt accumulation, and the damaging consequences of Chinese imports on

domestic sectors. According to Garba and Alden (2019), the dynamics of economic interactions between Nigeria and China are essentially a complex and dynamic story that is influenced by social, political, and economic elements. The oil industry is working together more now than before due to China's increasing energy needs. Nigerian refineries and oil fields have received capital infusions from Chinese state-owned firms. Nigeria has benefited from this partnership by having a consistent flow of income from oil exports, but it has also made the nation more vulnerable to changes in the market and possible financial problems.

Dynamics of Sino-Nigeria Economic Relations and Global Oil Politics

China's meteoric economic rise has been spectacular, making it one of the fastest-growing economies in the contemporary world. China's GDP increased to around 18.2 trillion Yuan ($2.25 trillion) by 2005 (Zafar, 2007). Towards the end of the review period, China's GDP was growing at an astounding 10 percent each year. Furthermore, with a population of more than 1.4 billion, China has added a substantial amount of labor to the world economy by bringing in more than 100 million workers (Zafar, 2007:21). These and other elements have helped to make China's economic potential seem limitless (Edmond, 2006).

China's principal interest in Africa is driven by its rising economy, which is primarily dependent on manufacturing. This interest is aligned with ensuring access to the natural resources of the continent to support its expansion (Ihonvbere, 2002). As a result, China aims to surpass its Western competitors in obtaining infrastructure projects, providing lenient credit terms, and using political clout to strengthen its advantage in obtaining natural resource assets in Africa (Zafar, 2007:105). Crude oil is especially crucial, which makes Africa a major battleground for competition between world powers in what is generally called global oil politics and diplomacy. China became the world's second-largest oil importer, after the United States, due to its growing need for oil to support its booming economy. Between 2001 and 2005, in particular, China accounted for 40% of the global increase in oil consumption. Nigeria in particular accounted for almost 20% of China's oil imports (Edmond, 2006:13–15).

Nigeria is a major player in global production, trade, and investment, but the majority of resource transfers to peripheral regions come in the form of aid, development assistance, and humanitarian aid. These relatively small inflows of services are surpassed by large capital flight to core states from the activities of multinational corporations, disinvestment, and large debt servicing obligations, which result in a decrease in foreign investment and influence. As a result, investors in America and Europe have demonstrated a reluctance to make investments in this uncertain environment (Ihonvbere, 2002:2).China has started to impose its political and economic might in the region, taking advantage of the opportunity created by the United States and Europe's declining influence in Nigeria.

Furthermore, both China and Nigeria's trading operations and economic links have grown significantly in recent years. In 2005, China sealed a significant $500 million crude oil deal with Nigeria, while also contemplating investments worth $7 billion in the country (Edmond, 2006). After much thought, the Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) was formed. On January 9, 2006, CNOOC agreed to pay $2.3 billion for an interest in an oil and gas field in Nigeria, making it the country's largest-ever foreign acquisition (Edmond, 2006:18). Nigeria's geopolitical landscape is changing as a result of the country's booming oil sector, with China indicating that it is willing to invest in Nigeria to ensure its energy security. However, China's aggressive quest for oil comes with significant hazards as it enters areas from which Western businesses have withdrawn because of threats from terrorists looking to sabotage the activities of the sixth-largest oil exporter in the world (Edmond, 2006:19).

In 2006, Nigeria lost between 70,000 and 300,000 barrels of crude oil per day as a result of the increase in violence in the Niger Delta region, as well as political corruption and the criminal network, among other factors (Salau & Azu, 2016). In addition, it was revealed that by June 2006, the kidnapping and violence carried out by the Movement for the Emancipation of the People of Niger Delta (MEND) had removed an additional 5,000 barrels per day, or almost a fifth of Nigeria's OPEC quota, off the market. Accordingly, Nigeria lost over $21.5 billion as a result of the Niger Delta crisis between 2005 and 2007 (Salau & Azu, 2016:43). The Nigeria-US security pact to jointly patrol the Niger Delta region for security support was born out of this predicament. Nevertheless, there was a delay in implementation due to Washington's misgivings about the Obasanjo presidency's hold on power and its concern for human rights. Consequently, China intervened, leading to Nigeria’s decision to buy patrol boats from China to guard the Niger Delta's oil installations, thereby

helping tomaintain Nigeria's oil production (Ubi, 2015).

It is apposite to note that China's position as the most populous country in the world and its growing need on imported oil to support its quickly growing economy are key factors influencing the dynamics of Sino-Nigeria relations in the oil sector (Fickling, 2017). On the other hand, Nigeria, the most populous nation in Africa, needs significant infrastructure investment to hasten its development. In a fitting statement, Bolaji Akinyemi said, "China is a rising global force with a strong economy. Nigeria needs significant investment and resource diversification, whereas it needs oil" (Ubi, 2015:102). In sum, China could help Nigeria develop and be a driving force for change within the country; on the other hand, Nigeria could improve its current state of development by imitating China's aspirations and determination, which would help the relationship to change from one of unequal partnership to one of more symbiotic or nearly equal association in all aspects.

Sino-Nigeria Relations andImplications on Global Politics

Given that both China and Nigeria are major players in their respective regions, their relationship has a great deal of bearing on world affairs. They have developed a complex relationship that crosses diplomatic, political, and economic spheres over time. One of Nigeria's main trading partners is China, to whom Nigeria exports raw resources and oil in exchange for the importation of manufactured goods and technology. Nigeria's infrastructure, particularly its roads, trains, and energy projects, has benefited greatly from China's large investments, which have advanced the nation's development. China has increased cooperation with resource-rich African countries like Nigeria due to its growing energy needs (Adewuyi, 2010). China's energy sector investments help Nigeria gain from knowledge transfer and investment inflows while also enhancing China's own energy security.

Together with the complex web of international oil politics, the complex Sino-Nigeria interactions highlight a story of economic dependency, infrastructural development, and diplomatic scheming. The entwined energy and economic linkages of both countries present challenges as well as opportunities. This collaboration has a profound effect on both countries' foreign policies and has an impact on the world energy scene. This strategic move also fits with China's overarching objectives of changing the balance of power in the world, undermining Western nations' long-standing domination, and expanding its influence into hitherto underserved areas (Andrews-Speed, 2010).

Global oil politics are significantly impacted by the geopolitical connection between China and Nigeria. First, by reducing Nigeria's reliance on Western markets for oil exports, it has helped diversify the market, with China emerging as a key client. This change has lessened Nigeria's vulnerability to variations in the demand for oil in the West. China's investments in Nigeria have reduced its reliance on Middle Eastern oil and given it a steadier and diverse oil supply, improving energy security (Anyanwu & Anarado, 2019). Furthermore, China's growing clout in Nigeria has given it more sway over African politics, both local and international. Moreover, China's resource diplomacy approach, which aims to secure essential commodities to support its expanding economy, is reflected in its pursuit of natural resources in Nigeria. The Sino-Nigeria relations affect the way traditional alliances are created, how global power dynamics are rearranged, and how Nigeria and other African countries develop (Anyanwu & Anarado, 2019:228).

The Sino-Nigerian relationship has benefits for both parties, but the underlying power dynamics, economic gaps, and China's growing worldwide influence make for an unequal alliance. China has the ability to influence Nigeria's domestic and foreign policies concerning oil and wider economic progress due to its strong economic and geopolitical standing. Thus, in the context of international oil politics, Sino-Nigeria ties reflect a complex interaction between energy security, economic cooperation, geopolitical influence, and environmental factors. This connection is likely to be a crucial part of international affairs and energy dynamics for the foreseeable future, as Nigeria seeks to maximize the benefits of its oil deposits and China's influence in the global energy arena grows.

Sino-Nigeria Relations and Global Oil Politics: Issues and Challenges

Political and economic concerns arise from the government of Nigeria's inconsistent policies. One example is the project led by the late President Olusegun Obasanjo, who offered oil exploration blocks to Chinese National Oil Companies (NOCs) in exchange for Beijing funding and building large-scale infrastructure projects (Ayodele & Adeleke, 2018) in an effort to attract investment. Nevertheless, the majority of these oil-for-infrastructure contracts were

halted by the succeeding administration of the late President Umaru Yar'Adua due to concerns about transparency (Egbula and Zheng, 2011:5). Following that, the late President Yar'Adua changed the strategy to "oil for cash."

The wave of insurgency that swept over Nigeria caused much concern. While Boko Haram continued its attacks in the north of the country, the militant groups operating in southern Nigeria, particularly in the Niger Delta region, certainly put off potential investors in the energy sector. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) threatened Chinese oil companies against expanding into the Niger Delta by detonating a car bomb near the Warri oil refinery during Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Nigeria in April 2006, following the agreement to grant four oil-drilling licenses worth USD 4 billion (Kong, 2011). Five Chinese oil workers were abducted by MEND in early 2007 and detained for fourteen days. A number of international oil companies suspended operations, and the number of barrels produced in the Niger Delta region fell as a result of ongoing attacks on several oil fields and the abduction of foreign nationals (Kabassi 2012:92).

Nonetheless, Sino-Nigeria relations as well as global oil politics in the modern age have been significantly impacted by Nigeria's status as a major oil-producing country and China's growing desire for energy resources. As regards Ayodele and Adesokan (2017), these associations have undergone modifications to mirror the evolving patterns of global energy markets, diplomatic connections, and economic collaboration. First, China's rapid economic expansion and urbanization have resulted in a marked increase in the demand for energy. China has made an effort to vary its energy supplies, including oil. Nigeria's significant oil reserves have made it a suitable partner for China to meet its energy needs. Second, Nigeria is now one of China's main oil suppliers. China's state-owned companies, such as CNPC and CNOOC, have invested in Nigeria's oil sector after securing long-term contracts for oil deliveries.

Furthermore, there are important geopolitical ramifications to China's growing involvement in Nigeria's oil sector. It changes the dynamics of global oil politics by posing a challenge to the Western oil firms' and markets' long-standing dominance in the region. Nigeria and other oil-producing countries in Africa have been forced to broaden their alliances as a result of this change. Major oil-importing nations like the United States and Europe are particularly concerned about China's growing influence in Nigeria's oil industry because they believe China's investments and clout could provide them a strategic edge in obtaining oil resources.

Moreover, Chinese investments in Nigeria's oil industry have raised concerns regarding environmental sustainability, particularly in light of past incidents of oil spills and pollution (Bukarambe, 2005). Ensuring responsible and sustainable oil production in Nigeria presents a shared challenge for both nations to tackle. Consequently, the Sino-Nigeria within the framework of global oil politics in the 21st century is defined by several key factors: China's escalating demand for energy resources, its investments in Nigeria's oil sector, and the diplomatic and economic connections between the two countries. These shifts have redefined the dynamics of global oil politics and carry the potential to influence the energy landscape in the foreseeable future.

On the other hand, one could characterizeSino-Nigeria in the framework of contemporary global oil politics as unbalanced. Significant differences in the parties' power, wealth, and influence are indicated by asymmetrical relationships. In this case, the relationship between China and Nigeria was characterized by these disparities. To begin with, China is one of the biggest economies in the world, with substantial financial resources and investment potential. Nigeria, on the other hand, is a developing country whose economy is mostly dependent on oil exports. Second, due to its growing prominence and importance on the world stage, China is able to exert significant diplomatic influence over Nigeria. This was especially apparent in international forums and talks. As a result, the relationship between China and Nigeria in our time was marked by an asymmetrical dynamic, where China had more influence over the terms of interaction due to its economic might and Nigeria's oil wealth (Ayodele & Adeleke, 2018:97).

Meanwhile, Nigeria is a major oil producer and exporter, but its economic life is mostly dependent on oil earnings. China is one of the world's largest economies, boasting a strong industrial base, cutting-edge technology, and a large consumer market. In order to maintain its economic growth, the former thus seeks a consistent and reliable supply of energy supplies. This interaction creates a situation in which Nigeria's oil production and policy are somewhat influenced by China's oil demand (Gong & Iganiga, 2017:51). As such, this dynamic could lead to scenarios in which China obtains advantageous conditions in trade agreements, resource extraction

projects, and investment agreements, so putting Nigeria at a disadvantage.

China's increasing domestic energy consumption was the primary driver of significant investments in Nigerian oil, leading to the country diversifying its imports of natural resources and increasing its upstream footprint. As a result, Nigeria became one of China's main trading partners. Nigeria was producing 1.5 million barrels of oil per day by the end of our period (Okonkwo, 2023). Thus, both nations face problems with sustainability and the environment related to the production and use of oil (Kwanashie, 2007). While China attempts to reduce its carbon emissions and shift to greener energy sources, Nigeria deals with environmental problems in the Niger Delta area caused by oil exploitation.

Conclusion

Although the Sino-Nigeria relations have produced many advantages, there are drawbacks and things to take into account. Particularly, China's growing economic influence could influence Nigerian politics and decision-making, raising questions about sovereignty. The Sino-Nigeria oil agreement reflects the demands of the two large countries, Nigeria desiring infrastructure for faster development and China needing more imported oil to fuel its rapidly expanding economy. China may, however, aid in Nigeria's growth and act as a catalyst for change, transforming the existing unbalanced relationship into one that is sustainable and mutually beneficial. As such, the relationship between China and Nigeria in the context of international oil politics illustrates the complex interaction between geopolitics, economic interests, and energy security. The global oil market's power dynamics are changing, and China and Nigeria's relations will keep influencing how international oil politics develop in the years to come.

Thus far, in the context of international oil politics, the study not only emphasized how uneven Sino-Nigeria relations are, but it also gave a thorough explanation of all the ramifications of this connection. First, China's strategic objectives in obtaining energy resources were frequently benefited by the partnership. Second, Nigeria's economy is still highly reliant on oil earnings, which leaves it open to outside shocks and price fluctuations determined by world oil politics. Furthermore, the conditions of Chinese loans for infrastructure development frequently result in significant debt accumulation, which has an adverse effect on Nigeria's long-term economic stability. Thus, the potential long-term benefits for Nigeria have been diminished since, despite the construction of infrastructure, there has been little technology and skill transfer to the local workforce. Notwithstanding, a few Chinese projects have sparked worries about environmental deterioration and a lack of compliance with regional environmental laws. Social discontent has occasionally resulted from infrastructure projects that force local residents to relocate and receive little compensation.

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