

# CHINA RETURNS TO AFRICA

A Rising Power and a Continent Embrace



EDITED BY CHRIS ALDEN,  
DANIEL LARGE, AND  
RICARDO SOARES  
DE OLIVEIRA

Chinese-African relations became an issue of increasing importance leading up to the 2006 China-Africa Summit in Beijing. Nevertheless, academics and policymakers have largely neglected China's expanding relationship with Africa. Scholars have yet to explore the concrete ways in which Chinese actors operate in different parts of Africa, and developmental policy advisors have yet to take the political dynamics and implications of this involvement into consideration when forming policy.

CHINA RETURNS TO AFRICA addresses key issues in contemporary Chinese-African relations, examining the impact of this relationship in issues of diplomacy, trade, and development. Beginning with the assertion that China is engaged in a "scramble for Africa" and that we are now on the brink of a "new Chinese imperialism," the essays in this volume transcend narrow, media-driven concerns and offer one of the first far-ranging surveys of the consequences of China's investment in Africa.

ALDEN, LARGE,  
AND SOARES DE  
OLIVEIRA EDITORS

CHINA RETURNS TO AFRICA



"A new Chinese invasion of Africa has taken place. . . . Anybody interested in the continent, and in the rise of Chinese power, needs to know what is going on. The editors of this hefty volume have assembled essays by twenty-four academics of a dozen nationalities, who possess exceptional knowledge of China's operations in Africa. Successive chapters address such diverse subjects as the social influence of the 750,000-strong Chinese diaspora in the continent; Chinese medicine; the history of the disastrous Tanzanian railway; and, most important, the progress of Beijing's drive to buy into oil and mineral resources the length and breadth of the continent . . . an impressive and balanced study of one of the most important developments in the modern world."

—*The Sunday Times*

"This lively, timely and authoritative book is vital to understanding China's expanding role in the economic and political life of Africa."—John Ryle, chair of the Rift Valley Institute and Legrand Ramsey Professor of Anthropology, Bard College

"China's resurgence in Africa has to rate as one of the most striking developments of the early twenty-first century. This thorough and balanced study provides the right equipment with which to assess it."—Philip Snow, author of *The Star Raft: China's Encounter with Africa*

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS/ NEW YORK  
[www.cup.columbia.edu](http://www.cup.columbia.edu)

Jacket Design: Fatima Jamadar  
Cover Illustration © IISH Stefan R. Landsberger Collection



CHRIS ALDEN is reader in international relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science. His books include *China in Africa*, *Mozambique and the Construction of the New African State*, and, with Garth le Pere, *South Africa's Post-Apartheid Foreign Policy*. He has been a Japan Foundation fellow at the University of Tokyo, a professorial fellow at the École Normale Supérieure, Paris, and a MacArthur postdoctoral fellow at Cambridge University.

DANIEL LARGE is research director of the Africa-Asia Institute at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

RICARDO SOARES DE OLIVEIRA is University Lecturer in Comparative Politics at the Department of Politics and International Relations, Oxford University, a fellow of St. Peter's College, Oxford, and a fellow with the Global Public Policy Institute, Berlin. He is the author of *Oil and Politics in the Gulf of Guinea*.