

**Evaluation and Prospect of the Relationship between
Major Countries and Africa under the COVID – 19 Pandemic**

Zhou Yuyuan

Abstract: Under the COVID – 19 pandemic, major countries have entered a new period of adjustment in their relationship with Africa. In general, major countries are increasingly creating synergy in their engagement with Africa; western major countries are advancing their “club style” cooperation with Africa; the leading and stimulating effects of China – Africa cooperation are enlarging; the pattern of “dual competition” between major powers in Africa is taking place; major countries are showing obvious intentions of shaping African development agenda. In this process, major countries are reshaping and transforming their strategies and policies towards Africa: The new U. S. Africa strategy puts forward new approaches while emphasizing old priorities; the new Africa strategy of the European Union with the aim of the “European – African alliance” is advancing slowly; the transformation of French policies towards Africa suffers setbacks; the new British Africa strategy tends to be more pragmatic, and emerging countries expand their influence in Africa based on their own characteristics. The interaction and convergence of major countries’ engagement in major areas and issues of Africa is expanding, which is mainly reflected in the co – existence of competition and cooperation in the support of Africa’s fight against the pandemic, the rise of institutional competition in the commercial area, the rise of the competition for models, rules, and standards in infrastructure construction, the widening divergence of political security concepts, the absence of coordination, and the competition in the green transformation agenda despite climate change cooperation. In the future, the competitive – cooperative relationship among major countries in Africa will further develop. However, there are still different understandings and judgments about the nature of China – West relations in Africa, whether western strategies, policies and initiatives towards Africa can be implemented, and whether African countries can shape and make use of their relationships with major countries. In – depth observation and research are still needed to address these issues.

Keywords: the COVID – 19 pandemic, the relationship between major countries and Africa, China – Africa cooperation, competition among major countries

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Impact of COVID – 19 on China – Africa Supply Chain Cooperation

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Abstract: From the beginning of this century, the bilateral trade and investment between China and Africa keep increasing, and China – Africa supply chain cooperation also develops along the way. The supply chain systems in mining, agriculture and manufacturing industries have been established, which promotes the economic development of both sides. In this process, Africa has been gradually integrating into and playing an increasingly important role in the global supply chain. Meanwhile, China – Africa supply chain with China as its core has become an important part of the new global supply chain system. As the COVID – 19 pandemic has wreaked havoc around the world since 2020, attention has been paid to the security and sustainability of the supply chain. On the one hand, the supply chain cooperation between China and Africa is constrained by limited international logistics, cumbersome customs clearance procedures, falling productivity, tight financial flows and security issues. On the other hand, there has been positive factors such as the rapid development of e – commerce and mobile payment, African countries’ greater emphasis on infrastructure, the improvement of supply chain management by enterprises and the digitalization of the supply chain. In the post – pandemic era, China and African countries should actively take appropriate measures to promote China – Africa supply chain cooperation in line with the interests and national conditions of both sides, and ensure the flexibility, resilience and security of the supply chain between China and Africa.

Keywords: COVID – 19, China – Africa supply chain cooperation, supply chain security, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

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The Supreme Being Worship of African Traditional Religions and Its Characteristics

Zhou Haijin

Abstract: The supreme being worship in traditional religions is the core of the African view of universe and life, but it has long been regarded as the product of foreign civilization by the scholars of Eurocentric bias, and is traced back to the monotheist worship of Christianity and Islam. Scholars who refute this cultural hegemony argue that Africans along the Nile developed the world’s first theological system long before the

Hebrew, European, and Arab belief systems were established, therefore Africans first created monotheism. Currently there is no definite conclusion in the academic community on whether Africans belief systems influence other belief systems or vice versa. The African supreme being worship is very similar to the monotheist worship of Christianity and Islam in affirming the existence, unique status, and attribute of the supreme being. However, the unique history and culture have given birth to the different characteristics of the African supreme being worship. There are many appellations of the supreme being, the worship of the supreme being co – exists with the worship of gods, and Africans seldom build temples and offer sacrifices to the supreme being. These distinctive features are closely related to the traditional social and cultural customs in Africa and the African view of the universe and life, and are also important symbols of the African traditional religions which can be distinguished from other religions and cultures.

Keywords: African traditional religions, supreme being worship, monotheist worship

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A Study of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church from the Perspective of Miaphysitism

Tan Zemin

Abstract: Historically, the Ethiopian Orthodox *Tewahedo* Church has maintained good relations with the Coptic Church. Although Miaphysitism originated from St. Cyril of Alexandria, it has been well inherited and interpreted in the Ethiopian Orthodox *Tewahedo* Church. Miaphysitism is the basic, central, and most important content in the reconciliation between the Oriental Churches, Orthodox and Roman Catholic Church under the Ecumenical Movement. This paper first reviews the development history of Miaphysitism, then analyzes the connotation of Miaphysitism in the Ge'ez language, demonstrating that there is a fundamental difference between Miaphysitism and Monophysitism in traditional Euro – America – centrism. The paper also analyzes the significance of Miaphysitism to the dialogue between different churches in the Ecumenical Movement, and attempts to explore the significance of Miaphysitism to the world Christianity studies in China.

Keywords: Ethiopian Orthodox *Tewahedo* Church, Miaphysitism, Monophysitism, Dyophysite, studies in world Christianity.

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Perspectives and Characteristics of Water Governance Research in Africa

Zhang Jin

Abstract: Rather than being a “dry continent”, Africa is suffering more from “water scarcity” due to under – exploitation of water resources and weak water governance capacity in terms of low rate of water supply and utilization. In order to improve water governance in Africa, researchers from natural sciences, social sciences and humanities have developed effective research methods, and water governance actors at all levels have made their own efforts in water management and planning. At the international, intercontinental and national levels, international organizations and African countries have explored water governance, showing characteristics such as multi – disciplinary and multi – participant involvement in governance. However, due to objective restrictions such as data deficiencies and traditional customs, water governance in Africa is still highly unpredictable and remains an area that needs attention for future sustainable development in Africa.

Keywords: African development, water resources, water issues, water civilization, water governance

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Securitization and Desecuritization of International River Management Around South Africa

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Abstract: Water securitization and desecuritization is a critical issue in international river management. The analysis of active securitization and passive desecuritization of South Africa’s international river management can help to understand the internal mechanism of regional water conflict and cooperation transformation. South Africa’s relatively strong economic strength in its peripheral river basins places it in a dominant position in the water and political complex of all the peripheral international rivers, and allows it to take the initiative in carrying out the safe management system conducive to its own country in all these river basins, thus forming the current water resource management system. With the development of the region’s economies and the increase in water demand, some other countries in the region have begun to take measures to strive for more water resources in order to safeguard their own water rights and interests

by establishing a desecuritization management system for water resources. However, due to the existence of many immature factors, the securitization aspect of their administration cannot be modified in a short time.

Keywords : South Africa , international river , securitization , desecuritization

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An Analysis of the Transboundary Water Resources Disputes of the Nile

Xing Hao

Abstract : The Nile water resources dispute, which is being reignited by the construction of the Renaissance Dam in Ethiopia, is one of the central variables affecting the stable development of the countries in the basin. The transboundary nature and high spatial and temporal variability are the fundamental characteristics of the Nile Basin system. The large number of flowing countries, their uneven distribution and the yearly decrease of water flows have complicated the Nile transboundary water disputes. The Nile transboundary water disputes initiated during the colonial rule of European powers, and a series of unequal treaties and agreements on water allocation and management are the historical causes of the current water rights disputes in the region. The asymmetrical power between the countries in the basin, the legitimacy of the colonial agreements and the contradictions in international law have become the problems that hinder the resolution of the Nile transboundary water disputes. The basic principle and goal of water dispute resolution is to promote the common ownership, sharing and governance of the transboundary water resources of the Nile. Following this logic, the gradual resolution of the Nile transboundary water resources dispute requires more extensive cooperation from a basin – wide perspective, a balance of the interests of all parties, adherence to the concept of equitable and reasonable use and sustainable development, and promotion of the integration process of regional water resources sharing, thus establishing a new system of shared water resources that promotes regional stability and prosperity. It is worth noting that with the implementation of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China brings new opportunities for the development and management of Nile water resources.

Keywords : the Nile , transboundary water resources , water disputes , a new system of shared water resources

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The Lack of Conflict Prevention Mechanisms and the Transboundary Water Governance Dilemma :in the Case of the Nile Basin Initiative

Jia Jiameizi

Abstract: The signing of water cooperation treaties and the establishment of multilateral transboundary mechanisms have provided the basis for cooperation among countries, but transboundary water governance also faces a dysfunctional dilemma. That is, transboundary cooperation agencies sometimes have difficulty solving problems arising from the unreasonable development and use of water resources among upstream and downstream countries. The absence of conflict prevention mechanisms is an important cause of the transboundary water governance dilemma, which has been neglected in the previous research. Conflict prevention mechanisms refer to various medium – to – long – term interventions and strategies implemented by various actors at different levels to reduce tensions among countries, including both conceptual and operational elements, with the goal of finding solutions to root causes in the mechanism’s operation process. This analytical framework can explain the failure of the Nile Basin Initiative. Specifically, the Nile Basin Initiative has not conformed to the four indicators of the conflict prevention mechanism in terms of concept and measures, and has failed to consolidate the capacity building of the mechanism while lacking the ability to actively respond to crises, hence leading to a dilemma in basin governance. Therefore, the analytical framework of the conflict prevention mechanism not only advances the theoretical progress of the international resource cooperation, but also has practical guidance for the building of the transboundary river cooperation mechanisms.

Keywords: conflict prevention, transboundary water governance, the Nile Basin Initiative, conflict management

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