

The Discourse Framework and Agenda Setting of China – related News Reports on African Media: A Case Study of AllAfrica

Zhang Yanqiu and Chen Yuan

Abstract: The building of China’s image by the African media is of great significance to people – to – people bond and the sustainable development of China – Africa cooperation. Based on the Gamson’s theory of “interpreting the package”, and through the big data public opinion monitoring and discourse framework analysis of China – related news reports of AllAfrica, an African news aggregation media, this study aims to present the discourse framework and media agenda setting of China – related news reports of African media. The findings suggest that there are four main types of China – related reporting frameworks in AllAfrica: the factual framework, the progress framework, the conflict framework, and the responsibility attribution framework. Among these, the factual framework serves as the foundation, characterized by a neutral stance. Due to the deep influence of Western social and news values in the African media ecosystem, coupled with the lack of capacity for international reporting, the factual and conflict frameworks in China – related reporting frequently repeat perspectives from Western media, think tanks and scholars, and resonate strongly with the Western media’s coverage of China. However, within the progress and responsibility attribution frameworks, AllAfrica demonstrates, to a certain degree, an “Afrocentric” news discourse construction and awareness. There are some differences in the interests of African countries in specific China – related issues. The news discourse and agenda setting of China – Africa relations show obvious media bias, which is under the influence of different stakeholders such as governments, political parties, enterprises and social organizations on the framework and agenda setting of news reporting. This paper suggests that, based on an understanding of the African media ecosystem, it is necessary to go beyond the traditional research framework oriented towards national image, and build a “united front” of China – Africa media. This would improve discourse and narrative systems, and enhance the self – shaping capacity of China – Africa discourse.

Keywords: African media, AllAfrica, China – related reports, discourse framework, agenda setting

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An Analysis on the Causes of Political Stability in Zimbabwe under Economic Sanctions

Zeng Zhu

Abstract: The “Fast Track” Land Reform Programs launched in 2000 strained diplomatic relations between the ZANU PF –led administration and Western countries, leading to economic sanctions that severely impacted Zimbabwe’s economy and citizen well – being, thereby casting doubt on ZANU PF’s governance legitimacy. Despite the political, economic and social crisis induced by sanctions which forced the ZANU PF to make significant adjustments in political system and share power, the rule of ZANU PF remained unshaken. Its ability to maintain political stability in crisis is closely related to the legitimacy of its power: ZANU PF is bolstered by its anti –imperialism and anti – colonialism liberation struggle’s ideological legitimacy, performance legitimacy via patronage networks and the “Look East” policy, as well as the procedural legitimacy through the electoral process. Collectively, these factors mitigated the impact of sanctions on the ZANU PF’s regime.

Keywords: Zimbabwe, economic sanctions, legitimacy of power, regime stability

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An Analysis of Turkish Erdogan Government’s Policy towards Africa

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Abstract: Since Erdogan assumed power, Turkey’s foreign policy has exhibited an unprecedentedly proactive stance, particularly evident in its Africa policy. This dimension of Turkey’s foreign policy under Erdogan is crucial for understanding the overall approach. In view of this, by combining Turkey’s domestic situation and international situation, this paper systematically reviews Turkey’s relations with Africa

since Erdogan's administration, comprehensively analyzes the historical origins and contemporary outcomes of Turkey's African policy, and discusses its motivation, strategic significance and multiple challenges. The evaluation reveals that Turkey's Africa policy is coherent and constructivist, which have achieved remarkable results. Maintaining strong relations with Africa remains a key component of Turkey's future foreign policy. However, in the long term, Turkey's Africa policy faces risks of conflicting interests with other external powers, and is constrained by its own development status and the complex political and economic dynamics within Africa.

Keywords: Turkey, Erdogan government, policy towards Africa, constructivism

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An Analysis of Soviet Union's Policy towards Africa during the Brezhnev Era

Hu Bo and Li Peiqi

Abstract: Traditionally, the African continent has been regarded as the sphere of influence of the Western European powers. After World War II, although the Soviet Union was once skeptical of African national liberation movements out of ideological dogma, it took a strategic interest in Africa along with the decline of colonial powers such as Britain, France, Portugal, and Belgium and the independence of a large number of African countries. During Brezhnev's rule, with a significant improvement of the comprehensive national strength, in order to occupy a dominant position in the geopolitical competition, the Soviet Union significantly increased its military assistance to Africa, strengthened its political ties with Marxist-Leninist political parties and armed groups in African countries, and even directly intervened in the internal affairs of African countries and territorial disputes. Nonetheless, in the Soviet Union's foreign policy at that time, the priority of relations with Africa was still relatively low, which was largely depended on the phased evolution of Soviet Union-West relations, becoming a chip in the game between them. This foreign policy based on opportunism and

utilitarianism not only intensified the turmoil on the African continent, but also caused a huge burden on the Soviet economy and became one of the important factors leading to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Keywords: Soviet Union, Brezhnev era, policy towards Africa, geopolitics

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Combined Exclusive Maritime Zone of Africa: Ideological Values and Practical Challenges

Zhang Xinyi and Shen Zhongxiu

Abstract: In the context of promoting the development of Africa's blue economy, the African Union has put forward the concept of building a Combined Exclusive Maritime Zone of Africa. This concept aims to promote cooperation among the regional countries in the development and management of marine resources by balancing the relationship between sovereign rights and the concept of common prosperity and sharing. Although this concept faces many challenges in practice, such as weak implementation willingness of various countries, the lack of a complete system, and insufficient legal effectiveness, its core concept has important reference value in global ocean governance. The Combined Exclusive Maritime Zone of Africa provides valuable experience for China – Africa maritime cooperation, especially in the context of globalization, to address international challenges through regional cooperation and promote the formulation and implementation of international rules. This study not only enriches the understanding of African ocean governance, but also provides theoretical support and practical guidance for the deepening of China – Africa maritime cooperation.

Keywords: Combined Exclusive Maritime Zone of Africa, the African Union, African marine governance, China – Africa maritime cooperation

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African Studies in the United States: Institutions, Funding and Characteristics

Wang Jin

Abstract: African studies in the United States has experienced a century of development and change, getting rid of the dependence on European research authorities, cultivating a large number of researchers, as well as establishing a number of renowned research institutions and academic research groups represented by the “American Institute for African Studies”. African studies in the United States are funded by the Department of State, Department of Education, the military, and other officials, as well as social capital, such as the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Carnegie Foundation, forming a relatively stable research and funding system. Due to its unique history and national conditions, African studies in the U. S. has been driven by the domestic black rights movement, and has shown three characteristics: anti – racialism in academic views, black scholars as the main body of the research group, and relatively weak international academic influence. In the future, similar to other national and regional studies in the United States, African studies in the United States faces the problem of how to balance between “factual research” and “theoretical research”.

Keywords: African Studies in the U. S. , black studies, factual research, theoretical research, anti – racialism

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A Study on the Forum on China – Africa Cooperation: Retrospects and Prospects

Wang Kangxu

Abstract: As an important mechanism for friendly exchanges and cooperation between China and Africa, The Forum on China – Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has received close attention from the academic community since its establishment in 2000. The discussions include the effectiveness, existing problems, policy recommendations, and questions about the forum etc. In the approximately ten years since 2015, under the influence of changing international situation as well as internal conditions in Africa and China, advancements have been made in the research of FOCAC in five aspects: the

effectiveness of the mechanism, the forum's outcomes, new challenges, suggestions, and questions and responses regarding the forum, which reflect the characteristics of detailed and in-depth research content, as well as innovative methods. Although there is still room for improvement in terms of expanding research content, conducting comprehensive comparisons and strengthening discourse power, it should be acknowledged that these studies hold important significance in evaluating and improving the Forum on China – Africa Cooperation and demonstrating China's image as a responsible major country.

Keywords: FOCAC, China – Africa relation, cooperation mechanism, China – Africa community with a shared future

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