

# EXPLORING PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE EUROPEAN- AFRICAN SECURITY RELATIONS

Lecture

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## STRUCTURE OF PRESENTATION

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Historical Underpinnings
- ❖ Contemporary Realities
- ❖ Emerging Threats
- ❖ EU's Strategies to Scuttle China-Africa Relations
- ❖ African Resilience and Resistance Strategies
- ❖ Way Forward

## INTRODUCTION

Question

How have European-African relations evolved over time, and how does this impact the roots of (in)security in Africa?

What key lessons do we draw from this relationship?

How can European-African relations be repositioned to build a sustainable security agenda in the years to come?

How can Europeans and Africans broaden their roles, fill up all the gaps existing in their security relationship in the future, considering other emerging challenges to their symbiotic relationship?

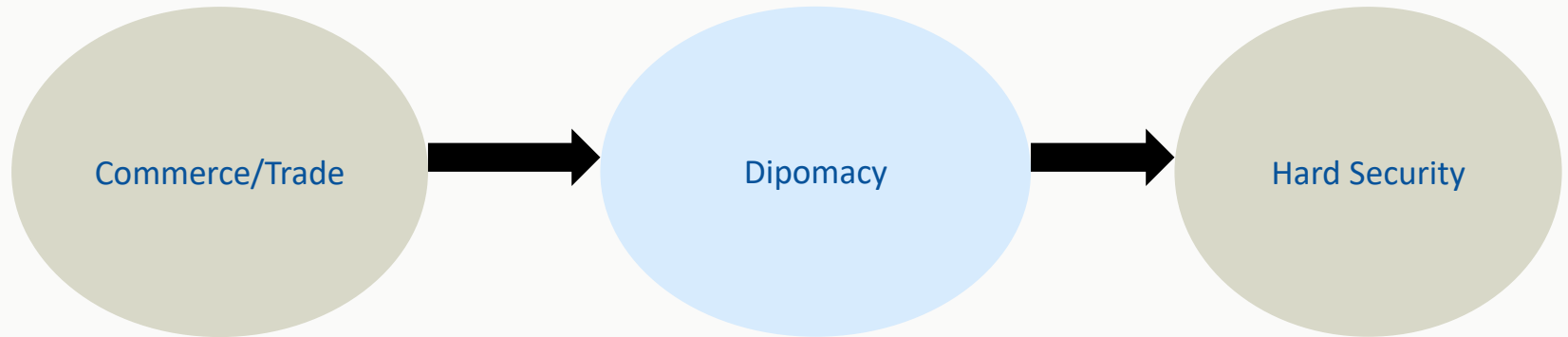
## HISTORICAL UNDERPINNINGS



<http://www.germancolonialuniforms.co.uk/kam%20reservists.htm>

- ❑ Past Africa - Europe relations
- ❑ Berlin Conference of 1884-1885:
  - pace setter for European powers to negotiate their claims to Africa
- ❑ Imperialism implemented through: Commerce, civilization and Christianity
- ❑ Colonial rule: military force vs commercial interests  
E.g., German, French, and British rules

## CONTEMPORARY REALITIES



# CONTEMPORARY REALITIES CONTEMPORARY CONT...

## A. Commerce/trade

- Engagement driven Africans to a money economy instead of a resource economy
- Imported economic programs undermining local realities & specificities
- Core-periphery dependency relationship
- For instance, France-Afrique relations & the “French Colonial Tax”



Source: DW, 2019



[https://en.ucoin.net/coin/western\\_africa-25-francs-1989/?cid=35993](https://en.ucoin.net/coin/western_africa-25-francs-1989/?cid=35993)

## B. Diplomacy

- ❑ The technology of social engineering through the invisible or hidden power
- ❑ EU's governmentality strategy:
  - humanitarian assistance, education, scholarships, cultural exchange, financing of African institutions
- ❑ Governmentality through building technical capacities of Africans in the development sector e.g GIZ
- ❑ Shared cooperation in responding to global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic



Source: European Commission, 2020



Source: AFD, 2021

## C. Hard Security

- EU's direct military interventions in armed conflicts in Africa
- Support to African security architecture through an African-led Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)
- EU's stabilisation missions and peace support operations in Africa
- EU's focus on Sahel in the fight against transnational terrorism and extremism
- French military intervention in Mali (Operation Serval)
- The creation of G5 Sahel and training of G5 Sahel national armies and Joint Task Force



## EMERGING THREATS

### A. China

- China is involved in both **militarised and non-military security issues**
- Supports Africa's regional security integration and the development of its architecture
- A significant actor in peacekeeping missions and anti-piracy missions in Africa
- Provided financial aid of \$1.2 million to African Union Mission in Somalia
- As of 31 August 2018, China has about 403 troops in Mali, the third-largest contingent of Chinese UN peacekeepers in the field
- About 2000 Chinese soldiers deployed to UN peacekeeping missions in CAR, DRC, Mali etc
- Offering better governmentality to Africans based on **“equal partnership, mutually beneficial relations and better development alternatives”**
- Use of soft power to achieve governmentality through the investment of infrastructures
- For example, China's Belt and Road Initiative and funding the African Union building

### B.Migration

- ❑ EU's focus on irregular migration and Islamic jihadism
- ❑ The debate on migration from West Africa to Europe has produced different approaches and outcomes
- ❑ EU's approach has focused on the securitization and politicization of migration
- ❑ Deployment of border protection guards at the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean
- ❑ Payment of African governments money to take back their citizens
- ❑ The African approach has focused on deconstructing negative perceptions of migration in Africa
- ❑ Migration in Africa is more internal than external
- ❑ UN DESA reports that 52.7% of migrants live within Africa, while 26.3% reside in Europe, with 11.4% in Asia, 8.0% in North America and 1.6% in other parts of the world
- ❑ Migration takes more regular than irregular form
- ❑ Between 2011-2017 regular entries in the EU from North and West Africa outnumbered irregular entries by sea to Italy

### C. Terrorism and Islamic Jihadism in the Sahel

- ❑ The rise in extremism and Islamic jihadist groups in the Lake Chad
  - e.g. **Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa**
- ❑ The conflict in Northern Mali and the spread of transnational Islamist insurgent groups
- ❑ The flow of small arms and light weapons as a source of terrorists financing
- ❑ Rise in human trafficking and migrant smuggling
- ❑ Increase in armed conflicts with spill over across Africa and Europe



Source: Time Magazine, 2014

## D. Climate Change

- ❑ The Sahel region: a climate change hotspot, with temperatures rising 1.5 times the global average
  - ❑ Land degradation, desertification, and drought, have a profound effect on food and water security
  - ❑ Climate change is a “threat multiplier” and an “accelerant of insecurity”,
  - ❑ It exacerbates conflicts e.g., farmers and pastoralists
  - ❑ Emerging threats linked to the depletion of natural resources resulting in conflicts over scarce resources
  - ❑ For instance, the drying up of Lake Chad
- ❑ Climate change is intensifying human mobility in the Sahel region



Source: UNCCD, 2018

# EU'S STRATEGIES TO SCUTTLE CHINA-AFRICA RELATIONSEU'S STRATEGIES TO COUNTER CHINESE INTEREST IN AFRICA

Dialogue and consultations with African leaders e.g. 2007 EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon

Dialogue and Cooperation with China

EU "Comprehensive Strategy for Africa" on security, climate change and migration

Strengthening EU-Africa Trade

Increasing investment in security and development Aid

## AFRICAN RESILIENCE AND RESISTANCE STRATEGIES

- African political leaders riding in the geopolitics between China and the West
- Robert Mugabe remarked: **“We have turned East where the sun rises and given our back to the West where the sunsets.”**
- Aligning with China for more substantial development alternatives
- Paul Kagame echoed: **“The relationship between Africa and China is based on equality, mutual respect and a commitment to a shared well-being.”**
- Seeking unconditional soft loans and access to capital from China
- The use of China as a strategic lever to prompt the EU to **cooperate in terms of development**



Source: Ghana Business News, 2018; ODI, 2018

# WAY FORWARD PROJECTING THE FUTURE

- The prospect for defining an African equilibrium for European Africa Security are very low
- EU security policies toward Africa as a **“potential experimentation field.”**
- European policies towards Africa as a function of internal institutional dynamics and international ambitions
- “Africa policy serves as a way of creating a United Europe on the Cheap.”**
- EU-Africa security relations cannot be **business as usual**
- Africans must seek strategic autonomy of their security issues
- Africa repositioning itself in addressing and financing its security agenda in the years to come

# WAY FORWARD PROJECTING THE FUTURE

## PROJECTING CONT...

- The need for **“African Solutions to African problems.”**
- The need for a robust African footprint
- For instance, Africa must become a member of the UN Security Council
- France to grant full financial autonomy to its former colonies
- EU-Africa relations based on equity, respect, reciprocal partnership and move beyond Aid
- Treatment of Africa as an object and not a subject





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Thank You!

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Danke!

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Merci!

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Gracias!