

## Abstracts

### **Upgrading China – Africa Cooperation: New Dynamics, New Fields and New Approaches**

*Zhao Kejin, Xiao Hao, Wu Fang, Zhang Rui, Zhu Weidong & Zhou Qian*

**Abstract:** The 2024 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China – Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) signifies that China – Africa cooperation has entered a new phase of “jointly advancing modernization and building a high – level community with a shared future.” It has also brought new dynamics, topics, and paths to China – Africa cooperation, which needs to be upgraded in quality. In implementing the specific actions of this summit, China and Africa should jointly promote the modernization of peace and security, build a new – era, all – weather community of shared destiny for China and Africa, make more contribution to world peace and development, and provide security guarantees for the development of African countries. China and Africa also should actively strengthen institutional construction, strengthen weak points, focus on key areas, and jointly promote high – quality cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI) from the perspective of new quality productive forces. Investment and financing cooperation is an important part of the practical economic and trade cooperation between China and Africa. In the future, it should more accurately align with African needs, continue to innovate and optimize models, and further enhance service levels. In the face of the development task of African energy modernization, China – Africa energy cooperation needs to break through traditional mutual perceptions and realize innovative and upgraded modernization that keeps pace with the times. In dealing with the legal issues often encountered in China – Africa economic and trade cooperation, China and Africa should adopt comprehensive measures to build a three – dimensional, comprehensive legal guarantee system covering legislation, judiciary, law enforcement, compliance, legal services, and legal talent training. China and Africa should also

further deepen the construction of talent training cooperation mechanisms to provide solid talent support for the modernization of both sides and even the “Global South”.

**Key words:** Forum on China – Africa Cooperation; modernization path; Global South; peace and security cooperation; artificial intelligence cooperation; investment and financing cooperation; energy cooperation; legal cooperation; talent cooperation

### **The Driving Force of China’s Middle East Policy: Great Power Competition or Regional Cooperation**

*Niu Xinchun*

**Abstract:** Great power competition and China – Arab warm relationships almost come at the same time, and become the two key factors determining China’s Middle East policy. Judging the role of these two factors and their interrelationship is at the heart of China’s current Middle East policy debate. Since great power competition and regional interests influence each other, and America’s Middle East policy and China’s Middle East policy intersect with each other, it is very easy to reverse the causal relationship. Contrary to the narrative logic of the West, it is not China that uses the Middle East to leverage the relations between major powers, but the relations between great powers to shape China’s interests in the Middle East, and the policy of containing China by the United States affects China’s Middle East policy. The competition between China and the United States is not the main axis and the main determinant of China’s Middle East policy, but China’s political, economic and security interests in the Middle East are the internal driving force of China’s Middle East policy. However, the global competition between China and the United States will inevitably affect the behavior of China and Middle East countries. Under the influence of the zero – sum game concept of the United States, the practical basis for cooperation between China and the United States in the Middle East is weak, and the pressure on the Middle East countries to “choose sides” is increasing. The prospect of China, the United States and Middle East countries

tangling relationships is looming, and China's Middle East policy will become more and more complicated, and China's relations with Middle East countries will face unprecedented new challenges.

**Key words:** China's Middle East policy; great power competition; United States' Middle East policy; Global South; China – Arab cooperation

### **Institutionalization of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation: Features and Approach**

*Zhao Chenguang*

**Abstract:** The outcome documents of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation indicate that the Forum will be held regularly. Meanwhile, the institutionalized development of the BRI and the practices and norms formed in the practice of the three forums also show that the Forum has had the conditions and foundation to become institutionalized. The institutionalization of international multilateral processes or platforms mainly unfolds in the dimensions of “form” and “practice”, which can be further divided into two directional issues: substantive and non substantive, soft mechanism and hard mechanism. The combination of the two dimensions can expand four potential paths for the construction of international multilateral process mechanisms. According to the attributes and practical characteristics of BRI and the Forum, the path of “non entity plus hard mechanism” is practical and feasible. The “collective dialogue” (mechanism) model, while maintaining a non substantive or more tolerant form of mechanism, has stronger interactive or executive power, which is highly compatible with this mechanistic path. Based on this, the further deepening of the construction of the Forum mechanism should prioritize addressing the shortcomings of the mechanism required for conducting “collective dialogue”, which are determining the frequency of the Forum to standardize the expectations of “collective dialogue”; integrating existing resources of the “collective dialogue” mechanism to establish a joint – type

secretariat office; making good use of regionalism to establish the follow – up mechanism for the Forum.

**Key words:** Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation; collective dialogue mechanism; high – standard opening – up; Forum on China – Africa Cooperation

### **The Role and Function of Al – Azhar in Contemporary Egyptian Diplomacy (1952 – 2011)**

*Liu Zhongmin & Li Duanya*

**Abstract:** As a religious and academic educational institution based on mosques, and with a vast educational network, Al – Azhar plays an important role in contemporary Egyptian domestic and foreign affairs. In contemporary Egyptian diplomacy, the government not only uses Al – Azhar to enhance the legitimacy of its foreign policy, but also exercises control over it, thus leading to the relationship of cooperation and struggle between the two sides throughout contemporary Egyptian diplomacy. However, there are certain differences in their relationships between different historical periods. During the Nasser period, when the Egyptian government pursued a strict policy of separation of religion and politics, secularism and Arab nationalism were in a dominated position, Al – Azhar became an important part of official Islam and served and worked in line with Egypt’s foreign policy. During the Sadat period, Al – Azhar continued to provide religious legitimacy for Egypt’s foreign policy, but because Sadat’s peaceful diplomatic strategy was not widely recognized in Egypt and the Arab Islamic world, Al – Azhar’s behavior of defending the government also had certain negative influence on itself. During Mubarak’s time, the need to balance the radical Islamic forces increased Al – Azhar’s autonomy, in the meantime, Al – Azhar continued to serve Egyptian diplomacy, and played an important role in Mubarak’s diplomatic adjustments. In short, in contemporary Egyptian diplomacy, although the status and role of Al – Azhar is different in particular historical periods, Al – Azhar has always played the role of diplomatic service provider,

supporter, cooperator and supplier under the overall framework of the separation of religion and politics under the leadership of the Egyptian government.

**Key words:** Egyptian diplomacy; Al – Azhar; relationship between politics and religion; Islam; national interest

### **Why Egypt ’ s Agrarian Transition is in Trouble: An Analysis Based on Marxist Perspective**

*Chen Yong & Chen Lin*

**Abstract:** Agrarian question is the core issue of Egypt ’ s modernization. The path of contemporary Egypt ’ s agrarian transition has changed from the Arab socialist mode of independent exploration to the neoliberal mode based on the agrarian transition path of European and American countries. Under the logic of neoliberal capital accumulation, Egypt ’ s agrarian transition not only failed to improve the efficiency of agricultural labor production, but also highlighted the problems such as the loss of farmers ’ production subjectivity and the polarization of rural society in the process of primitive capital accumulation. The institutional root cause of the trouble in Egypt ’ s agrarian transition is the neoliberal agricultural policy system and institutional framework. It is dominated by Western capital, Egyptian big landlords and agricultural bourgeoisie, with purpose of exploiting Egyptian farmers and seizing agricultural surplus value. The main internal mechanism is: Western capital induces Egypt to develop export – oriented agriculture in violation of resource endowment; the oligopoly market distorts the allocation of agricultural production resources in Egypt; government cutbacks and weak regulation have left Egyptian farmers vulnerable to both domestic and foreign exploitation. The historical lessons from the dilemma of Egypt ’ s agrarian transition can be used as a reference for other developing countries to explore the path of agricultural modernization. It is necessary to follow the people – centered logic path and independently explore the path of agrarian transition and development based on national conditions and agricultural conditions.

**Key words:** agrarian transformation; Egypt; agricultural modernization; Marxist; neoliberalism

### **The Rise of the Middle Class in Sub – Saharan Africa and Its Influence**

*Liang Yijian & Wang Yao*

**Abstract:** Since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the middle class in sub – Saharan Africa has been on the rise, with rapid growth in both population size and proportion, exhibiting characteristics of rapid growth, wide scope and high potential. The main reasons for the rise can be summarized as follows: Africa’s strategies of independent and autonomous development have created a favorable external environment for the rise; relative political stability and the improvement of national governance capacity have provided the prerequisites for the rise; sustained economic growth and the prosperity of the private sector have been the core motivation for the rise; social development factors, such as infrastructure improvement and fertility reduction have constituted the “catalyst” for the rise; and the remarkable success of poverty reduction has become the “accelerator” for the rise. The huge market potential and strong endogenous power of the rise of the middle class has had and will continue to have some positive impacts on political stability, economic development and social integration in sub – Saharan Africa, contributing to the development and prosperity of African local democracy, manufacturing and traditional culture, and enhancing the international political and economic status of sub – Saharan African countries. However, it will also bring some potential negative impacts, which in some cases may backfire on the rise itself. At the same time, the floating middle class in sub – Saharan Africa remains fragile and at risk of returning to poverty, so it is necessary to further consolidate its development foundation and continue its growth trend.

**Key words:** middle class; Sub – Saharan Africa; economic development; political governance

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