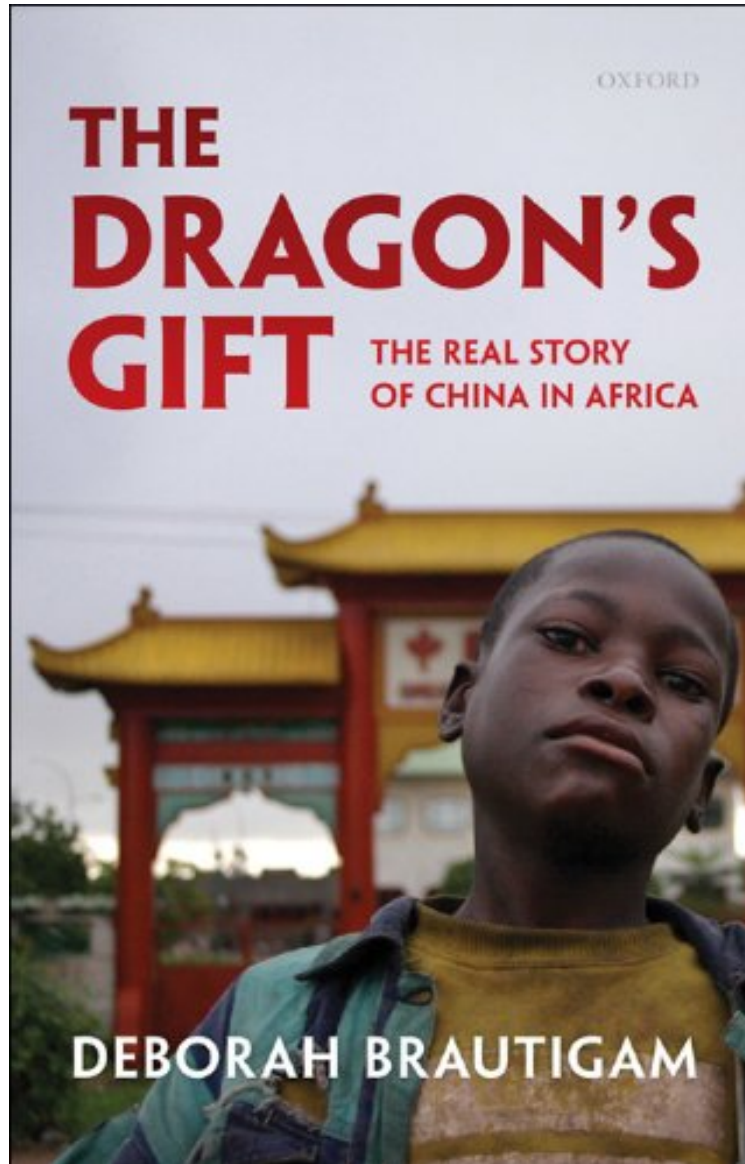


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The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa

Deborah Brautigam

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Deborah Brautigam : The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The reason WhyBy wsmrerHeadline NYTimes 3/31/13: Sino-African RelationsChina's inroads to Africa alarm the West.Deborah Brautigam's book is an outstanding study in the advantages the P.R.C. has over the West in Africa and over the USA in particular. This is not a light read but it is entertaining if you are one who wonders why. It is a blistering report on the advantages the Chinese policy makers, bankers, and business people have over others in their impact on the continent of Africa as well as in other developing

areas such as Latin America and the Middle East. The book should be a Must Read for The State Department and the corresponding agencies working in the fields of foreign aid and policy. China is doing very well and why? Professor Brautigam's take based on years of careful observation and interviews with leader in many fields is not "cheer leading" as the term is often used for those who find something positive to say about China, but merely keen observation that China has a different history than its competitors today. It was and is an underdeveloped nation, and has been subject at times to the Imperialism known by many in the developing world. Thus it has come to observe successful models of development, e.g. Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Singapore and incorporates the lessons learned. Thus, it approaches its global clients not as sources of raw materials for exploitation, which of course they are, but as partners in mutually beneficial relationships; win-win, compared with zero-sum. Brautigam story is enlightening but will the West be willing to mentally retool in time to get on the new world as it rushes forward? This is a book for scholars to enjoy; perhaps not just the curious unless it makes you more open minded about why things are going as they seem to be. Legacies have lasting impacts. Imagine that. NYTimes.com 6/2/13 China Is Reaping Biggest Benefits of Iraq Oil Boom By TIM ARANGO and CLIFFORD KRAUSSBAGHDAD -- Since the American-led invasion of 2003, Iraq has become one of the world's top oil producers, and China is now its biggest customer. China already buys nearly half the oil that Iraq produces, nearly 1.5 million barrels a day, and is angling for an even bigger share, bidding for a stake now owned by Exxon Mobil in one of Iraq's largest oil fields.... "The Chinese are very simple people," said an Iraqi Oil Ministry official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he did not have permission to speak to the news media. "They are practical people. They don't have anything to do with politics or religion. They just work and eat and sleep." There is a more recent less scholarly account of China-Africa interactions, Howard French, *China's Second Continent: How a Million Migrants Are Building a New Empire in Africa* (2014-05-20). It raises this issue: ... for some the honeymoon is over : In an op-ed published March 11, 2013, in the *Financial Times*, for example, the governor of Nigeria's Central Bank wrote: "It is time for Africans to wake up to the realities of their romance with China.... China is no longer a fellow under-developed economy --it is the world's second biggest, capable of the same forms of exploitation as the West. It is a significant contributor to Africa's deindustrialization and underdevelopment." 36 of 38 people found the following review helpful. A useful analysis of China's aid and investment in Africa. By Graham China is often taciturn about the real size and scope of its projects in Africa, so this topic has suffered from much confusion and often from inflated (or guessed) numbers. Prof. Brautigam aims to describe and analyze the real Chinese aid picture, using both anecdotal data obtained from many personal visits to Chinese development projects in Africa and also statistical data obtained through carefully digging into the real numbers behind the headlines. Although she notes some concerns, Brautigam is on balance fairly positive on China's role, especially in its emphasis on practicalities. I learned many things, including: * China explicitly declares that its programs are aiming for "mutual benefits" and "win-win" rather than simply dispensing charity. For example, projects may be directly profitable, or they may foster Chinese trade. Interestingly, this peer-peer style is often popular with recipients. * The main Chinese focus is on fostering economic development (in infrastructure, agriculture, or industry) as the path to a better future, rather than on relieving today's symptoms. * China is consciously reusing strategies that seemed to work in developing China itself. For example, in the 1950s Japan provided China with development loans and technology tied to specific projects, and was repaid with the products of the resulting Chinese factory or mine. China perceives this as a key "win-win" strategy for development. * China emphasizes "no strings" and non-interference in countries internal affairs. However a key goal, especially in earlier years, was building up support for the PRC against Taiwan. Aid would only be given to those countries that recognized Beijing as the sole government of China. While China's "no strings" policies might appear to tolerate dictatorships and corruption, Brautigam observes that in practice the West's actions are not so very different: despite all the hopeful talk of "conditionality", much Western aid, investment and military hardware still flows to extremely unpleasant regimes. * China provides some humanitarian aid, notably medical teams and post-disaster assistance. But this is relatively modest. Brautigam believes Chinese non-commercial aid to Africa is still only a small fraction of Western aid. * Chinese workers (including technical experts) work relatively cheaply and typically live at close to local living standards. This is perceived as very different from the highly paid and expensively supplied Western experts. * China's engagements are often weak on environmental issues, and on social and human rights issues. This is improving, but slowly. China tends to assume that its own internal strategy of putting development first is still the right one. * There has been a great deal of misreporting of Chinese aid figures in Western media. This is partly because China is taciturn and partly because it uses different measurement criteria. For example, if China makes a below-market-rate loan, it only treats the reduction in interest payments as "aid", whereas a Western government treats the whole loan amount as "aid". (I think I prefer the Chinese methodology here.) But there is also enormous media confusion between (a) true non-commercial "aid" (b) subsidized "aid" loans for commercial projects (c) business loans on normal commercial terms, and (d) commercial business China does in Africa, sometimes paid for by another donor country. For all these categories, Brautigam tries to extract and compare true apples-to-apples Chinese and Western numbers. * China is consciously trying to move its mature industries offshore. For example, the Chinese government is providing financial incentives for moving textile manufacturing out of China. (Fascinating!) These brief notes only touch the tip of the iceberg: there is much more of interest in the book. In general, I'd recommend this as

very useful reading for anyone interested in either African development or China's foreign policy. My one caution would be that it is not light reading: Brautigam provides reams of detail and many carefully analyzed statistics. This is all useful, but can occasionally be slow going. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An important read for anyone studying development economics, geopolitics, or Chinese political economy. By James B. This book is notable for having something that most books on China seem to be lacking these days, original research. At least when she released this book, there were no credible figures on Chinese foreign development projects in Africa. People threw around nonsense numbers that had no basis in reality, and people wouldn't question it. Brautigam has done the hard work of actually surveying spending by the PRC and disentangling foreign aid from commercial projects. This might not be the most thrilling read but it should be required reading for anyone who is interested in China's role in Africa.

Is China a rogue donor, as some media pundits suggest? Or is China helping the developing world pave a pathway out of poverty, as the Chinese claim? In the last few years, China's aid program has leapt out of the shadows. Media reports about huge aid packages, support for pariah regimes, regiments of Chinese labor, and the ruthless exploitation of workers and natural resources in some of the poorest countries in the world sparked fierce debates. These debates, however, took place with very few hard facts. China's tradition of secrecy about its aid fueled rumors and speculation, making it difficult to gauge the risks and opportunities provided by China's growing embrace. This well-timed book, by one of the world's leading experts, provides the first comprehensive account of China's aid and economic cooperation overseas. Deborah Brautigam tackles the myths and realities, explaining what the Chinese are doing, how they do it, how much aid they give, and how it all fits into their "going global" strategy. Drawing on three decades of experience in China and Africa, and hundreds of interviews in Africa, China, Europe and the US, Brautigam shines new light on a topic of great interest. China has ended poverty for hundreds of millions of its own citizens. Will Chinese engagement benefit Africa? Using hard data and a series of vivid stories ranging across agriculture, industry, natural resources, and governance, Brautigam's fascinating book provides an answer. It is essential reading for anyone concerned with China's rise, and what it might mean for the challenge of ending poverty in Africa.