

Proposition de correction

Synthèse

Tableau de synthèse

Document 1 <i>USA for Africa</i>	Document 2 <i>Walking the wok</i>	Document 3 <i>Africa must get real about Chinese ties</i>	Document 4 <i>Africa presence part of globalization</i>
<p>Representation dating from <u>1985</u>.</p> <p>Theme : a black man is strangled by a gang of whites (one strong foot on his own, somebody else's two hands strangling the man, with the help of a green hand with the dollar sign.</p> <p>Two red crosses on particularly racist cities on the map of the world : NYC and Johannesburg.</p> <p>Meanwhile, little yellow figures prefer to hide their eyes.</p>	<p>Literary text.</p> <p>Circumstances : A cooking school in Kenya, gangs of students (sometimes violently) opposed to each other, the improbable friendship of a Kenyan and a Chinese cook.</p> <p>Contrary to tradition and orders, the Chinese washes his wok after use and teaches a lesson in liberation to his Kenyan friend, under the appearance of a lesson in taste.</p>	<p>Article in <i>The Financial Times</i> by governor of Central Bank of Nigeria.</p> <p>He equals the import of cheap raw materials and the export of manufactured goods by the Chinese to colonial exploitation.</p> <p>He rejects the argument that the Chinese build infrastructures and invites Africans to build them themselves.</p> <p>His own change of opinion from his past admiration for China reflects that of quite a few Africans.</p>	<p>Interview by a <i>China Daily</i> journalist of a <u>white</u> South-African academic defending China against the blame of exploiting Africa.</p> <p>Ross Anthony sees the real cause of antagonism in the difference between an urban civilization (Chinese) and a rural one (African).</p> <p>Compares the Chinese presence in Africa to that of other European or American nations.</p>

Main point : The changing relationship between China and Africa in the light of the massive presence and huge economic weight of China on the African continent.

Suggestion de synthèse

Changing African attitudes to China as its presence is more visible all over Africa

Under different angles, the four documents tackle the same question of the changing attitudes brought about by the increased role and weight of China in Africa over the past two decades or so. While the South-African academic interviewed by *China Daily* not unexpectedly exonerates China from the blame of exploiting Africa, the governor of the *Central Bank of Nigeria*, while recognizing the beneficial aspect of the infrastructures built by the Chinese, does not hesitate to equal the presence of China to colonial exploitation and revisits his former admiration. Kenyan novelist Mukama Wa Ngugi describes the sentimentally painful effort by a young Chinese cook to liberate himself from culinary tradition and the way he, under the pretence of a lesson in taste, gives a lesson in liberation to his Kenyan friend. Dating back to 1985, street artist Michael Stewart's representation of a black man being strangled by whites while little yellow figures prefer to hide their eyes is a comment on the opinion African-Americans, contrary to Africans, then had of Asians. The explicit and somewhat premonitory blame was that people who claimed to be the champions of non-alignment were actually accomplices of discrimination and segregation.

It is interesting to see that all three contemporary documents refer to the tensions, difficulties and sometimes troubles created by the massive economic presence of China on African soil and its undaunted — and indeed alarming — exploitation of mineral and wood resources. In return, of course, China builds infrastructures, which Africa badly needs. But even then, the Chinese use imported labour and equipment, without transferring any skill locally. As to the trade generated by those exchanges, it suffers from a gross imbalance, since what China imports is raw products and what it exports is manufactured goods, a characteristic of the colonial exploitation of old.

What is certain is that by bringing into contact two different types of cultures — Chinese and African — the overall globalisation movement has set things in motion in Africa. While the Chinese, like the Europeans, oppose town and country and are mostly urban, Africans in general are close to rural life. This creates misunderstandings and mutual difference, which in turn explains why Africans no longer see the difference between the Chinese and their European and American counterparts. Were he to paint his work today, Michael Stewart might perhaps introduce a second green arm wearing the *yuen* sign instead of the dollar and represent his little yellow figures with eyes wide open...

As underlined by Central Bank of Nigeria's governor Lamido Sanusi, there might be a good side to this new awareness of Africans as regards the Chinese. It might cause the scales to fall from their eyes and make them realize the potentials and assets of their continent as a consumer market. It might also encourage them to stop neglecting their agriculture and start investing in infrastructures according to *their* needs. In any case, this new way of looking at China and the Chinese is an opportunity for Africans to take a serious look at themselves and decide to quit the age of foreign exploitation and under-development in order to join in the general process of globalisation.

(527 words)