

Dragon Contends with Elephant or Stands Alone in Parallel? - Comparative Perspective on China & Indian New Presence in Africa

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Apparently, India has unavoidably confronted with China regarding to both emerging powers' new presence in Africa. On one hand, Indian government's recent reforms and readjustments of its African policies are widely believed at least partly, if not completely, to be a proactive response to China's rapidly increasing presence in Africa, be it in media debate, or in academic discussion. On the other hand, China's initiatives are very often interpreted as more increasingly looming threat to Indian traditional interest in Indian Ocean and African countries. Both the two types of commentaries rather have direct or indirect implications to both the two players, from policy communities to projects implementers, sometimes even create unnecessary suspicions, envies and hatreds between. To investigate the two players presence in both a medium-term and the context of the large picture of the emerging markets therefore is needed for better mutual understandings, including to look at the nature of the competitions, as well as the commonalities and differences of two players' presence in Africa, healthy, complementary or cutting-throat and evil. The investigation from a Chinese Africanist perspective will be useful to dialogue with Indian counterparts as well as those from other BRICSA colleagues, in order to help both players of the emerging group and the African hosting countries, for any possibility of mutual win-win situation should be based on mutual understandings, which will surely bring a much better future for the world through more healthy international cooperation, even there are lots of competitions, as long as they are healthy and complementary.