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Ethiopia-China Curated Reading List

The following reading list is a compilation of forty-three scholarly sources of information on Ethiopia-China relations. The journal articles and books are organized thematically, and sources are ordered alphabetically within each section.

The first section lists readings that provide an *Overview of Ethiopia-China Relations*. The sources assist readers in breaking down claims that Ethiopia is the “China of Africa” by outlining historical and political similarities between the two countries while highlighting key differences. Ethiopia is characterized as a Sino-optimist nation, with a government that seeks to learn from and cooperate with China to achieve Ethiopia’s goal of eradicating poverty through building an economy with modern, productive agricultural and industrial sectors. Several readings put the Ethiopia-China relationship into perspective by comparing it with Ethiopia’s relations with India, the EU, the United States and other countries.

The second section, *Trade & Special Economic Relations*, features works that focus specifically on critical analysis of Ethiopia’s trade relationship with China and the Special Economic Zones in Addis Ababa and Dukem. Ethiopia’s trade deficit with China is discussed in the context of how imports of inexpensive Chinese products are impacting the Ethiopian market. Scholars probe how Boli Lemi Industrial Zone and the Eastern Industrial Zone measure up to Ethiopia’s ambitions for structural transformation and long-term development. A separate section, *Foreign Direct Investments in Ethiopia*, lists readings by scholars who examine the parallel steady increases in Chinese foreign direct investment into Ethiopia and growth of Ethiopian GDP.

The fourth section aggregates literature investigating China’s role in *Infrastructure Development & Technology Transfer* in Ethiopia. Specific attention to Chinese-backed hydropower (dam) and wind power projects, industrial park and transportation infrastructure construction and an assortment of specific site case studies, demonstrates the mixed results of short-term and long-term Chinese affiliated projects in Ethiopia. Scholars deliberate the extent to which training and technology are being transferred from Chinese partners working in Ethiopia to locally employed Ethiopians.

The final section, *Labor and Migration*, identifies readings about labor conditions in Ethiopia and dynamics between and experiences of Ethiopian and Chinese workers. Empirical and ethnographic research reveals a myriad of motivations that bring Chinese migrants to Ethiopia. Ethiopia’s manufacturing sector employment evolution is explored in relation to the expanding presence of Chinese and Western firms in Ethiopia.

The *Additional Resources* section provides links to websites created and monitored by the Ethiopian and Chinese governments. These sites exemplify the positive light in which the Ethiopia-China partnership is presented and Ethiopia’s manufacture-centric ambitions.

While this reading list presents a substantive starting point to learn more about Ethiopia-China relations, particular attention should be paid to publication dates. In April

2018, Dr. Abiy Ahmed took office as Ethiopia's Prime Minister. In a short period of time he has implemented progressive political and social reforms that are already impacting Ethiopia's engagement with China and the world. Given the recency of these changes there is little to no scholarship discussing the Ethiopian government under Dr. Abiy and what his reforms and priorities mean for Ethiopia-China relations.

Overview of Ethiopia-China Relations

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- Cabestan, Jean-Pierre. "China and Ethiopia: Authoritarian Affinities and Economic Cooperation." *China Perspectives* 2012 (2012/4): 53–62.
- Cheru, Fantu. "Emerging Southern Powers and New Forms of South–South Cooperation: Ethiopia's Strategic Engagement with China and India." *Third World Quarterly* 37.4 (2016): 592–610.
- Eckl, Frauke Katharina, Rirhandu Mageza-Barthel, and Sophia Thubauville. "Ethiopia's Asian Options: A Collage of African and Asian Entanglements." *Insight on Africa* 9.2 (2017): 89–108.
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- Hackenesch, Christine. "Not as Bad as It Seems: EU and US Democracy Promotion Faces China in Africa." *Democratization* 22.3 (2015): 419–37.
- Niu, Zhongguang. "China's Development and Its Aid Presence in Africa: A Critical Reflection from the Perspective of Development Anthropology." *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 51.2 (2016): 199–221.
- Ziso, Edson. *A Post State-Centric Analysis of China-Africa Relations: Internationalisation of Chinese Capital and State-Society Relations in Ethiopia*. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan. 2018.

Trade & Special Economic Relations

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- Chakrabarty, Malancho. "Ethiopia-China Economic Relations: A Classic Win-Win Situation?" *World Review of Political Economy; London* 7.2 (2016): 226–48.
- Fei, Ding. Work, Employment, and Training Through Africa-China Cooperation Zones: Evidence from the Eastern Industrial Zone in Ethiopia. Working Paper No. 2018/19. China Africa Research Initiative, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC. 2018.
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- Gebre-Egziabher, Tegegne. "Impacts of Chinese Imports and Coping Strategies of Local Producers: The Case of Small-Scale Footwear Enterprises in Ethiopia," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 45.4 (2007): 647-679.
- Giannecchini, Philip, and Ian Taylor. "The Eastern Industrial Zone in Ethiopia: Catalyst for Development?" *Geoforum* 88 (2018): 28–35.
- UNDP. "If Africa Builds Nests, Will the Birds Come? Comparative Study on Special Economic Zones in Africa and China." Working Paper Series. United Nations Development Programme. 2015.
<https://www.cn.undp.org/content/china/en/home/library/south-south-cooperation/if-africa-builds-nests--will-the-birds-come-.html>
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Foreign Direct Investment in Ethiopia

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- Bekana, Dejene. "Determinants of Foreign Direct Investment in Ethiopia; Time Series Evidence from 1991-2013." *The Journal of Developing Areas* 50.1(2016): 141–155.

Brautigam, Deborah, Margaret McMillan, and Xiaoyang Tang. N.d. “The Role of Foreign Investment in Ethiopia’s Leather Value Chain.” Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries. Centre for Economic Policy Research.

Desta, Asayehgn. “Chinese Investment in Ethiopia: Developmental Opportunity or Deepening China’s New Mercantilism?” Ph.D dissertation, Dominican University of California. 2009.

Seyoum, Mebratu, Renshui Wu, and Li Yang. “Technology Spillovers from Chinese Outward Direct Investment: The Case of Ethiopia.” *China Economic Review* 33 (2015): 35–49.

Infrastructure Development & Technology Transfer

Chen, Huiyi, and Ashok Swain. “The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam: Evaluating Its Sustainability Standard and Geopolitical Significance.” *Energy Development Frontier* 3.1 (2014): 11–19.

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[1](#)

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Workneh, Téwodros W. 2016. “Chinese Multinationals in the Ethiopian Telecommunications Sector.” *Communication, Culture & Critique* 9.1 (2016): 126–147.

Labor and Migration

- Cook, Seth, Jixia Lu, Henry Tugendhat, and Dawit Alemu. "Chinese Migrants in Africa: Facts and Fictions from the Agri-Food Sector in Ethiopia and Ghana." *World Development, China and Brazil in African Agriculture*, 81 (2016): 61–70.
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Additional Resources

Ethiopian News Agency website: <https://www.ena.et/en/>

Ethiopian Investment Commission website: <http://www.investethiopia.gov.et/>

Embassy of China in Ethiopia website: <http://et.china-embassy.org/eng/>

Embassy of Ethiopia in China website: <http://www.ethiopiaemb.org.cn/>