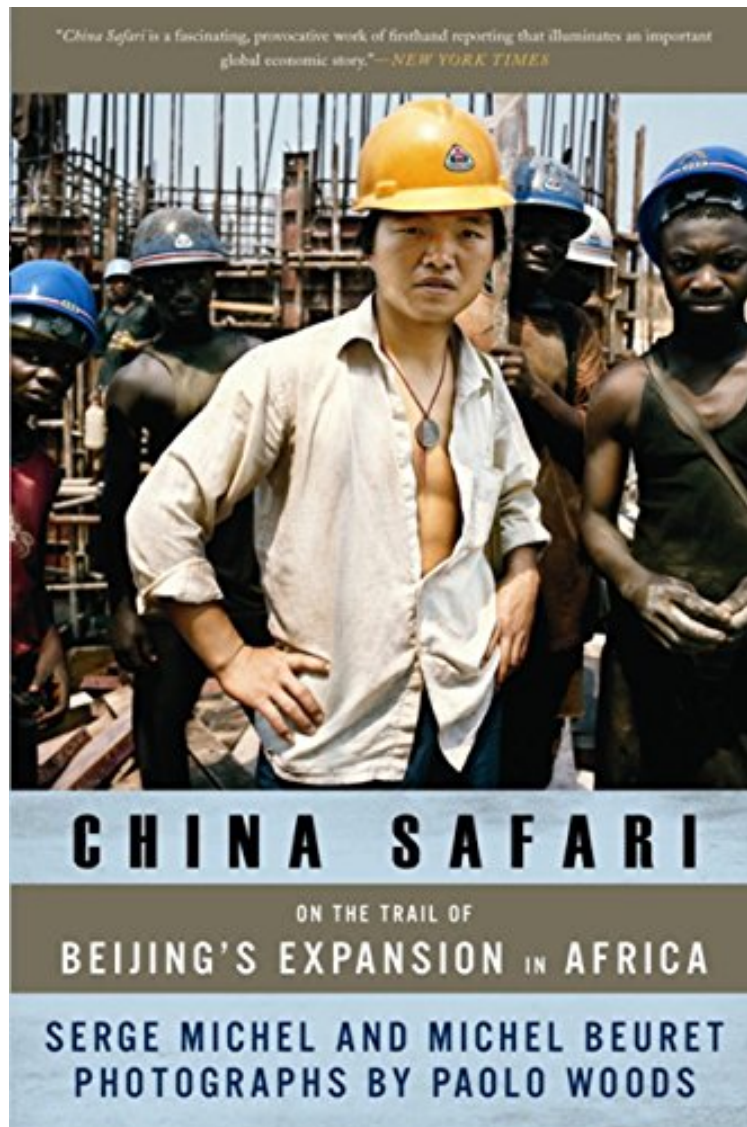


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China Safari: On the Trail of Beijing's Expansion in Africa

Serge Michel, Michel Beuret

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Serge Michel, Michel Beuret : China Safari: On the Trail of Beijing's Expansion in Africa before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised China Safari: On the Trail of Beijing's Expansion in Africa:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Ground level view of China in Africa By ewaffle Swiss journalists Serge Michel and Michel Beuret spent a couple of years touring much of Africa talking with Chinese construction workers, merchants and miners where they could find them--which was just about everywhere--and getting a ground level view of how the People's Republic of China is investing in and buying up resources, hiring African workers and setting up companies. They combined hundreds of interviews, uncounted hours of observation and a raft of secondary

sources in creating China Safari, a book that is as much about life under African "big men" as it is about China's intervention. The Chinese are building infrastructure that could help unify the continent; the roads, pipelines, ports and airports that they construct could be the basis for tying together currently disparate and often hostile African nations. A major advantage they have is that successful businesses run by Africans risk being looted or taken over by political elites while Chinese businesses are a much tougher target. The Chinese approach differs from banks in the U.S and western Europe in that they have no interest in the imprimatur of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund--they don't insist on democratic elections (usually just window dressing to qualify for loans) or progress on human rights for their citizens. Michel and Beuret found that Chinese in Africa have the same prejudices and racist assumptions as the former colonial masters, that Africans are "naturally" lazy compared with their ambitious, hardworking countrymen. In China, they claim, if farmers don't plant rice in the spring they will starve in the autumn while in Sub-Sahara Africa "you can just pick fruit from the trees all around you." The social, economic and political outcomes of China's move into Africa continue to evolve. Zambian copper miners working for a Chinese company were fired upon by managers during labor unrest, but Zambian government and police the mine operators against the striking workers. In Angola low interest loans from the Ex-Im Bank of China and the China International Fund are spent on infrastructure with most of the work being done by workers from China which excludes Angolan workers from experience in construction work and management. The loans (over ten billion dollars over a few years) are repaid in oil. No one but the Chinese would have built communication and electric power networks in southern and central Africa. While China is there in pursuit of its own interests, they have offered their African hosts a vision of the future that was inconceivable in the colonial and post-colonial past.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Rambling Introduction By M.B. "China Safari" is one of the first books to look at the influence China is having on the great continent of Africa. In the book, two authors travel separately and different times to various countries and "discover" Chinese influence. The book appears to be a collection of individual articles, so there is very little cohesion. There are very few hard numbers or statistics offered in this book, not even in speculation. Because of this, it is very hard for the reader to get a clear picture on what is happening besides a few minor case studies that the authors stumble upon. There are a few mentions of cases in which state companies bid on national projects. In these mentions, the authors describe how Chinese managers treat local employees rather poorly. One important take away from this book is the notion that China is one of the only developed countries offering to help build physical infrastructure in Africa. Through their state companies, China is, at the very least, building roads, dams, and other projects throughout the continent on a quid-pro-quo basis, usually receiving concessions for natural resources in the exchange. As is discovered in other books (mentioned below), the quality of the Chinese projects is questionable, but they are at least engaging Africa on local terms. Of the three books I have read on this subject (the other two being China's Second Continent and The Dragon's Gift), this is perhaps the most laborious. Since its publication five years after "China Safari," "China's Second Continent" has eclipsed "China Safari" in terms of interest and readability.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Only the Chinese politicians and businessmen are benefiting, while the African politicians get their bribes. By Mystic by the Lake This was a depressing book to read. The only people benefiting from the China-Africa relationship are the Chinese and African politicians. The Chinese politicians and businessmen get rich, the African politicians get their kickbacks and bribes, while the ordinary Chinese and Africans don't get the benefits. The Chinese workers aren't paid that much and are in constant danger of kidnapping. The ordinary Africans don't benefit either because the imported Chinese are the ones who are getting the work to build the infrastructure. Also in the end, the infrastructure the Chinese build is so substandard that they don't last that long for the Africans to enjoy.

China has now taken Great Britain's place as Africa's third largest business partner. Where others only see chaos, the Chinese see opportunities. With no colonial past and no political preconditions, China is bringing investment and needed infrastructure to a continent that has been largely ignored by Western companies or nations. Traveling from Beijing to Khartoum, Algiers to Brazzaville, the authors tell the story of China's economic ventures in Africa. What they find is tantamount to a geopolitical earthquake: The possibility that China will help Africa direct its own fate and finally bring light to the so-called dark continent; making it a force to be reckoned with internationally.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . With trade between Africa and China estimated to reach \$100 billion by 2010, China recently over-took Great Britain as the continent's third largest business partner. Journalists Michel and Beuret offer an intrepid and intelligent analysis of how Chinese economic investment is changing every-day African life-and the implications for China's role in the international community. From a nation that historically discouraged emigration, China has made a radical volte face-president Hu Jintao actually encourages citizens to seek their fortune in Africa-and this shift has resulted in investment in such areas as hydroelectric dams, textiles and tourism. The authors bring back stories from the rain forests in Congo, the uranium mines of the Sahara and the oil fields of Nigeria-frisking every statistic and detailing the human and environmental impact of China and Africa's relationship-and how it is perceived by the Western political, economic, and humanitarian institutions that have long dictated Africa's parameters

of economic growth. USA Today"Through a witty narrative that at times becomes a first-person travelogue, the authors entertain while educating, revealing in the process the absurdities that come with reporting on the ground in Africa...[A]n admirable contribution to a story with broad geopolitical implications." Library Journal"A significant book that insightfully examines China's role in Africa, China Safari reveals not only the complexities of Chinese immigration to Africa, but also the political rivalries that result from it...Recommended for all interested readers." New York Times"China Safari is a fascinating, provocative work of firsthand reporting that illuminates an important global economic story." Washington Times"China Safari tackles an important and largely underreported topic with an engaging and lively verve...Mr. Michel and Mr. Beuret make an important contribution, without passing judgment, toward our understanding of China's intentions in Africa."