

China in Africa: Socialist and Capitalist Stories

HIS244, University of Rochester, Spring 2022

Mondays & Wednesday, 11:50AM-1:05PM

Zoom Meeting ID: 948-0412-4037; Classroom (after 2/01): Douglas Commons 403

Instructor: Elias Mandala (elias.mandala@rochester.edu), Zoom office hours: Monday, Wednesday 3:30-4:30 PM

Instructor: Elya Jun Zhang (elya.zhang@rochester.edu); Zoom office hours: Wed 1:30-2:30PM (ID: 982-5241-1659)

WELCOME

This course traces China's involvement in Africa from the 1940s to the present. How many billions of dollars/RMB in aid and investment have been channeled from China to African nations during the past seventy years? Were the Chinese motivated by socialist comradeship, capitalist profit-seeking, imperialist ambition, or simply Chinese pride? What is China really doing in Africa? Moreover, since Africa is a vast continent of over 50 independent nations, its varied engagements with the guests from the East are histories full of sophisticated twists. We will try to understand these histories by looking into the Tanzania-Zambia railway, "Hubei farms" in Mozambique, mega dams in Sudan, the Modderfontein New City in South Africa, and many other landmark projects. There are no prerequisites required; just bring your curiosity.

REQUIRED TEXTS

CODE	TITLE	LOCATION
<u>Brautigam A</u>	<i>The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa</i> , by Debroah Brautigam (Oxford University Press, 2009)	Print or Ebook
<u>Brautigam B</u>	<i>Will Africa Feed China?</i> by Debroah Brautigam (Oxford University Press, 2015)	Print or Ebook
<u>Freund, B</u>	<i>The Making of Contemporary Africa</i> (Indiana University Press, 1984)	Blackboard
<u>Mandala</u>	Notes: "Atlantic slave trade", "African Peasantries", "Theories of Imperialism."	Blackboard
<u>Nugent</u>	<i>Africa since Independence: A Comparative History</i> , by Paul Nugent (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, 2 nd edition)	Blackboard
<u>Wolf</u>	<i>Europe and the People Without History</i> (University of California Press, 1982)	Blackboard
<u>Zeleza</u>	"The Africa-China Relationship," by Paul Zeleza, <i>Canadian Journal of Africa Studies</i> , 2014 Vol.48, No.1	Blackboard

EXPECTATIONS & GRADING

Reading (30)	Attendance: 1.0 * 26 (sessions 01-28)	26	Attend at least 26 out of the total 27 meetings to get full attendance points.
	Participation: Contribution to Discussion	3	Complete all assigned readings before each meeting and participate in class discussion.
Writing (36)	Historiography Essay (based on Part I readings)	18	--Topic: Africa's engagement with the West, 1500s-1990s --Length: 800-900 words
	Book Review (on <u>Brautigam A</u>)	18	--Length: 800-900 words
Debate (10)	Debate Presentation PPTs	4	--Format: four teams; two debate topics.
	Debate Participation	6	--PPTs: a minimum of four slides from each team member --Procedure: 40-minute-long formal debate
Research (24)	Final Project: topic proposal	2	--Topic: case study on the historical and present ties between China and one African country (of your choice) --Length: 1,600-1,800 words --Sources: consult at least 10 scholarly (peer-reviewed) texts
	Final Project: paper outline	4	
	Final Project: research paper	18	

*Students who are enrolled in 244W need to submit one extra book review on Brautigam B and write at least 2,000 words for the final paper.

CREDIT HOUR POLICY

The College's credit hour policy on undergraduate courses is to award 4 credit hours for courses that meet for the equivalent of 3 periods of 50 minutes each week.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University of Rochester respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. In the event you encounter any barrier(s) to full participation in this course due to the impact of disability, please contact the Office of Disability Resources. The access coordinators in the Office of Disability Resources can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can reach the [Office of Disability Resources](mailto:officeofdisability@rochester.edu) at: disability@rochester.edu; (585) 276-5075; Taylor Hall.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will be treated as such. Anyone who engages in such activities will be turned over to the College Board on Academic Honesty for disciplinary action, as outlined at <http://www.rochester.edu/College/honesty/>. For a helpful discussion of plagiarism (including subtle instances), see the American Historical Association's "Defining Plagiarism," <https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/teaching-resources-for-historians/plagiarism-curricular-materials-for-history-instructors/defining-plagiarism>.

CLASS SCHEDULE

N	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS & TASKS	INSTRUCTOR	
01	01/12/22 WED	Course Introduction	No readings	Mandala+Zhang	
Part I: Africa and the West					
02	01/19/22 WED	1500s-1800s: The Atlantic Slave Trade	Mandala, "The Atlantic slave trade"	Mandala	
03	01/24/22 MON	Why Did Europe Colonize Africa?	Mandala, "Theories of Imperialism"	Mandala	
04	01/26/22 WED	Colonialism and Wage Labor	Wolf, 354-63 (C12)	Mandala	
*	01/31/22 MON	NO CLASS	Review previous readings	N/A	
05	02/02/22 WED	Colonialism, Peasants, & Cash Crops	Mandala, "African peasantries"	Mandala	
06	02/07/22 MON	Case Study I: Congo under the Belgians	Video: King Leopold's Ghost	Mandala	
07	02/09/22 WED	Decolonization	Freund, 191-233	Mandala	
08	02/14/22 MON	Case Study II: Angola after Decolonization	Video: Cuban, An African Odyssey	Mandala	
09	02/16/22 WED	Structural Adjustment Programs	Nugent, 330-447 (C8+C9)	Mandala	
10	02/21/22 MON	Discussion, Assignment I	*[02/22 TUE] Assignment I due 11PM	Mandala+Zhang	
Part II: China in Africa					
11	02/23/22 WED	Africa-China Relations: Overview	Zezeza, 145-169	Mandala	
12	02/28/22 MON	Socialist China in a Capitalist World	Brautigam A, 1-70 (Prologue-C2)	Zhang	
13	03/02/22 WED	Foreign Aid with Chinese Characteristics	Brautigam A, 71-130 (C3-4)	Zhang	
*	03/07 & 03/09	COLLEGE FALL BREAK; NO CLASS	Review previous readings	N/A	
14	03/14/22 MON	Chinese Economic Aid to Africa	Brautigam A, 131-188 (C5-6)	Zhang	
15	03/16/22 WED	Chinese Exports and African Industry	Brautigam A, 189-231 (C7-8)	Mandala	
16	03/21/22 MON	Chinese Investment in African Agriculture	Brautigam A, 232-272 (C9-10)	Mandala	
17	03/23/22 WED	Summary: Myths and Realities	Brautigam A, 273-312 (C11-End)	Mandala+Zhang	
18	03/28/22 MON	Discussion: Assignment II	*[03/29 TUE] Assignment II due 11PM	Mandala+Zhang	
In-Class Debate: Is China Good for Africa?					
19	03/30/22 WED	Commercial Farming in Africa	Brautigam B, 1-55 (Intro-C3)	Zhang	
20	04/04/22 MON	Roads and Railroads in Africa	Brautigam B, 56-111 (C4-C6)	Zhang	
21	04/06/22 WED	Telecommunications Industry in Africa	Brautigam B, 112-164 (C7-end)	Zhang	
22	04/11/22 MON	Debate I: Topic TBD	*[04/10 SUN] Debate PPTs due 11PM	Mandala+Zhang	
23	04/13/22 WED	Debate II: Topic TBD	*[04/12 TUE] Debate PPTs due 11PM	Mandala+Zhang	
Final Research: Individual Case Studies					
24	04/18/22 MON	Final Project: Brainstorm	*[04/17 SUN] topic proposal due 11PM	Mandala+Zhang	
25	04/20/22 WED	Final Project: Outline Sharing	*[04/19 TUE] paper outline due 11PM	Mandala+Zhang	
26	04/25/22 MON	Final Presentation: Group I	*[04/24 SUN] Group I PPTs due 11PM	Mandala+Zhang	
27	04/27/22 WED	Final Presentation: Group II	*[04/26 TUE] Group II PPTs due 11PM	Mandala+Zhang	
*	05/01/22 SUN	Final research paper and all other assignments due 05/01 SUN 11PM			