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Ministry of Higher Education
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البحوث المنشورة تعبر عن آراء أصحابها وليس بالضرورة عن رأي المجلة

قواعد النشر

- لغة المجلة هي اللغة العربية والانكليزية على أن يراعى الوضوح وسلامة النص.
- ترحب المجلة بنشر البحوث والدراسات السياسية النظرية والتطبيقية ولا سيما التي تجعل من قضايا المنطقة والعالم محط اهتمامها، ماضياً وحاضراً ومستقبلاً، وعلى وفق الآتي:
 1. أن لا يزيد عدد صفحات البحث أو الدراسة عن (15) صفحة مطبوعة بحجم خط (14) والتباعد (1,15) ونوع الخط Simplified Arabic تقدم عبر المنصة الاليكترونية للمجلة على الرابط :
<https://pissue.iq/index.php/pissue/about/submissions>
 2. أن تتصف البحوث والدراسات بالموضوعية والدقة العلمية.
 3. أن تعتمد الترتيم العشري للعناوين الأساسية والفرعية او التصنيف المعياري العام.
 4. يرفق مع كل بحث او دراسة ملخصين (احدهما باللغة العربية والآخر باللغة الانكليزية/ يتضمن اهداف البحث ، المنهج والمعالجة ، ابرز النتائج واهم الاستنتاجات والمقترحات) مع ضرورة مراعاة ان الملخص مختلف اختلافا جذريا عن المقدمة وليس تكرارا لها .
 5. تخضع جميع البحوث المقبولة للنشر الى نظام الاستلال الالكتروني في كلية العلوم السياسية -جامعة النهريين.
 6. يرفق مع كل بحث ودراسة سيرة ذاتية مختصرة للباحث وتعهده .
- تقوم المجلة بإخطار الباحثين بإجازة بحوثهم أو دراساتهم من عدمها بعد عرضها على محكمين تختارهم على نحو سري من بين أصحاب الاختصاص.

مجلة قضايا سياسية

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- يجوز للمجلة أن تطلب إجراء تعديلات شكلية أو شاملة على البحث أو الدراسة قبل إجازتها للنشر بما يتماشى مع أهدافها.
- البحوث المنشورة تعبر عن آراء أصحابها ، ولا تعبر عن رأي المجلة .
- ترحب المجلة بالمناقشات الموضوعية لما ينشر فيها أو في غيرها من الدوريات وبأية ردود فكرية أو تصويب، وكذلك ترحب بنشر التقارير عن المؤتمرات والندوات ذات العلاقة ومراجعات الكتب وملخصات الرسائل الجامعية التي تتم إجازتها على أن تكون من إعداد أصحابها.

توجه جميع المراسلات إلى هيئة التحرير على العنوان الآتي
مجلة قضايا سياسية، كلية العلوم السياسية، جامعة النهرين-بغداد – الجادرية.

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Subject Review[∇]

China's Libya Policy and the BRI: Sights Set on the Future

Mordechai Chaziza ,December 2020, on;

<https://www.mei.edu/publications/chinas-libya-policy-and-bri-sights-set-future>

Reviewed by: Dr. Faisal Ghazi Nasser*

First: Introduction

The middle east and south Africa region have an important place in China's foreign politics, not just from the political prospective but from both economic and strategic prospective as well, as the region has an important place in the commercial relations frame and specifically in the (The Belt and Road) initiative which is also known as (One Belt One Road) and sometimes called (New Silk Road), as it is an international strategy for infrastructure and economic development.

This article which was written by (Mordechai Chaziza) and published in (The Middle East Institute – MEI) discusses the direction of China's foreign policy towards north Africa in general and towards Libya in particular. The complex relation between China and Libya was discussed in a historical three stages frame which were (before, during and after) the beginning of Libyan protests which took place on the 11th of February 2011. Although, this doesn't stop on the relation between China and Libya during Major General Mua'mar Al-Qadhafi regime which briefly explain the relations, but it emphasizes a big and an important part on the relation between the two countries in the light of what the political crises and armed conflicts have created in Libya in forms of challenges and huge difficulties facing the Chinese economical goals.

The core point that this article circles around represents in observing and analyzing the Chinese efforts that aims to protect and promote its economic interest in Libya in the light of chaos, disturbance and political division that Libya is suffering from after the killing of the leader Mua'mar Al-Qadhafi, while consternating on the geopolitical and economic importance of Libya in the frame of (Road and Belt Initiative). China's interest in this country faces a very complex challenges that made China to establish relation bridges with

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official government (admitted internationally) as it headquarters in Tarablis and with the parallel government that has the parliament support and it headquarters lies in the eastern territory and specifically in Tubroq.

This review's purpose is to evaluate the article's success in achieving its research goals, and to discuss the depth of Mr. Mordechai's analysis of political "balanced ambiguity" that China uses towards Libya's complicated, mixed and many parties conflict. The balanced ambiguity policy, and opening communication channels with all parties of conflict, and making sure to maintain these channels, are a fundamental tool of China's foreign policy, not only during the first civil war in Libya, but through every stage of following struggles in Libya. The following points summarize the content of the article, followed by a comprehensive critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments and methodology employed by the author.

Second: Description and summary of the article

The article's author presents, in a concise manner, the development of the Chinese economic presence in North African countries, while focusing more intently on Chinese-Libyan economic relations. It presents the reader with statistics indicating that China has gradually strengthened its presence in trade, investment, and infrastructure projects. Trade between China and the five Maghreb countries reached nearly \$23.5 billion in 2019, while investments and contracts amounted to \$29.6 billion between 2005 and 2019, Algeria received the largest share. From Mordechai Chaziza point of view, the main motive behind this expansion of relations with the countries of the region is the geostrategic importance of the region within the framework of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative.

The article describes the concentration of the Chinese economic presence in Libya in two phases: the first, before 2011 (i.e., before the overthrow of Colonel Gaddafi's regime), and the second, after the success of the NATO-backed armed protests in assassinating Colonel Gaddafi. A careful reading of the digital data presented by the author reveals the development of Chinese-Libyan relations before 2011, as these relations had developed extensively since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1978. China's economic commitment reached its peak with approximately 75 Chinese companies operating in Libya, contracts worth an estimated \$20 billion, and over 36,000 Chinese workers employed in 50 infrastructure projects. Energy cooperation was also flourishing, with Libya supplying 3% of China's oil imports. However, the outbreak of what the author calls the "First Libyan Civil War" (the Libyan Revolution) in 2011

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disrupted the activities of Chinese companies and severely damaged their interests due to looting and pillaging of their warehouses, properties, and even employees. This resulted in losses exceeding US\$1.5 billion, according to estimates by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. During the armed protests, the Chinese leadership was forced to urgently evacuate more than 35,860 Chinese citizens. The renewed conflict during the "Second Civil War" in 2014 further complicated and challenged the prospects for China's economic participation. The author explains China's strategy in dealing with the Libyan conflict, describing it as "balanced ambiguity," or as Sandy Alkoutami and Frederic Wehrey described it, a strategy of "cautious and calculated neutrality" during NATO's aggression against Libya in 2011, through which Beijing sought to preserve its long-term interests. Officially, and in light of the political division, China supported the internationally recognized Government of National Accord and endorsed the UN-sponsored settlement efforts, while at the same time maintaining communication channels and trade relations with the parallel government in the eastern region.

The article affirms that the Chinese approach in Libya is based on the principle of "Diplomatic Commerce" and focusing on rebuild, and to avoid any direct military involvement. As it is considered as "an important connection circle" in the Belt and Road Initiative, as its geographical location linking the Sahel region and the Mediterranean Sea, and its potential as a possible hub for Africa and Europe, makes it of great importance to China's ambitious strategy aimed at strengthening its trade ties and its leading role in global affairs. And according to this article author, Beijing's efforts to protect its economic interests reflect a long-term commitment to Libya, regardless of the nature of the government there and regardless of who wins the power struggle, in order to secure its future role in China's global infrastructure network.

It should be noted that the Chinese presence in Libya's reconstruction projects and investment in infrastructure projects is welcomed by both the internationally recognized government in Libya and by the parallel government. For example, former Prime Minister of the Government of National Accord, Fayez al-Sarraj, publicly called for increased Chinese investment in Libya. Conversely, Belkacem Khalifa Haftar, Director General of the Libyan Reconstruction and Development Fund, discussed with the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires expanding bilateral cooperation between Libya and China in key development sectors.

Libya announced its accession to the Belt and Road Initiative during the eighth ministerial meeting of the China-Arab Cooperation Forum held in Beijing in July 2018. The Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of National Accord stated that the Foreign Minister of the Government of National Accord, Mohamed Taher Siala, and his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, signed a memorandum of understanding in Beijing regarding Libya's accession to the Belt and Road Initiative.

Third: Analysis and Evaluation of Article

This article contributes to a large extent in understanding Chinese foreign policy and its interest in Libya during the protests that took place in 17 February 2011, and in the era that proceeded the fall of Libyan Colonel Muammar Al-Qadhafi rule by direct military intervention from NATO, and in light of the institutional division that prevailed in the country after the second civil war in 2014, which resulted in the existence of two rival governments not only for power but also for wealth and weapons. Communication with all parties (in the Tripoli government and the Tobruk government), non-involvement in armed conflict, and support for the UN mission's agenda and vision for resolving the Libyan crisis are key characteristics that Beijing has emphasized in Libya at all times, on all occasions, and in all events that Libya has experienced.

Another positive aspect of the article is its historical and economic overview of relations between Beijing and Tripoli in the period leading up to February 17, 2011. This contributes to understanding China's commitment and insistence on maintaining its role in the major events and key milestones of the Libyan crisis since its outbreak. The "balanced neutrality" approach to describing Chinese policy is an effective conceptual framework and represents the core of Chinese policy, which is based on principles such as respecting state sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, prohibiting the use of force, and supporting peaceful solutions.

Despite the aforementioned advantages, there are some weaknesses or points worth mentioning here, which are as follows:

1. The article lacks theoretical grounding, meaning that it does not place Chinese

policy within a theoretical framework of international relations (such as realism

or liberalism...) to explain China's foreign policy in Libya.

2. The article focuses on showing the Chinese viewpoint and its interests in Libya,

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and does not show sufficient interest in the Libyan positions and reactions towards

Chinese policies. This means that there is a flaw in reviewing the positions of the

parties within the framework of the interactions between them.

3. Presenting a future vision is a key part of the objective structure of the article under review, but it did not receive the appropriate attention, and the discussion

about it was general and brief.

Fourth: Summary

From the above, it is clear that this article provides an important review of the Chinese-Libyan relations in a coherent intellectual sequence that contributes to building a good knowledge base for those interested in Libyan-Chinese affairs, showing the nature of Chinese orientations in Libya, its interests and policies, starting before, during and after the February 17, 2011 revolution.

The figures presented in the article show that important Libyan economic interests in Libya have suffered a setback due to the protests that erupted there, which resulted in Chinese companies operating there ceasing operations and tens of thousands of Chinese workers leaving, etc.

Keen to safeguard its interests there, Beijing maintained contact with all armed parties, avoiding involvement in any military actions or siding with one party at the expense of the other, and consistently supporting peaceful resolution efforts led by international and regional actors, particularly the United Nations Support Mission...

Despite the article's positive aspects and strengths, some academic observations and criticisms were directed at it, which would have given it more strength and benefit if taken into consideration.

Overall, the article is a useful starting point for researchers interested in Chinese relations and the strategies of major powers in conflict zones, and is worth reading and reviewing for its wealth of documented information and important figures.