



North African POLITICS

CHANGE AND CONTINUITY

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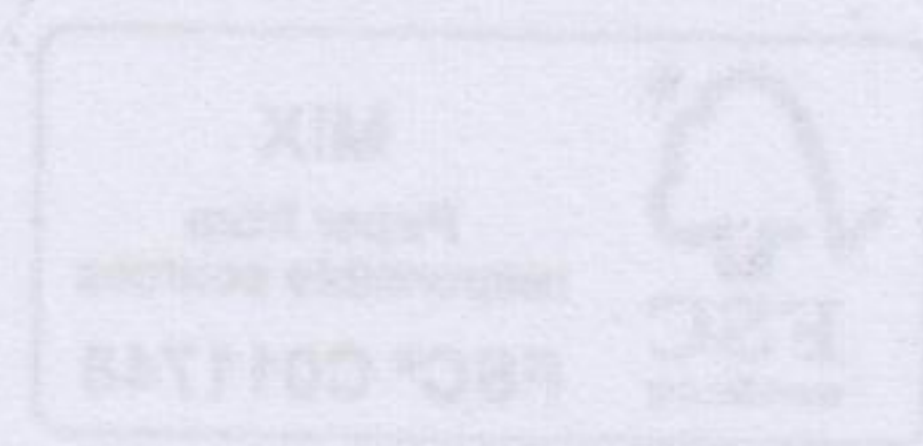
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Yahia H. Zoubir and Gregory White

ROUTLEDGE

NORTH AFRICAN POLITICS

Change and continuity

*Edited by Yahia H. Zoubir
and Gregory White*



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CHINA IN NORTH AFRICA

A strategic partnership

*Imen Belhadj and Degang Sun, with
the collaboration of Yahia H. Zoubir*

The last two decades have witnessed China's success in establishing a strong presence in the African continent, particularly in terms of trade, investment and economic cooperation. The Sino-African trade volume had increased from less than \$10 billion in 2003 to \$210.2 billion in 2013, a remarkable leap forward. China's engagement in Africa has become one of the hottest debates in the world affairs. In this chapter, we shall explore the relationship between China and the North African region that will have a full spectrum of Chinese engagement.

We will first offer a thorough review of China's relations with the Maghreb countries and Egypt. We seek to understand how China's economic power has extended to North Africa, which has taken on added importance for China, not least because of the PRC's thirst for oil and markets available in the region. Based on the Chinese win-win cooperation philosophy, we assess the costs and benefits of the Sino-North African cooperation, and give some suggestions to push forward the relations between both sides.

China's strong presence in Africa is sometimes perceived as a "new colonialism"¹ in Africa, but officials in Beijing argue that China's economic presence serves the local peoples and governments as well, and it is a win-win cooperation totally different from modern Western colonialism. Incidentally, China is not a newcomer to Africa in general and to North Africa in particular; in fact, it has always maintained strong ties with the North African countries, especially with Algeria and Egypt, regarded as two pivotal states of China's diplomacy.

There are two dynamics driving China's policies towards North Africa: one is geopolitical, i.e., China's political rivalry in the region with other outside powers; the other is geo-economic, namely, China seeking economic opportunities, energy cooperation and investment destinations for its domestic oversupplied products and its modernization drive.