

AFRICAN STUDIES IN CHINA IN THE 21ST CENTURY: A HISTORIOGRAPHICAL SURVEY¹

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Academic studies are always the reflection of reality. With fast development of China-Africa relations, Africanists outside China have showed great interest in China-Africa academic engagement. One of the important aspects is what has been done in China regarding African studies. I once published an article on African study in China and divided it into four phases, i.e., Contacting Africa (before 1900), Sensing Africa (1900-1949), Supporting Africa (1949-1965), Understanding Africa (1966-1976) and Studying Africa (1977-2000) (Li 2005). Although China's trade with Africa increased from \$10.5 billion in 2000 to 220 billion in 2014, African studies in China did not have the fortune as the trade. However, the dramatic development of the relation has provided Chinese Africanists with new opportunities and challenges. This paper will elaborate what Chinese Africanists have studied in the period of 2000-2015. What subjects are they interested in? What are the achievements and weaknesses? It is divided into four parts, focus and new interests, achievements, young scholars, references and afterthoughts.

Focus and New Interests

During the past fifteen years, the focus has been mainly on China-

¹ This is a revised and supplemented version of three articles (Li Anshan, 2008-2009a-2012c). I tried to cover various works of Chinese Africanists in different fields. As Chair of Chinese Society of African Historical Studies, I would like to thank the members who responded my email accordingly with the information of their own publications. Owing to the shortage of space, non-Chinese works with a Chinese translation have the publication year in a bracket and articles in Chinese are not included with few exceptions.

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Africa relations and contemporary African nations. FOCAC has greatly promoted bilateral economic relations. With more Chinese companies in Africa, they need to know more about Africa and its people. Quite a number of studies have been done on China-Africa relations and current situation of African countries. According to statistics, in the period of 2000-2005, 232 books on or about Africa were published (Chen Hong & Zhao Ping 2006). If we add books published in 2006-2015, the total number should be much more covering a wide range of fields, such as history, politics, foreign affairs, law, economy, culture, geography, ethnology, religion, etc.

China-Africa Relation

China-Africa relation is a hot topic both at home and abroad. A few books were published either on general study, cooperation plus international development cooperation, or bilateral migration. As early as 2000, “Series of Investment Guide for Development of African Agriculture” comprised of four volumes to celebrate the opening of FOCAC (Lu Ting-en 2000; Wen Yunchao 2000; He Xiurong, Wang Xiuqing and Li Ping 2000; Chen Zhongde, Yao Guimei and Fan Yushu 2000). Li studied the linkage between African Economic Zone and Chinese Enterprises (Li Zhibiao 2000). A few investment guides were also published in various fields such as mining, oil and gas, emerging markets, etc. A journalist in Africa for 8 years, Li Xinfeng traveled a lot, experienced great occasions and wrote many reports. Exploring Zheng He’s voyage to Africa, he published a work with data in Africa and stirred up an excitement both in East Africa and China. In another work, he gives us a fresh image of Africa, reports on important events (Li Xinfeng 2005 2006). In 2012, another book tried to link Zheng He and Africa through the data, maritime silk-road and various records (Li Xinfeng et al. 2012). The cooperation of China-Kenya archaeologists headed by Qin Dashu in Peking University in the exploration of Kenyan coast brought about some discoveries (Qin Dashu & Yuan Jian 2013).

Bilateral migration between China and Africa is another focus. In 2000, the first history of overseas Chinese in Africa was published covering three sections, early history of China-Africa relation and the origin of Chinese communities in Africa, the survival and adaptation of Chinese in Africa, their transformation and integration. It is stated that there would be a boom of Chinese going to Africa in the 21st century. The book was reviewed in *African Studies Review* (James Gao 2001) and *Canadian Journal of African Studies* (Brose 2002).³ The first part of this book was translated into English

3 Professor Qi Shirong, the Vice Chairman of the Association of Chinese Historians praised

in 2012 (Li Anshan 2000, 2012). A sister volume of data was published with records, reminiscences, articles in early journals and newspapers of Chinese in Africa (Li Anshan 2006). Now more and more works are written on this subject, some are by young scholars. Chinese scholars are also involved in the study of African communities in China (Li Zhigang 2009, 2012; Bodomo & Ma 2010, 2012; Ma Enyu 2012; Xu Tao 2013; Li Anshan 2015a).

China-Africa relations are characterized by summit diplomacy, equality, co-development and institutionalization of cooperation. After Beijing Summit in 2006, a Chinese-English bilingual appraisal was published (Li Weijian 2008). In 2009, an English collection by Chinese scholars was published to celebrate fifty years of China-African cooperation (Liu Hongwu & Yang Jiemian 2009). Another book analyzed the theory, strategy and policies of China-Africa development cooperation (Liu Hongwu & Luo Jianbo 2011). A monograph on FOCAC deals with Africa's position in international arena, China's strategy towards Africa, the funding of FOCAC, pattern of China-Africa cooperation (Zhang Zhongxiang 2012). Qi Jianhua's book on China-Africa new partnership deals with bilateral cooperation in various aspects including economic/financial, political/legal, security/military, cultural/social, African regional integration, and the contributors include scholars of African French speaking countries (Qi Jianhua 2014). A survey of African studies in various disciplines in China (1949-2010) was included in a collection of works for the celebration of Institute of West Asia and Africa (IWAA 2011).

What is the implication of China-Africa economic diplomacy to the global value chain? Tang's work probed the issue from angles of trade, infrastructure, mining, agriculture, economic zone, manufacturing, social transformation, etc. (Tang Xiaoyang 2014). The development of China-African economic and trade relation is dealt with (Zhang Zhe 2014). China-Africa cooperation in low-carbon development strategy is studied in terms of the international rule, international cooperation, African low-carbon development strategy, etc. (Zhang Yonghong, Liang Yijian, Wang Tao & Yang Guangsheng 2014). Another important work deals with the strategy of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation in the new situation (Shi Yongjie 2015). However, a different view argues that China lacked African strategy and "there is everything Chinese in Africa except a strategy" (Li Anshan 2011). In addition, China's Achilles' heel lies in the shortage of strategic means and specific measures to realize its aim (He Liehui 2012).

it highly in his keynote speech at the conference "World History Study in China in the 20th Century" held at Peking University in April 2000 and the French international broadcast reported the publication of the book in its Chinese program.

Several important works have covered various aspects of China-Africa relations. Zhang's work deals with the economic cooperation between Africa and big economies including developed economies and new economies such as India, Russia, Brazil, China. It also made a comparison of economic cooperation between Africa and different powers (Zhang Hongming 2012). Covering a wide range of fields, Yang's work studied the comprehensive strategy of China-Africa economic cooperation in terms of historical heritage, trade, investment, project contract, assistance, science, technology (Yang Lihua 2013). There are studies of comparison of poverty and poverty reduction between China and Africa (Li Xiaoyun 2010a, 2010b).

As for the international development aid, several works were published including study on Chinese and Western aid to Africa from different aspects (Zhang Yongpeng 2012) and Chinese medical cooperation with Africa focusing on Chinese medical teams and a campaign against Malaria (Li Anshan 2011). A work on China's aid to Africa used the concept of "development-guided assistance" to describe China's model (Zhang Haibin 2013). Other studies partly deal with China-Africa development cooperation (Zhou Hong 2013; Liu Hongwu & Huang Meibo 2013). China-Africa relation is studied from various perspectives such as African integration (Luo Jianbo 2006), African NGOs (Liu Hongwu & Shen Peili 2009), African infrastructure (Hu Yongju & Qiu Xin 2014), etc. "Entering into Africa to Seek for Development" becomes a theme of conferences held by Chinese Association of African Studies (CAAS) and it published the collection of papers continuously.

Country Study

To understand all countries in the world is difficult and a special committee was set up by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in 2002, in charge of the series of Guide to the World States. The outline of the content is uniform, focusing on seven aspects, i.e., land and people, history, politics, economy, military, education (with cultural aspects), foreign relations. After several years, the study of all African states is almost finished for the first edition in 2010 with exception of Nigeria, Serra Leone and Namibia. Many senior scholars are involved in the work, such as Peng Kunyuan, Zhang Xiang, Gu Zhangyi, Pan Peiying, Li Guangyi, Yang Lihua, etc. Now the new edition has started.

In 2006, Institute of West Asia and Africa (IWAA) of CASS, Chinese Society of African Historical Studies (CSAHS) and Center for African Studies of Peking University decided to carry out a project on bibliography

of African studies in China during the period of 1997-2005. Regarding the graduate theses on individual countries, there are 152 titles on 29 countries. South Africa is on the top, with 36 theses (Chen Hong & Zhao Ping 2006).

Statistics of Graduate Theses on African Countries (1981-2005)

Egypt: 35	Kenya: 2	Nigeria: 18	Mali: 3	South Africa: 36
Sudan: 5	Somali: 1	Cameroon: 1	Cogo (B): 1	Lesotho: 2
Libya: 2	Tanzania: 5	Benin: 1	Congo (K): 4	Madagascar: 3
Algeria: 4	Uganda: 2	Togo: 1	Mozambique: 7	Mauritius: 2
Morocco: 1	Burundi: 1	Ghana: 2	Botswana: 2	Zimbabwe: 2
Ethiopia: 4	Niger: 1	Cote d' Ivoire: 1	Zambia: 3	Total: 152

As the statistics indicate, the study on African countries is concentrated on big countries, with South Africa and Egypt as major focus. Among more than 4000 articles published in more than 800 journals, five countries attract more attention and articles on those countries count more than one quarter of the total. South Africa is on the top with about one half of the total articles, i.e. 620 on South Africa out of 1256 (Chen Hong & Zhao Ping 2006).

The study on Portuguese speaking African countries has been neglected for a long time owing to the language barrier. This situation is changing. The fourth volume of the series published by the Center for African Studies at Peking University is a collection of articles on the development of these countries (Li Baoping, Lu Ting-en & Wang Cheng-an 2006). There are specific study of individual countries as well, such as the history of Ghana (Chen Zhongdan 2000), Nigeria (Liu Hongwu et al. 2008, 2014) and Egypt (Wang Haili 2014), development of Tanzania (Li Xiangyun 2014), South Africa's politics and urbanization (Qing Hui 2013), etc.

Current Situation

It is necessary to provide a survey of current situation in different fields. Recently, there are quite a few studies of this type, such as African transportation (Luo Fujian, Huang Xinmin et al. 2010), African tourism (Luo Gaoyuna 2010), African agriculture (Jiang Zhongjin 2013), industry and mining in Africa (Zhu Huayou et al. 2014), African education (Liu Yan 2014; Lou Shizhou 2014; Wan Xiulan & Li Wei 2014), law system (Hong

Yonghong 2014), international organizations (Li Bojun 2014), security regime in Africa (Mo Xiang 2014), resources and environment, AIDS (Cai Gaoqiang 2014), etc.

The most important work is *Oxford Handbook of Africa and Economics*, edited by two prominent economists Célestin Monga and Justin Yifu Lin. The book includes two volumes, the first sub-entitled “Context and Concept” and the second “Policies and Practices”. Raising the issue of linkage between economics and Africa, the work comes out of several firm convictions, i.e., Africa as a region still under-researched, neglected African contribution to economic knowledge. Realizing Africa on the verge of take-off, the book attempts to serve as useful knowledge in guiding African’s new phase of development and provide clear guidance to policymakers in Africa (Monga & Lin 2015). The introduction for both volumes lays the rationale and general arguments of the author (Monga & Lin 2015a,b) and Lin’s chapter indicates the linkage between China’s rise and African economic structural transformation (Lin J.Y. 2015).

According to the above-mentioned 2006 statistics, most of the articles are on current issues. Among 1256 articles, those of economy are 424, about one third of the total, while 208 articles are on politics and law and 127 on foreign affairs.

Classification of Articles on Specific African Countries (1997-2005)⁴

Subject/ Country	Egypt	Ethiopia	Kenya	Nigeria	South Africa	Total
Politics & Law	42	2	15	31	118	208
Economy	107	31	41	44	201	424
Foreign Affairs	61	14	3	6	43	127
Ethnicity		2			20	22
Religion	15				5	20
Military	5	1			33	39

⁴ The classification is not very strict since ethnicity and religion or politics may be intertwined, so are culture and society. Geography is classified in either society or culture since it is usually linked to tourism, heritage or environment.

History & Archeology	68	3		1	7	79
Culture	44	2	15	19	99	179
Society	10	6	25	10	67	118
Important Figures	9	2	2		27	40
Total	361	63	101	111	620	1256

It is noticeable that articles of economy stand out as No.1 in the list for all 5 countries, reflecting China’s focus today. There are more works on politics/law or foreign affairs for Ethiopia and Nigeria. History occupies the second place in Egypt since Egyptology is included in the subject. More works on culture and society of South Africa indicate that more Chinese are familiar with the country. It is interesting the writing of South Africa is on the top, with 620 items. The graduate theses (1981-2005) have some implications. Among 238 M.A. and PhD. Theses, 73 titles about Africa in general, 17 on politics, economy 13, foreign affairs 26, history 12 and culture 5. There are four on East Africa, seven on West Africa and two on Southern Africa. Now more studies are focused on security, environment and climate change.

African integration is another focus. Several works studies the issue (Luo Jianbo 2010). CSAHS held its annual conference on “China-Africa Cooperation and African Integration” in 2013. The collection of papers is divided into Pan-Africanism and African Unity, African integration and China-Africa Cooperation (Zhai, Wang & Pan 2013). There are studies on regional integration as well. Xiao Hongyu emphasized the linkage between African regional integration and economic development. Taking West Africa as a case, she studied the interaction between integration and modernization (Xiao Hongyu 2014). African economic integration is an important phenomenon and Zhang Jing took a case study of 30 years’ development of SADC (Zhang Jing 2014).

Monographs and Achievements

African History

Although contemporary Africa now attracts more attention from

Chinese scholars, historical study of Africa is still important in China. Several scholars of the old generation published their works. Ai Zhouchang finished a book on modernization in South Africa (Ai Zhouchang et al. 2000). Lu Ting-en compiled his articles into a volume of four sections, i.e., African history in colonial period, history of African parties and politics, African economic history and history of China-Africa relations (Lu Ting-en 2005). Zheng Jiaxing taught South African history at Peking University from the beginning of the 1980s. As a summary of his teaching, his book studies the history from the establishment of Cape Town till the formation of the New South Africa government, with a chapter on literature in South Africa (Zheng Jiaxing 2010). His volume of colonialism in Africa forms part of the “Series of History of Colonialism” (Zheng Jiaxing 2000). Gao Jinyuan, a senior researcher in CAAS, published two works, one a collection of his study of Africa, comprised of three sections, i.e., colonialism and liberation movement, area/country study, contemporary politics, the other Britain-Africa relations from slave trade to the present (Gao Jinyuan 2007, 2008). Xu Yongzhang compiled his early articles on the history of China-African relations as part of his collection and also published a comprehensive history on African countries (Xu Y. 2004, 2014).

Shu’s work deals with the structural adjustment in Africa, an important chapter in African development. After an analysis of the interference of the international financial system and the response of African countries, he concluded that the World Bank’s structural adjustment is a failure (Shu Yunguo 2004). The history of African economy gives a survey from the 19th century to the 1990s with additional chapters on South Africa, African economic relations with China and other countries (Shu Yunguo & Liu Weicai 2013). Another work is an introduction to African studies which deals with data, historiography, topics and sources. A history of Pan-Africanism is an important work, which divided the movement into two parts. The first deals with its origin, ideology in early period, the first phase (1900-1945) and the second phase (1945-1963). The second part (1963-2001) studies the movement during the period of Organization of African Unity until the founding of African Union. (Shu Yunguo 2012, 2014).

Li’s book on rural protest in Ghana during the colonial period is the first monograph in English by a Chinese Africanist. Based on government documents and field work, he explores protest of the Ghanaian people through case studies, i.e., people against colonial government, commoners against chiefs, religious leaders against secular authority and lesser local leaders against paramount Chiefs (Li Anshan 2002), which invited a review in *Journal of African History* (Gocking 2003).⁵ Another work introduced

5 Both English and Chinese version of the monograph was sent to Mr. Kofi Annan as a gift

ancient kingdoms in different parts of African continent (Li Anshan 2012). As part of “World Modernization Series”, Volume of Africa covers the process from different perspectives of history, politics, economy, nation-building and integration, with case study of Ethiopia, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia, Angola and French-speaking countries (Li Anshan 2013c; Li Anshan et al. 2013).⁶

An excellent study on African intellectuals of modern time with a focus on the 18th-19th century, Zhang’s book first deals with the ideological background of the slave trade through important figures such as Antoin-Guillaune Amo, Olaudah Equiano and Ottobah Cugoano of the 18th century, then on the three cultural trends of Westernization, Africanization and Integration of the 19th century with case study of Samuel Ajayi Crowther, Alexander Crummell, Samuel Lewis, and finally with a focus on Africanus Horton and Edward Blyden (Zhang Hongming 2008). A study on De Gaulle and African decolonization analyzed the major factors, i.e., change of international situation, struggle of the colonies, demand of French monopolized capitalism and the change of social configuration (Chen Xiaohong 2003). Sun Hongqi’s study tried to analyze the role of colonialism in Africa (Sun Hongqi 2008).

Politics, International Relations and Law

At the beginning of the 21st century, the Chinese government called for a grand diplomacy, that needs efforts, experiences and ideas from all walks of life. “It is recognizable that there should be more cooperation between practical work and academic research. The government needs information, analysis and assessment, while the academia needs funding, stimulus and feedback” (Li Anshan 2005). The situation is developing dramatically. Scholars were asked to give lectures to top leaders or for opinions on the draft of state leaders’ speeches in FOCAC.⁷ Africanists took up projects from various ministries in order to provide their thinking and ideas as to how to carry out development cooperation with Africa. Ministry of Education promoted the formation of think-tanks in universities. All shows

by Peking University during his visit in 2015 and Mr. Kofi Annan was quite surprised to know that a book on his country was written by a Chinese scholar.

⁶ *World Modernization Process: Volume of Africa* was published in early March 2013 by Jiangsu People’s Press. After President Xi Jinping raised the concept of “African dream” during his visit to Africa, March 24-30, 2013, Jiangsu People’s Press decided to republish it under the different title *The African Dream: In Search of the Road to Modernization* and held a book launch in Nanjing.

⁷ In May, 2004, Li Anshan was invited to give two lectures about African history to former President Jiang Zemin.

the adjustment of the government to a changing situation and increasing interaction with academia.

Zhang Hongming's work discussed the internal and external factors of African politics. As for the internal, he illustrated the relation between politics and the state, tribalism, traditional culture and religion. The external factors covered Western political culture, Eastern political culture and Islamic political culture and their linkage with political development (Zhong Hongming 1999). Xia Jisheng of Peking University explored the structure and function of the parliament system of South Africa and Egypt (Xia Jisheng 2005). Li Baoping's book is on African culture and politics. It deals with traditional culture, political transformation and the case study of Tanzania and South Africa. He discussed President Nyerere's personality and contribution, democratization and its diplomatic philosophy, and dealt with South Africa about the breakdown of apartheid, the game of different ethnic groups during the transition and its political transformation (Li Baoping 2011).

Studying the origin and evolution of nationalism in Africa, Li approached the subject from its various expressions, i.e., national intellectual, religion, peasantry, nation-building, democratization, international politics, and its different forms such as Pan-Africanism, African nationalism, state-nationalism and local nationalism. Using "local nationalism" to replace "tribalism", he argues that local nationalism has its origin in pre-colonial social base and was strengthened by indirect rule. After independence, ill-distribution of power, economic difficulties and external interference have strengthened ethnic conflicts (Li Anshan 2004). With an increasing interest on democratization in Africa, He Wenping's work on the subject enriches our understanding of the process. The author argues that different countries take different forms and ways in pursuing democracy, using case studies of South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda. As author says, "There is the common desire for democracy, but there is not the common way for realizing it. The democracy that people has been empowered must be built by people themselves. The way of 'transplanting' democracy forcedly by the 'outside' is due to short-lived and hardly realized." (He Wenping 2005).

To understand early communist leaders' view on Africa, a book was compiled of the sayings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin on Middle East and Africa (Cui Jianmin 2010). There are studies of early generation of African leaders (Lu Ting-en et al. 2005) and contemporary leader such as President Museveni (Mu Tao & Yu Bin 2013). Nyerere's important works were translated (Nyerere 2015). Another focus is on African diplomacy and foreign relations. The first diplomatic history of South Africa deals with the foreign policy during the apartheid and international reaction, South

African's neighboring policy, adjustment of De Clerk's "new diplomacy" and foreign policy of new South Africa (Mu Tao 2003). The relation between Modern Egypt and U.S., Russia, Israel, Saudi Arabia and China was studied (Chen Tiandu et al. 2010). There are studies on foreign relations of Nigeria (Yang Guangsheng 2014) and New South Africa (Fang Wei 2014). Political economy of South Africa's land issue is studied (Sun Hongqi 2011). Darfur issue is probed in terms of its origin, its relation with north and south Sudan, and with oil, geopolitics, UN, West, Darfur with China and Beijing Olympics, its process and impact (Liu Hongwu & Li Xinfeng 2008; Jiang Hengkun 2014). Political systems is dealt with, such as Ethiopia's federalism and political transformation (Zhang Xiangdong 2012; Xiao Yuhua 2014), democratization and politics of Egypt (Wang Tai 2014), Islamic socialism in Libya (Han Zhibing et al. 2014). AU's role is also studied in terms of African economy, conflict management, common foreign policy, collective development and its contribution to the world politics (Luo Jianbo 2010).

Despite the view questioning the existence of African law system, Hong has devoted his time to the study of African law for more than ten years. After the first primary research, he published other books on the subject (Hong Yonghong 2005, 2014). In another work, the authors try to cover various law systems practiced in the continent, such as the ancient Egyptian law, Islamization of African law, African customary law, common law, civil law, mixed jurisdiction, etc. (He Qinhua & Hong Yonghong 2006). An important work is on International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). He studied ICTR from various aspects, i.e., its origin, institutional framework, jurisdiction, crime elements under ICTR's jurisdiction, adjudication rule, ICTR's contribution to ICT (Hong Yongong 2009), which helps the Chinese understand the organ and the case. Hong carried out the study on African law with his colleagues and continuously published works including translations (Hong Yonghong & Xia Xinhua, 2010; Mancuso & Hong Yonghong 2009; Dickerson 2014; Zhu Weidong 2011, 2013). *West Asia and Africa* ran a special column for the study of African law for more than ten years (Institute of West Asian and Africa 2011).

In the field of African geography, Chinese scholars also made their contribution. Jiang's work offers a comprehensive survey of the position of agriculture in Africa, assessment of agricultural natural resources, analysis of social economic conditions in agriculture, the history of agricultural development, regional distribution and economic type of agriculture, etc., deals with various topics of agricultural natural resources, food crop, husbandry, forestry, fishery, agricultural food processing, consumption of agricultural products and nutrition security. This work probes the relations between people, culture of agricultural economy and environment (Jiang

Zhongjin 2012). As a focus of research of Center for African Studies of Nanjing University, “Series of Security Study on China-Africa Resource Development and Energy Cooperation” covers various subjects, such as China-Africa energy cooperation and security (Jiang Zhongjin & Liu Litao 2014), African agriculture and development (Jiang Zhongjin 2014), port economy and urban development (Zhen Feng 2014), land resource and food security (Huang Xianjin 2014), fishery and development strategy (Zhang Zhenke 2014), and modern African human geography (Jiang Zhongjin 2014), etc. Cultural geography also became a subject of research (Chong Xiuquan 2014)

African art is a rich source and various translations were published yet few serious studies have been done. Seven volumes of African arts were published in 2000 yet they are more for eyes than for thoughts. Quite a few African art works especially Egyptian art and architecture are edited or translated. There are several cultural studies, either in general (Ai & Mu 2001; Ai & Shu 2008; Zheng Jiaying 2011) or specific countries (Yang & Zheng 2001; Jiang Dong 2005), related subjects (Liu Hong Wu & Li Shudi 2010). The most important work is a history of South African literature by Li Yongcai, a scholar long time involved in the study of African literature (Li Yongcai 2009). And there are articles of study in African art, sculpture, film, literature, dance, drum, etc.

English Publications and Young Scholars

An increasing number of Chinese scholars take an active part in international academia. Some of them become the editor of the books related to China-Africa relations, some published articles in journals, as chapters, or in networks.

English Publications

Engagement with international scholarship is another achievement. There are a few books in English written or edited by Chinese scholars in international academia (Li Anshan 2002, 2011, 2012, 2013; Li Anshan et al., 2012; Li & April 2012; Berhe & Liu 2013; Monga & Lin 2015; Sheldon, April & Li, 2015). Chinese participation in international conferences is increasing and their views appeared in international journals and magazines (Zhang Hongming, Liu Lide & Xu Jiming 2001; Zeng Qiang 2002; He Wenping 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008a, 2008d, 2009, 2010c; Li Anshan 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009b, 2010, 2013a, 2015a, 2015b; Li Baoping 2008; Liu Haifang

2006, 2008, 2015a; Yang Lihua 2006; Luo & Zhang 2011; Xia & Gu 2011). More and more Chinese scholars have been involved in international cooperation and their works are included in English books or conference paper collections (He Wenping 2005, 2007a, 2008e, 2009a, 2010, 2010a, 2010b, 2012, 2012a,b; Li Baoping 2007; Hong Yonghong 2007, 2010; Zhang Yongpeng 2007; Li Zhibiao 2007; An Chunying 2007; Li Anshan 2007b, 2008a,b, 2009, 2010a, 2011a,b,e, 2012a, 2013, 2013b,c, 2015; Zeng Qiang 2010; Zhi & Bai 2010; Zhang Xinghui 2011; Liu Hongwu 2012; Tang Xiao 2012; Zhang Chun 2012; Liang Xijian 2012; Pang Zhongying 2013; Wang Xuejun 2013; Lin J.Y., 2015; Xu Liang 2015).⁸

After an international conference on “China-Africa Relations: Past, Present and Future” held at South Africa in November 2005, a collection of papers was edited by the prominent Ghanaian Africanist Kwesi Prah, several Chinese scholars contributed their ideas (Kwesi Prah 2007). “The China-African Civil Society Dialogue” conference was held in Nairobi in April 2008 by Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF) and 10 Chinese scholars were invited. The collection was published and 6 articles by Chinese participants were included (Harneit-Sievers et al. 2010). A seminar was held in Nairobi by Inter Region Economic Network (IREN) as a concrete result of China-Africa Joint Research and Exchange Program. The meeting was attended by a delegation from China whose speeches were included in a volume edited by James Shikwati (Shikwati 2012). In October 2012, the China-Africa Think Tanks Forum (CATTF) held its meeting in Ethiopia, co-hosted by Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University and the Institute of African Studies (IAS) of Zhejiang Normal University and a collection was published including that of Chinese scholars (Berhe and Liu 2013). Some of them are actively involved in English networks, such as He Wenping, Liu Haifang, Luo Jianbo & Zhang Xiaomin, etc. Some Chinese students are studying or collecting data in Africa and start to show their academic capability (Cheng Ying 2014, 2016; Zhang Qiaowen 2014, 2015; Xu Liang 2015, 2015a).

More young students are engaged in African studies and they have better opportunity to go to Africa. Luo Jianbo has done works on African integration and China-Africa relations. A few PhD students of different disciplines finished their dissertation or based on field work, such as those of Chen Fenglan (2011) and Chen Xiaoying (2012) of sociology, Ding Yu of archeology (2012, 2014) and Yang Tingzhi (2015) and Shen Xiaolei of

⁸ For example, Li Anshan was invited by the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova on 8 November 2013 and became member of International Scientific Committee of UNESCO General History of Africa (Vol.9). He was elected as Vice Chair of the Committee at its 1st session, held at Salvador, Brazil, 20-24 November 2013.

Political Sciences (2015). Chinese anthropologists or social scientists went to Africa through different channels or did field work there, such as Si Lin and Xu Wei (Shi Lin 2012; Xu Wei 2012, 2014).

Academic Monographs by Young Scholars

A new generation of Africanists have more opportunities of international contact, favorable academic environment and better time for African study. Most of their works are revised PhD dissertations. Bi studied the linkage between Egyptian modernization and political stability, covering the period of 1805 to the 1990s, analyzed different political regimes, i.e., military regime and president regime, and related issues such as political participation, political parties, Islam, political violence, urbanization, Asyut. He also analyzed the impact of economy, unemployment and external factor on political stability (Bi Jiankang 2005). The first Chinese MA graduate on Hausa language awarded in Ahmadu Bello University of Nigeria, Sun published her PhD dissertation on British educational policy in north Nigeria during the colonial period. Based on her research on original data in both Hausa and English, she studied the interaction between power and language. Analyzing the language policy, examination system, development of Hausa and educational policy, the author explained how the British colonial government used Hausa language as a tool in its colonial administration (Sun Xiaomeng 2004, 2014). Luo published two related books and a new one on China's responsibility. One analyzed the achievement, problem and perspective of African integration and also tried to explore the linkage between China-African relations and African integration process, and the other African Union's relation with its member states in terms of development, economic cooperation, conflict management, foreign policy and its significance to the world (Luo Jianbo 2006, 2010, 2016).

Indigenous knowledge of Africa is a new subject and Zhang made a detail study of its role in various fields and its relation with development (Zhang Yonghong 2010). Li probed the history of the spread of Islam in West Africa and traced the historical origin of Islam in West Africa in ancient times, Jihad movement in the 19th century, Sufism, Islam during the colonial period and the contemporary time (Li Weijian 2011). Zhu excelled himself in the study of African law. Besides translation of related works, he also published two books on legal system (Zhu Weidong 2011, 2013). Jiang has studied the Sudan for a long time and his work on Darfur issue probed the causes, process, condition for peaceful solution and impact of the crisis (Jiang Hengkun 2014). Wang Tao studied the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda in terms of its origin, development, influence and its linkage with

international affairs (Wang Tao 2014). Based on knowledge of Arab and English languages, Huang Hui has studied Berberism in Algeria from different perspective (Huang Hui 2015).

Several important works in the study of African economy are written by young scholars. An studied poverty and anti-poverty in Africa focusing on theories, characteristics and origin of poverty, anti-poverty policies and measures, dynamics, international aid, etc. and concluded that pro-poor growth is the solution of poverty reduction (An Chunying 2010). Yang researched the linkage between liabilities and development in Africa from a perspective of international relations and he studied the theory, origin and development of debt in Africa, debt issue in international affairs and the effect and impact of debt-relief program, as well as adjustment of policy and development with debt (Yang Baorong 2011). Comparative advantage is a different perspective regarding African economic development. Liang analyzed its theory, different elements and change, the path of its upgrade, etc. and argued that Africa can develop only through its own path, not copying others (Liang Yijian 2014). Huang Meibo, an economist, has started research on African economy.

Annual Report, Memoirs and References

In China, associations and institutions of African studies have their academic activities annually and usually publish their works in a form of collection of papers.

Annual Report and Review

Chinese Association of African Studies (CAAS) published collection of papers almost annually, mostly focused on China-Africa relations (Chen Gongyuan 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010; Feng Zuoku & Chen Gongyuan 2008). CSAHS holds a conference annually and usually publishes a collection of papers. Different institutions of African studies publish annual reports or reviews regularly. The most important is *Yellow Book of Middle East and Africa* by IWWA of CASS, which has a focus each year. For example, the 2001-2002 yellow book is focused on “United and Self-strengthening Africa” (Yang Guang & Wen Boyou 2002), while 2004-2005 one is “Special Report on International Experiences for Prevention of Oil Crisis” (Yang Guang & Chen Mo 2005), 2006-2007 on the “History and Reality of China-African Relations” (Yang Guang & He Wenping 2007). Now the yellow book of the two regions is separated and one is entitled *Yellow Book of Africa*,

with a special emphasis each year. The book of 2011-2012 is focused on China-African relations, that of 2012-2013 on regional cooperation in Africa and the 2013-14 on new trends of the Great Powers' Africa policy (Zhong Hongming 2012; Zhang Hongming & Yao Guimei 2013; Zhang Hongming & An Chunying 2014).

Center for African Studies at Shanghai Normal University headed by Shu Yunguo publishes annually *African Economic Review* and *African Economic Development Report*. Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University headed by Liu Hongwu has successfully held several China-Africa Think Tank Forum and published annually *African Studies*, *African Development Report* and several series of African studies. East China Normal University had concentrated its studies in East Africa and published biography of Ugandan President Museveni and the translation of Julius Nyerere. Traditionally focusing on Asian and African languages, School of Asian and African Studies at Beijing Foreign Language University has sent graduate students to SOAS for area studies and published annually *Asian and African Studies* and two series of "Asian-African Studies" and "Translation of Asian-African Studies". Several new courses of African languages are included in curriculum. Center for African Studies of Peking University published four collections, covering China-Africa relations, African transformation, African leaders and African Portuguese speaking countries (CAS 2000, 2002; Lu Ting-en 2005; Li Baoping et al. 2006) and has published its *Annual Review of African Studies in China* since 2011 and its E-weekly "PKU African Tele-Info" is issued at home and abroad.

Memoirs and References

With the opening-up of China, this discipline gradually loosened up and officials started to write reminiscences or life memoirs, especially after their retirement. Some diplomats with the experience of work in Africa contributed articles to a volume with a subtitle "A Glorious Passage of China-African Friendly Relations" (Lu Miaogeng, Huang Shejiao & Lin Ye 2006). Several series of diplomats serve as supplementary data. "Witness the History: Republican Ambassadors' Narrations" is a series of ambassadors' life experiences. Wang Shu told us his life as reporter in Africa during the late 1950s and the early 1960s, including his personal experience during the Congo incident (Wang Shu 2007). Guo Jing-an and Wu Jun's work is included in "Diplomats Look at the World" series. As former Ambassador in Ghana, Guo described experience in African countries, e.g., the sever-up of diplomatic relations with Liberia because of Taiwan issue, his mission as special envoy in Somalia, and as an ambassador in Ghana (Guo Jing-an &

Wu Jun 2006). “Chinese Diplomats Series” attracts students of international relations. *Chinese Diplomats in Africa* includes 19 articles by diplomats who worked in African countries. The collection covers different topics, sacred “mission impossible” (Botswana), their suffering (Zambia), witnesses of important events in Ghana, Tanzania-Zambia railway, Cameroon and South Africa, reminiscences of their life, etc. (Li Tongcheng & Jin Buoxiong 2005). Former vice-premier and foreign minister Huang Hua, one of the early diplomats and Chinese Ambassador to Ghana and Egypt, also published his memoir (Huang Hua 2008). Several Ambassadors described their life in African countries vividly (Zhou Boping 2004; Jiang Xiang 2007; Yuan Nansheng 2011). A few Chinese ambassadors and diplomats in Africa also told their stories and reminiscences (Cheng Tao & Lu Miaogen 2013; Chinese Embassy in Rwanda 2013).

Former vice-premier Qian Qichen’s memoir is by no means less important, since he started his diplomatic career in Africa. Through Qian’s memoir, we know something which does not appear in other writings, such as President Jiang Zemin once wrote four letters to President Mandela, in order to promote friendship and establish diplomatic relations between China and South Africa (Qian Qichen 2003, 245-87). A report of the former-President Jiang Zeming’s visits abroad gives a vivid description of the President’s visits to African countries, especially his two important visits and talks with several African leaders in 1996 and 2002 (Zhong Zichen 2006). Former vice-minister of Commerce Wei Jianguo devoted most of his career to Africa and his book recorded different events and life experience (Wei Jianguo 2011).

Different dictionaries and encyclopedia have been published during this period of time. Two important dictionaries of diplomacy were most useful for their Africa related items. *Dictionary on China’s Diplomacy* contains various diplomatic contacts between China and Africa in history (Tang Jiaxuan 2000). *Dictionary on World’s Diplomacy* published in 2005 comprises important events, treaties and figures in African diplomacy (Qian Qichen 2005). The compilation of the *Encyclopedia of Overseas Chinese* with more than 15 million Chinese words was finished in 2002. The monumental work includes 12 volumes of different subjects and each volume contains some items in Chinese overseas in Africa (Zhou Nanjing 1999-2002). *Dictionary of World’s Educational Events* covers schools and educational events in Africa (Gu Mingyuan 2000).

Some writings by news reporters or travelers also provide valuable materials for African study. Their personal experiences in various events as witness resulted in some unique understanding of Africa (Wang Dongmei & Wang Guotai 2000; Zhang Yun 2000; Liang Yu 2000; Guo Chaoren

2000). Gui Tao stayed in Africa as reporter of Xinhua News Agency for 2 years and visited many African countries. He told his story and local customs, religion, food, etc. Chen Xiaochen went to Africa and wrote about his travel by Tanzania-Zambia Railway and described his experiences and thinking (Gui Tao 2012; Chen Xiaochen 2013; Chang Jiang & Yuan Qing 2013). Chinese or Chinese communities in Africa also published their books, records, magazines, newspapers, reminiscences, etc. (Anonymous 2014; Jian Hong 2003, 2007, 2010, 2010a).

Chinese Africanists have always tried to introduce the best work of African studies to Chinese students. During the period, the translation of volume 5 (B.A. Ogot 2001) and volume 8 (A.A. Mazrui 2003) of the UNESCO *General History of Africa* marks the completion of the translation of the monumental work. For recent years, different presses are involved in the translation of books related to Africa issues. Commercial Press, as an oldest press with a long tradition of translation, started a project of World History Library by organizing an Editorial Committee. Now it has carefully selected more than seventy histories of countries, regions and continents, eleven being African history, i.e., history of Africa, North Africa, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, the Sudan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Somali, including a few African scholars such as Toyin Falola, Brian Raftopoulos & Alois Mlambo, Saheed A. Adejumobi, etc. Democracy and Construction Press published 20 books as a “Series of Translation of Africa” in 2015, covering economy, law, history, China-Africa relations, politics, society, ethnicity/ religion, culture/arts, etc. It tries to introduce African scholarship such as Nzongola-Ntalaja, Terreblanche, Opoku, etc. There are quite a few important books translated and the most impressive is *The Muqaddimah: An Introduction to History* by Ibn Khaldun.

Conclusion and Afterthoughts

There are several new features regarding African studies during the past fifteen years. First, with the increase of monographs, more academics now concentrate on current situation such as politics, economy, culture and society, with economy at the top, and South Africa is the most studied state. Yet the proliferation of publication emphasized the importance of research quality which Chinese scholars have a long way to go. Secondly, various studies on African countries or related topics expand the interdisciplinary study which implies the significance of methodology, and long-time and solid field work with local language capability is very much needed. Thirdly, more Chinese scholars are engaged in international academic exchanges and their views are gradually catching attention from outside, yet this is

merely concentrated on China-African relations. Young scholars are growing up with better opportunity to study Africa and some have displayed their academic capability. Finally, many books by reporters and overseas Chinese about Africa came out with their adventures and personal experiences in Africa which enrich the understanding of Africa in China.

African study in China is promising, but needs more effort and hardworking.

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ABSTRACT

With fast development of China-Africa relations, Africanists outside China have showed great interest in China-Africa academic engagement. One of the important aspects is what has been done in China regarding African studies. Although China's trade with Africa increased from \$10.5 billion in 2000 to 220 billion in 2014, African studies in China did not have the fortune as the trade. However, the dramatic development of the relation has provided Chinese Africanists with new opportunities and challenges. This paper will elaborate what Chinese Africanists have studied in the period of 2000-2015. What subjects are they interested in? What are the achievements and weaknesses? It is divided into four parts, focus and new interests, achievements, young scholars, references and afterthoughts.

KEYWORDS

China-Africa; African studies; Chinese Africanists.

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