

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نباشد تن من مباد
بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم
از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

By Alejandro Marcó del Pont
01.04.2023

Russia, China, Africa, who seduces whom?



Sources: The economist gadfly

No poor person is comforted to know that in the world there have always been rich and poor (Noel Clarasó)

None of the geostrategic moves made by rivals in dispute for world hegemony are a coincidence, an accident or products of chance. Each and every one of them has a purpose, a relationship, a meaning, and above all, an importance within a general maneuver. For example, March 20, when Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Moscow, marked the 20th anniversary of the American invasion of Iraq, the date was not random. A day earlier, "*The Russia-Africa International Parliamentary Conference in a Multipolar World*" began, where President Vladimir Putin forgave more than \$20 billion in debts to African countries.

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

Let's sort out the board of this game a bit and look at a few, just some of the organizations that the Eurasian world is trying to articulate, united with the BRICS, which could create two worlds and attract Africa.

Organization	Member countries
	China, Kazakhstan,
Shanghai	Kyrgyzstan, Russia,
Cooperation	Tajikistan,
Organization	Uzbekistan,
(SCO)	Pakistan and India
	(as observer
	member).
Eurasian	Russia, Armenia,
Economic	Belarus,
Union (EAEU)	Kazakhstan and
	Kyrgyzstan.
BRICS	Brazil, Russia,
	India, China, South
	Africa

Source: *El Tábano Economista* based on official data.

Shanghai Organization + Eurasian Economic Union +BRISC sum indicators

Country	Population	PBI in MM	Expor.	Import
<i>Russia</i>	146	1.480	422	232
<i>Kazakhstan</i>	19	186	62	32,5
<i>Belarus</i>	9.	54	30	20
<i>Armenia</i>	3	13.30	3	5
<i>Kyrgyzstan</i>	6	8.70	1,2	3,6
<i>Tajikistan</i>	9.8	8.5	1	4,5
<i>Uzbekistan</i>	34.60	54.70	12,4	12
<i>China</i>	1.444	14.727	2592	2114
<i>India</i>	1.695	2.875	323	498
<i>Brazil</i>	213	1.352	209	168
<i>South</i>				
<i>Africa</i>	59.30	283	90	97,2

Total **3.963** **21.042** **3.745** **3.186**

The sum of these three organizations give, for 2020, the worst year of GDP and world trade due to the pandemic, which its weight is: 46% of the world population, 25% of GDP and 27% of trade. Who is being seduced is Africa, where there are 54 countries that have 1.8% of the world's GDP and about 1.500 billion people, which gives 19% of the world's population. They are 28% of the votes of the General Assembly of the United Nations, although only 40 attended the event in Moscow, that is, 75% of those nations.

To get an idea of the movements of this game, let's look at some details. China decided not to talk to the EU, but invited Pedro Sánchez to Beijing, the call was justified by the fulfillment of the 50th anniversary of Spain's diplomatic relations with the eastern giant, although the real reason is that Spain will exercise for the fifth time the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2023, between 1 July and 31 December. The former president of Brazil, **Dilma Rousseff**, was unanimously elected by the board of governors of the New Development Bank as president of this BRICS bank until 2025, while President Lula Da Silva would travel, now postponed, to Beijing from March 26 to 31.

These maneuvers and their joints took time, some players were always active, others not so much. The first Russian-African summit was held in October 2019 in Sochi, with the participation of 43 African states, while China invested in Africa and Brazil had long cultivated its relations with the black continent. The United States, for its part, revived interest in seducing Africa after decades of neglect. With a three-day summit in Washington in 2022 in which 49 countries will participate, and where he promises substantial announcements that will never come to fruition. Vice President Kamala Harris pledged on March 27, 2023, more than \$100 million in assistance to Ghana, stressing that U.S. interests in African nations extend beyond competing with China.

The dispute in detail in the following table:

Raw material	Main producing countries
	Algeria, Nigeria,
Petroleum	Angola, Libya, Egypt, Sudan
Gold	South Africa, Ghana, Tanzania, Mali,

	Burkina Faso
	Botswana, DRC,
Diamonds	South Africa, Angola
Uranium	Niger, Namibia
Aluminium	Guinea, Mozambique
Copper	Zambia, DRC, South Africa
Cobalt and Magnesium	Congo, Zambia, Morocco and Uganda
Coffee	Ethiopia, Uganda, Ivory Coast Madagascar,
Graphite	Mozambique, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania
Lithium	South Africa, Congo, Zimbabwe
Corn	Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Tanzania
Soybean	Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia
Iron	South Africa, Mauritania
Lead	Morocco, Namibia, South Africa
Zinc	Namibia, South Africa

Source: El Tábano Economista based on official data.

The war has scuttled any attempt to replace energy since the Berlin referendum on the possible advance to 2030 of the objective of climate neutrality of that German city had for

2045. Or renewable energy consumption, which will increase by about 11% in 2023, according to *The Economist's Energy Outlook 2023* report. More use of nuclear power, coal, oil, gas, etc.

Even so, the World Bank forecasts that production of critical minerals would have to increase by nearly 500% if investment in renewable energy and other green technologies increased to the levels needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Critical minerals are those used to produce green technology, such as solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries. These minerals include graphite, lithium, cobalt, copper, manganese, and rare earth metals. Africa's minerals will play a key role in this transition, but to what extent will the continent benefit?

The challenge is that a very limited amount of Africa's critical minerals are processed on the continent. [China is the dominant player](#) in this processing, refining 73% of cobalt, 40% of copper, 59% of lithium and 67% of nickel. A large portion of these minerals is imported unprocessed from elsewhere, including Africa. China also dominates green technology value chains, producing more than 80% of the world's solar panels and more than 70% of the world's lithium-ion battery cells.

The rivalry between the United States, China and Russia includes a race to secure minerals that are critical for green energy (Africa has some of the world's largest supplies) and a dispute over debt relief, as burdens for poor countries rise along with interest rates. It was Russia who started this recipe, and both China and the US have not yet taken financial sides, although they surely will.

Harris' itinerary included Zambia and Ghana, which have defaulted on debt since the COVID-19 pandemic hit them and are trying to restructure them. Zambia, which has a debt of more than \$17 billion, owes more than a third to Chinese lenders, so flirting with the Americans is not a bad deal, you just have to know what each one puts on the table. Everyone is courting African elites to serve their interests, and African states are trying to play games with Moscow, Washington, Brussels and Beijing to maximum advantage.

Such is the importance of the African continent for Chinese foreign policy that Xi Jinping's first official visit as head of state in 2013 was to Africa. Also in [his re-election in 2018](#). For 2023 it is no different, China's Foreign Minister Qi Gang is not the only one who toured the continent in January. African capitals have been at the center of an intense diplomatic ballet between the US, Russia and Turkey.

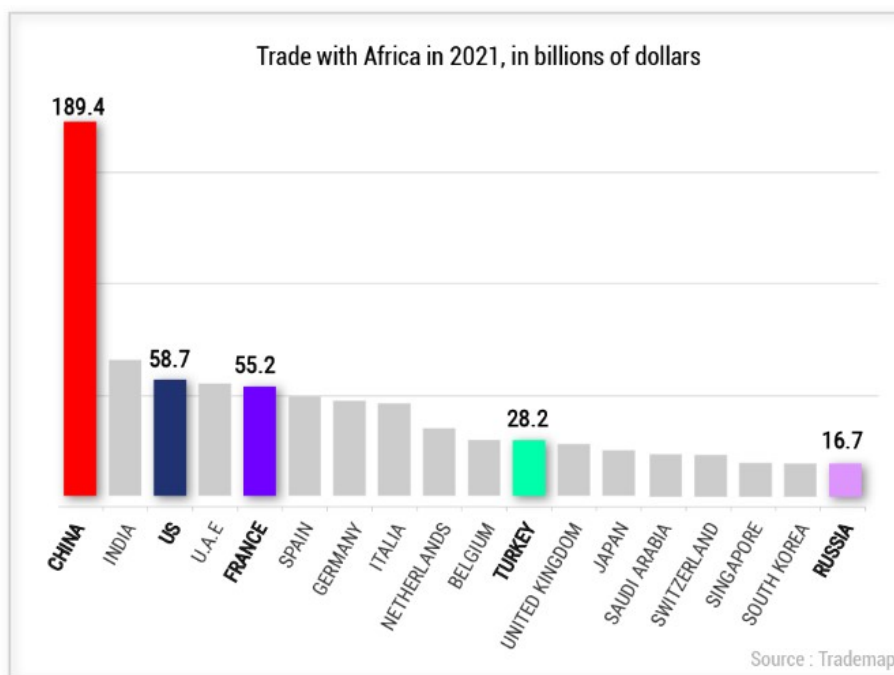
In recent decades, China has become Africa's main economic partner. The volume of trade between the two went from 1,000 million dollars in 1992 to more than 186,000 million in

2021. Beijing estimates that by 2035 this figure could reach \$300 billion. According to the right, the key to this commercial and political relationship lies in the *Angola model*. A formula in which Africa exports resources to China and China offers financial assistance in the form of loans and infrastructure construction. If they take away the infrastructure, it is a carbon copy of the IMF for Latin America.

Europe with its difficulties is not far behind, it sees its hegemony on the African continent in danger, so it announced at the beginning of the year an ambitious plan of digital transformation and sustainable development to counter the influence of China. An investment package of 150,000 million euros until 2027. And why does Brussels want to invest in these sectors? Ursula von der Leyen explained: "*We are very good at financing roads, but it makes no sense for Europe to build a very good road between a Chinese-owned copper mine and a Chinese-owned port.*" In the end, it is only a struggle for power.

The real fight centers between the US and China. Countries such as Egypt and Morocco have close trade relations with Russia, while South Africa has allowed Russian and Chinese warships to conduct exercises in its waters. In any case, Russia's largest exports are based on armaments, in fact Moscow exports war materiel for a greater amount than the US, France, China and Turkey combined.

But as the chart shows, the entire West fails to match Chinese trade; Africa appears to be a Chinese issue. The increase in BRICS trade with Africa [reached \\$376 billion](#) in 2021, and although China is in charge, India and South Africa have ostensibly increased their trade.



African countries, like many other emerging nations in the Middle East, Asia or Latin America, are probably not receptive to a "with us or against us" approach. Having to choose sides could delay efforts to develop their economies, preferring to do business with both sides. The idea that the relationship with the United States does not affect African ties with China and vice versa is, as in Latin America, false.

China and Russia may be more pragmatic than the United States or the European Union, understanding this pragmatism as business issues. The US does not understand this and Europe has no choice of raw materials necessary for its energy substitution invention. African stocks should be followed by Latin America, which is immersed in the same game as the black continent.

Source: <https://eltabanoeconomista.wordpress.com/2023/03/30/rusia-china-africa-quien-seducer-a-quien/>

Rebellion 31.03.2023