



FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

RESEARCH TOPIC

A comparative analysis of the Sino Zimbabwe relations in the colonial and post-colonial period

By

RUTENDO ADELAIDE RUZVIDZO

R124389G

DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS HONOURS DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES DEGREE.

JUNE 2016



DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family members for their steadfast support, letting me know that there are no shortcuts to any place worth going and that out of perspiration comes the greatest results.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank all those whose assistance proved to be a milestone in the accomplishment of my end goal, which is the submission of this dissertation.

My utmost appreciation, warmth and indebtedness goes to my supervisor Mr Sillah who equipped me with the necessary information, knowledge and guided me from the formulation of my research topic up to the submission my full dissertation and his time, tolerance and devotion made this research paper a success.

I would also want to include a note of thankfulness to my family that is my mother Mrs R.Ruzvidzo, my father Mr C.Ruzvidzo, my sister Elitha and my brother Tinotenda and my friends. I want to thank you for your steadfast support for you have contributed to the success of this document and a well spent four years at the Midlands State University. A special mention to my father who always takes an extra mile to ensure that I succeed. I dedicate my success to you, may you live long to witness my success.

Lastly, I would to thank the Almighty for he has taken me this far.

ABSTRACT

The drive of this research was to examine how the China and Zimbabwe has engaged with each other in the colonial and post-colonial period. The Sino Zim relations have their merits and demerits evidenced by the indicators of their relationship trend where politically there is technical and moral support, elections and diplomacy, economically there is trade, agriculture, investment, aid and socially there are cultural exchanges evidenced by the use of soft power and there is also the availability of basic necessities. A sample participants in the Government of Zimbabwe Asia desk, focus groups and those in the economic sector as respondents. Interviews were used in order to gain the information from the selected respondents. Results obtained were based on the information acquired where in some cases the Sino Zim engagement has culminated economically in the loss of livelihoods, loss of revenue due to the lack of uniform application of regulatory laws, human capital exploitation, and lack of bargaining power and supply of substandard goods. Politically there is further isolation from the international community and environmentally the plundering of wetlands has been evidenced.

ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
BIPPA	Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CIO	Criminal Investigation Office
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
IWAAS	Institute for West Asian and African Studies
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NBS	National Bureau Statistics of China
OAU	Organisation of African Union
SABC	South African Broadcasting Corporation
SAPs	Structural Adjustment Programmes
UN	United Nations
ZANLA	Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army
ZAPU	Zimbabwe African People's Union
ZANU	Zimbabwe African National Union
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
ZUPCO	Zimbabwe United Passengers Company.

Table of Contents

RESEARCH SUPERVISION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM	i
DEDICATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ACRONYMS	v
Introduction	1
Background of study	1
Statement of the problem	4
Research objectives and questions	4
Research questions	4
Significance of study	5
Theoretical framework	5
Conceptual framework	7
Research Methodology	8
Research design	8
Population and Sampling	8
Data collection and research approach	8
Data analysis	9
Ethical considerations	10
Literature review	10
CHAPTER 1	15
Sino Zimbabwe relations during the colonial period	15
Trend of relations	16
Chapter Summary	20
CHAPTER 2	21
Sino Zimbabwe relations during the post-colonial period.	21
Flavour of relations	21
Trend of Sino Zim relations	22
Diplomacy	24
Military hardware supply	24
Economic indicators	25
Social indicators	29
Economic costs of the Sino Zimbabwe Partnership	30
Political costs of the relationship	34
Environmental costs	34

Benefits to either party as a result of the partnership	36
Economic benefits	36
Political benefit	37
Chapter Summary	38
CHAPTER 3	39
Similarities between the colonial and post-colonial period	39
Differences of the Sino Zim engagement in the colonial and post-colonial period	42
Future of Beijing and Harare relations	44
Chapter summary	46
Conclusion	47
Reference list	51
APPENDICES	55

Introduction

China regards itself as a 'big brother' when it comes to fighting against colonialism thus since colonial times China assisted fellow developing countries to fight for self-determination. Sino Zimbabwe relations in the colonial period were based on mutual cooperation but that has since changed in the post-colonial period where the trends of the relationship have evolved to encompass economic traits like trade, mining, investment, aid and agriculture, politically there is diplomacy, elections and military support and socially the availability of basic necessities and soft power. These various forms of engagement have cemented the relations that are evident to day between China and Zimbabwe. Therefore, this paper is going to focus on the Sino Zimbabwe relations from 1960 up to 2015 clearly stating the trend of relations, benefits and losses to either party and above all the future of the relations.

Background of study

It is estimated that China's real gross domestic product grew at an average annual rate of 5.3% from 1960 to 1978 as the central planning economic system and government economic policies put little emphasis on profitability or competition as a result the Chinese living standards were substantially lower than those of many other developing countries. However, the change from a command based to a market based economy between 1978 and 1995 helped to fuel a strong average growth with the gross domestic product of 8% per year which remained strong from 1995 to 2000 where in 1999 became a 2nd largest economy in the world after the United State of America and this eventually translated China from an ordinary third world country into a superpower.

With the gradual transition of China into a superpower, its interests overtime also grew depicting the presence of national interests in the international system. Carr and Morgenthau advance that the purpose of state craft is national survival in a hostile environment. In this case ratification of treaties,

withdrawal from international organisation and legal and illegal interventions in various states are all done in a bid to protect and sometimes further national interest. A classic example of the presence of interests in international relations is China and Zimbabwe where Zimbabwe is using its vast resources to lure the Chinese who are in dire need of raw materials and minerals to support its growing economy in return Zimbabwe gets to keep its economy afloat through Chinese loans after the isolation from the West providing an alternative of the West to Zimbabwe.

As the international system is subject to change, so is the world order. The fall of the cold war brought to an end bipolar order and what existed became to be known as a unipolar world with United States being the only reckoned super power in every facet of life. With the changing trends of international relations and interest, the world has ceased to be unipolar but rather multi polar evidenced by the rise of the BRICS countries which are Brazil, India, China and South Africa. Although sometimes it is purported as the horse rider relationship and the West watching from the side lines Zimbabwe seems to be doing well more than that which was expected with China as its only major trading partner and donor showing that in the present day dynamic international system states need not to rely on the West only to get by but there are other states which have influenced the world order in which the world once existed.

With regards to the fact that relations in the international system are always evolving, historians and archaeologists are not certain on when China established contact with Africa. China's early involvement in Africa was primarily centred on building ideological solidarity with other under developed countries to advance Chinese style communism. China also supported movements in Africa not only moral and rhetorical support but also weapons and military training. China's Africa policy then served two main purposes: first being to counter recognition of Taiwan as the representative of China and thus leading to the ultimate rejection of Taiwan's China credentials in

the United Nations. Secondly it was to counter the West's and Soviet Union's influence on the continent.

Since there are no permanent friends or enemies in the international system attitudes towards the Chinese with particular reference to Southern Africa are not uniform. The relative influx of thousands of foreign mostly Chinese owned businesses in a tiny landlocked, poverty stricken and high rates of unemployment country of Lesotho has triggered widespread resentment as the Chinese are taking over in almost every aspect of life. Zambians seemed to share the same sentiments that the Chinese are taking over thus they are antagonistic their presence. In South Africa and Swaziland relations are fairly good. The Chinese arrived several generations ago and run businesses that fill the gaps in the market without competing with locals.

In the case of Zimbabwe, Anshan (2008) argues that experts are of the view that 138-126 BC prior to the Qin dynasty in 221-206 BC is the historical starting point of Sino Zimbabwe relations. According to Manyeruke and Mhandara (2011:87) the relationship between China and Zimbabwe dates back to over 600 years ago when the Chinese established relations with the Munhumutapa Empire based on trade and cultural exchange. Sino Zimbabwe contemporary relations date back to January 1979 during the Rhodesian Bush war where china supplied ZANU with weapons. Both parties affirm their intent to cooperate closely and Mugabe places great importance on Zimbabwe China's relations especially after the 2003 European Union standoff which resulted in capital flight and economic shutdown. Ties have deepened in-line with Zimbabwe's political isolation from EU and China has been described as Zimbabwe's 'only major international supporter' and an 'all weather friend' due to its principle of non-interference in internal affairs especially on human rights something China does not have a clean record on. It can therefore be argued that China Zimbabwe relations have been there since the colonial period.

Statement of the problem

International relations always depicts certain trends, values and interests at given times. These trends in relations evolve overtime as a result of pressing political, social and economic interests. The international system is not stagnant and this study would want to trace the evolving relations between Zimbabwe and China in a comparative manner looking at relations in the colonial and post-colonial period.

Research objectives and questions

Objectives

1. To explore and compare the Sino-Zimbabwe relations in the colonial and post-colonial period
2. To establish the interest, values and trends in relations between Zimbabwe and China during the colonial and post-colonial period.
3. To assess the benefits and losses accruing to both parties as a result of the relations

Research questions

1. What are the similarities and differences between Sino-Zimbabwe engagement during and after the colonial era?
2. Who is benefiting more from the partnership?
3. What are the benefits and losses with regards to the partnership to both China and Zimbabwe?
4. Are the trends of the relationship during the colonial period consistent with those of the post-colonial period

Significance of study

The study is of utmost significance as it extends the knowledge base that currently exist on the subject. The findings will come to the benefit of the community considering that what most people know is at face value so it is going to unearth the fact that were are living in a dynamic world where the international arena has become a battle for supremacy which is further propagated by the realist theory that there are no permanent friends and national interest take precedence at all times. Since the relevant ministry home affairs issues as not issued any policy documents with regards to the Sino-Zimbabwe relations, not much has been said on the subject thus to my fellow students, the research can be used as a reference or guide to future researches and finally to the researcher, the study will help uncover critical areas of the subject which other researchers were unable to explore and it will consult relevant sources of data which will make it a thoroughly researched paper suitable to hold out balanced arguments and knowledge pertaining to the subject matter.

Theoretical framework

This section will discuss a theory rooted in international relations which is realism. The major proponents of this theory are Carr and Morgenthau who argue that the nation state is the principal actor in world politics, the purpose of state craft is national survival in a hostile environment and that acquisition of power is, proper, rational and inevitable, they assume that force is the effective instrument of policy other instruments may be used but force is the most effective means of yielding power thus realism will be instrumental in explaining Sino Zimbabwe relations in the colonial and post-colonial period from a critical perspective.

Realists argue that national interest are at the core of any state relations. It is argued that China has three main of strategic economic interest in Africa and these are Africa as a market for China's

manufactured goods, Africa as a source of energy and finally Africa as a resource pool for raw materials to meet the demands of China's growing economy (Shelton 2001 and Alden 2005). This is also evident in the Sino-Zimbabwe relations where both countries have pursued deals which protect and further national interests. Zimbabwe uses its resources as bait to ensure economic survival and China saw the opportunity to acquire cheap raw materials and a ready market. Morgenthau (1973:5) argues that the main aim of states in the international system is the pursuit of their national interests thus due to the structure of the international system states are inherently self-interested entities with the main aim of building power so as to gain and maintain an advantage in terms of balance of power.

In international relations there are no permanent friends or enemies. This is also evidenced by China, Zimbabwe and the West's relations where China was very instrumental during the period of 1978-1980 there after it seemed to have sunk into oblivion and went on to partner with the west as China in as much as she belonged to the third world club it argued that other third world countries had no significant contribution to its growth. After nearly 20 years of relative neglect China has now shifted her attention to Africa and Zimbabwe is not an exception showing that at that time. It evidences the fact that China simply responds to what happens in the international arena that this rubbishes all that is of no significance and embracing those aspects of great benefit. Being responsive to the changing dynamics of the international environment according to Zhao (1996) is seen as a characteristic of China's foreign policy and external behaviour.

Realism proponents further argue that, moral behaviour is risky because it can undermine a state's growth as well as the ability to protect itself. Morgenthau (1972) is of the view that in order to be politically successful states cannot afford to concern themselves with questions of morality and therefore no action should be taken in the name of moralistic principles. China has validated this argument as evidenced by the fact that it quickly rushed in to fill the gap which the west had created by withdrawing from Zimbabwe in as much as China can be blamed for all the alleged wrongs it has

done the realism theory tries to explain why such actions are characteristics of the Chinese intervention and Roy (1998:229) advances that China's foreign policies have been described as "self-serving and often ruthless" basing on the realism theory it can also be said that the Chinese are not wrong but they are simply trying to survive in a hostile environment.

Realists also argue that, in the international system there is no overarching power that enforce global rules or punish bad behaviour. Although the United States tries to arbitrate on the alleged injustices which occur in the international arena through imposing sanctions, they do not yield the desired results. China came to the aid of Zimbabwe despite the disapproval of the West and China became an alternative to the west and nothing could be done to China despite the west's disapproval revealing that only the under developed states can suffer the wrath of the developed but the developed themselves cannot fight against each other as there is more to be lost than being gained from their fighting.

Conceptual framework

The fundamental components of this study are the Sino-Zimbabwe relationship rooted in the colonial and post-colonial period. Sino Zimbabwe relations can be described as the interactions between the People's Republic of China and the Zimbabwean government with particular reference to the ZANU PF party members. Through these interactions, a framework of relations is evidenced by the fact that politically there was military cooperation both during the colonial and post-colonial period and non-interference in the domestic affairs of either government has also helped to further the relations. Economically the relations are coupled by bilateral trade agreements and socially there is soft power.

Research Methodology

Research design

The research constituted qualitative approach where the design was evaluative. Blaxter (2002) is of the view that research design is a strategy or approach that the researcher uses in the execution of the research. The study mainly utilised qualitative approach because according to Doodley (1995) qualitative research methods are those that try to describe and interpret peoples' feelings and experience in human terms rather than quantification and measurement thus being suitable for the area under study.

Population and Sampling

Target population refers to the particular group relevant to a specific study thus the target population of this study were the employees of Chinese business persons, Zimbabwe's Asia desk personnel who are responsible for handling foreign issues with regards to countries from the East and my fellow students who constituted the focus group basing on the knowledge they have with regards to China and Zimbabwe and might also have felt the direct influence of Chinese activities. The research used purposive sampling which refers to the process by which a researcher selects a sample basing on the experience or knowledge of the group that is to be sampled. It was applied to identify key informants from the Zimbabwe's Asia Desk, Chinese employees and a focus group well versed with Chinese activities.

Data collection and research approach

Desk study for this research was imperative as there is not much information related to this study that has been published, the researcher also used interviews whereby the Zimbabwe Asia Desk which handles matters from the East, a focus group and those employed by the Chinese were interviewed to curb issues of attributional bias thus there are responses both from within and outside the ministry

which handles international relations. Although interviews are regarded as being expensive, the researcher found them very instrumental where there were more complex questions and low literacy levels so the issue of misinterpretation of questions was dealt with. Patton (1990) states that an interview is an art of obtaining information through asking questions. Therefore interviews and desk study were used in this research.

Data analysis

The analysis of qualitative data involves aiming to unearth or make sense of the data collected and to highlight the important messages, features or findings. Just like quantitative approach qualitative analysis involves labelling and coding of all the data so that resemblances and variances can be acknowledged nevertheless the qualitative approach does not have a coding system therefore a technique of identifying and coding data needs to be developed that is personalised for each research and this is called content analysis. Content analysis is a system for the classification of verbal or behavioural data for the purpose of sorting and summarisation. It can be used when qualitative data has been collected through interviews, focus groups, observation and documentary analysis. The data can be scrutinised on two levels that is the basic or manifest level which is a descriptive account of the data basing on what was said, but no comments or theories as to why or how and the higher or latent level which is a more interpretive analysis that is concerned with the response as well as what may have been inferred or implied. This is also advanced by Vakalisa (1995) and Chikasa (2007) they argue that the analysis of data take 3 main forms which are

- ✓ To infer meanings- those which are not necessarily spelt in data
- ✓ To link data with what the documents studied stated
- ✓ To give meaning to what was personally made of data and the researcher's own perceptions of the situation that was observed.

Ethical considerations

Ethics are a blend of well-known values and philosophies amassed by a group of people, to commendably administer their activities on a regular basis. There are various reasons why it is imperative to abide by virtuous norms in research. According to Torrington and Hall (1987) in many domains research has become an issue of ethics. In this regard ethical considerations which were used to guide this research are as follows

- ✓ Professionalism was a rule of thumb
- ✓ The researcher was not in a position to fabricate or falsify any information
- ✓ Participants were approached in public space and participation was voluntary without any form of coercion or incentive
- ✓ Safety and confidentiality of participants was upheld at all times
- ✓ Considering that issues pertaining to Zimbabwe maybe regarded as somewhat sensitive, the researcher tramped carefully to ensure that nothing in the research is to be regarded as being antagonist the Zimbabwean regime

Literature review

Literature from various sources in this segment will be related with the topic under study to give an in depth perspective to the area of study as this research doesn't exist in a vacuum as other before have dwelt upon matters surrounding this, the researcher will highlight more of what might have been left which will make the information on the assessment of the Sino Zimbabwe relations in the colonial and post-colonial period a significant study. Although China had relations with Zimbabwe in the colonial period, to be specific Zimbabwe didn't officially exist but the relation can be traced to the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the People Communist Party of China. The complexity of the re-kindling of relations with Zimbabwe

after the withdrawal of the west, is twofold despite Non Aligned Movement (NAM), it would seem that Zimbabwe's diplomatic core reverted back to the colonial masters the relation between the young state of Zimbabwe was sharing closer ties with the British in which his Excellency R.G Mugabe was knighted and shared cordial ties with Margret Thatcher until the turn of the century with the coming in of Tony Blair's labour party where relations fell through and it seems Zimbabwe defaulted back to pre-independence relations running back to China for assistance. However the relations have always been complex from the perspectives of writers and has triggered a lot of writings with mixed feelings on the Sino Zimbabwe relations and Africa as a whole.

Shelton (2001) is of the view that China's relations with Africa is predominantly based on economic interaction and Antony and Jauch (2009) further support Shelton's view by claiming that China's engagement in Africa today is less motivated by ideological considerations but are based on a commercial agenda that aims to sustain rapid industrialisation and economic growth rates. It is also argued that China's relations are based on one or all of the following strategic areas that is China's demand for oil, a potential market for China's manufactured products and lastly Africa's raw materials to which some perceive Zimbabwe being a victim of China's strategic goals number two where Chinese products have flooded the markets and number three where the minerals are at the mercy of the Chinese however what many people fail to ask is the reason why the government has decided to 'mortgage' our resources particularly diamonds this research paper does not entirely refute this but intends to delve deeper into the evidence of these bold statements that can be regarded as conjecture and it may be argued that the real problem lay with the Kimberly process to which the Zimbabwean diamonds were termed 'blood diamonds' and could not be sold on the international market and the ban was only lifted in 2013. This was a disaster to the Zimbabwean government as the resources are the source of capital and there came the Chinese who disregarded the Kimberly process and decided to buy the minerals from Zimbabwe. Both the Chinese and Zimbabwe governments saw an opportunity and seized it so either way no party should be blamed for what is

happening or what happened but the real reason which pushed them into that position is more to blame.

A more hostile stance on China comes from Gaye (2007) who argues that China is ‘a new imperial power with a colonialist project who will pretend to be a saviour to Africa, other schools of thought advance that China’s re-emergence in Africa evokes ‘visions of the second scramble’ resulting in another impending round of foreign plunder of Africa’s natural resources. This to any realist would sound very true following the line of thinking unfolding with rise and fall of the cold war, the rush to take up areas of value gaining ground. But now not on a mere ideological scale but for resources and strategic value. David Shin in the economist newspaper stated that while concealing its predatory instinct China has established partnership mainly with regimes that have been linked with human rights abuses in Africa and Zimbabwe is not an exception (the irony of international relations that pre 1970 China took a stance of shunning the imperialists subversion of African states and their ill treatment of the African people downplaying human rights, but after 1980 we find they don’t seem to care much about human rights abuses in their own country for example Tiananmen square massacre 1989 much less of the African countries they trade with exemplified by the Gukurahundi massacre of 1983 as it is richly endowed with different minerals that the Chinese are after showing that with regards to its relations with Zimbabwe, China is right where she needs to be as there are more benefits than loses.

It’s ironic today that those who claim to have fought the liberation struggle and declaring that “Zimbabwe will never be a colony again” are actually aiding the colonisation of the country by the Chinese. It is no secret that the Chinese have taken over most of the lucrative diamond and other mines and are benefitting more than the Zimbabweans who are supposed to be the beneficiaries of the country’s mineral wealth. (The Zimbabwean 26 June 2012). The true question should be what the alternative to this was, is it a problem of the Chinese or it is the capitalist system, the nation doesn’t live in a communist or socialist state where resources are exploited for the common man. However it

is a system where he who has the means of production and finances amass more, there is no difference if the mining rights had been given to an American or single individual Zimbabwean it would still be his or her individual money and profit. It is more a question of the institutions and the laws that govern these actors that will either result in a benefit or losses for the masses for example Mutumwa Mawere and his asbestos mining endeavours he still took out most of the money from the venture and invested it elsewhere. It is not a matter of who own what but it is an issue of whether they are willing to plough back the gains in what can be referred to as the multiplier effect. The benefitting part was more of the ability to replace a foreigner with somebody who is local but using Mawere as an example with regards to the quotation, he is a Zimbabwean who is no different from the Chinese he takes the profits elsewhere and the Chinese take them back to China.

President Mugabe announced in 2006 that Zimbabwe is “returning to the days when our greatest friends were the Chinese” and declared: “We look again to the East where the sun rises and no longer to the West where it sets.” ZANU-PF and the CCP enjoy close ties that were established prior to 1980 and are routinely referenced in announcements by both governments as exemplified below

At a ceremony celebrating the 25th anniversary of relations between the two countries Chinese Ambassador Chang Xianyi reiterated Beijing’s “profound fraternal relationship” with Harare and described relations as “an all-weather friendship”. At the same event Zimbabwe’s acting foreign minister Herbert Murerwa recognised that China was now Harare’s single largest investor and called for increased efforts to develop Zimbabwe’s extensive natural resources.

The above shows the perspectives of the various players in this field from both side and show the nature of their relations at least from their perspectives. This not only give an immediate depiction but creates the relationship. As further evidenced below.

When welcoming the Chinese Assistant Minister of Construction Liu Zhifeng in March 2007, Mugabe paid tribute to China for its unwavering support to Zimbabwe from the days of the liberation struggle: “To us in those days (of the liberation struggle) it was difficult to get friends just as it is difficult now, being faced by a struggle against great powers, to get friends who can support us. But you gave us all the means with which we prosecuted our struggle and I say a good friend is one who stands by you when you are in trouble”.

According to the Herald of 5 May 2010 China is accused of dumping shoddy products to Africa in general and Zimbabwe in particular. This statement depends on whose perspective it was taken from. This cannot be taken as the perspective of all the Zimbabweans as the ordinary Zimbabwean saw the Chinese as a necessary evil as they could purchase food and clothes at a cheaper price, a price they could afford. Something which became next to impossible in the 2008 period thus whether you call it dumping or not they sustained the populace which products that were tailored to the financial need of the customer which is more an interactive business model that is proactive. It seems the statement came from business people to which it can be argued that they are too close to the issue and have their vested interests in the matter with their own goods competing on the market with higher costs to production that may have been the true crime but at the time it was necessary. Thus they were unable to offer a rational objective judgement.

CHAPTER 1

Sino Zimbabwe relations during the colonial period

Introduction

There are various circumstances which can trigger a partnership. In the case of China and Zimbabwe, it all goes back to the 1970s where China offered steadfast support in the fighting against colonialism and that has culminated to the affectionate relations in the present day where just like the old times China has always come to the rescue of Zimbabwe thus being duped an “all weather friend” thus Sino Zimbabwe relations in the colonial period can be argued to have been based on mutual cooperation.

Flavour of relations

The flavour of Sino Zimbabwe relations can be well-thought-out as being cordial as both parties state that “we come from far away and we are going far away.” The infighting within Zimbabwe then Southern Rhodesia between the periods of 1960 to 1980 was taking place within the context of proxy wars and an international stage involving superpowers communist and capitalist. Capitalism being the dominant ideology was not appreciated by all China became an invaluable ally in the fight against colonialism thus creating a buffer zone against capitalism. When a civil war broke out in 1965 three factions were formed that is Zimbabwe African People’s Union (ZAPU) led by Joshua Nkomo, Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) commanded by Robert Mugabe and the Rhodesian army patroned by Ian Smith. The flavour can be traced to the relation between the parties ZANU, ZAPU and the Chinese Communist Party.

The peak of the China Zimbabwe relations that we see today manifested itself when China helped ZANU after its ideological rivalry Russia decided to support ZAPU. The People’s Daily of July 15

2003 reported, 'relations between China and Zimbabwe started in the days of the liberation struggle in the African country when China aided the liberation fighters in various ways.' The People's Republic of China argued that the racism and economic exploitation tendencies which were practiced by Smith's regime were a vital part of the western philosophy and standards which it was intensely contrary to as a consequence it sought to help Zimbabwe fight against colonialism. Mpofu et al (2009) contends that the victory against interventionism in Zimbabwe is thus accredited partially to the assistance of the Chinese dogma. It is from this background that the relationship between the two countries were cemented as the Chinese are alleged as having been around throughout the battle for sovereignty.

Trend of relations

In terms of the trend of relations during the colonial period were basically political where mutual cooperation is evidenced. There was not much activity between China and Zimbabwe as China then did not have the resources such as those of the cold war powers save for the fact that China was fighting an ideological war with the Soviet rivalry and they tried to settle these differences through supporting rivalry parties in Zimbabwe which are ZANU and ZAPU. Also China tried to phase out capitalism and extend its influence thus the moral and technical support was established to set the pace and trend in which Sino Zimbabwe relations would follow.

Technical support. The trend of the Sino Zimbabwe relations can be regarded as progressive evinced by the technical support which was offered to ZANU. According to Xinhua news of 19 July 2007 stated that a large number of Zimbabwe's senior officials and military commanders including the legendary war hero General Josiah MagamaTongogara received training in China. In addition to General Josiah Tongogara, Christopher Mutsvangwa, Frederick Shava, Lloyd Mbombogundu, Menard NegidiMugari, Commissioner General Augustine Chihuri, Brigadier General Rodelio Lifa , Vice Air Marshal PerrenceShiri, Vice Air Mashall Sheba Shumbayaonda, Director Elias Kanengoni,

Minister Sidney Sekeramai and Assistant Commissioner Winston Zindoga Museve Changara were all unquestionably trained in, China evidenced by the song ‘nziradzemasojadzekuzvibata’ composed by the Assistant Commissioner Changara which was adopted as the Zimbabwean Defence Forces anthem which was derived from Mao Tse-tung’s “three main points of discipline and eight points of attention.” This is substantiated by the article in the Herald Zimbabwe of November 24, 2015 which stated that the first group of recruitment went to China for a six month training in military science on September 22 1963 which was led by Emmerson Mnangagwa, the second group went for further training as instructors in 1965 and in 1966 Cde Tongogara led a group of 11 to the Nanjing Academy in Beijing where they were trained in mass mobilisation, tactics and strategy.

A cost benefit analysis is the outright basis for any partnership. During the periods of 1960-1980 it can be argued that Zimbabwe was the one to benefit from the partnership. The Chinese assistance was centred on a socialist stance which sought to eliminate all forms of mistreatment and discrimination, support was given on a principled vision that one day imperialism would become a thing of the past world over for that reason the Chinese dream and that of our pro-autonomy activists converged making it possible to fight and win against British imperialism. The Chinese together with the ZANU members fought for a common effect thus Zimbabwe significantly benefited.

In an effort to ensure that Rhodesia gains independence, China provided the bulk of weapons needed by ZANLA (ZANU’s military arm) which might also have been the reason why ZANU rushed to China for help as there was the need to try and match the weapons of its adversaries. Due to lack of resources ZANU was incapacitated that there was need for an external supply thus the Chinese supplied the arsenal. Chun (2014) is of the view that, China Zimbabwe military relations were forged in the twilight days of the liberation struggle when China supplied ZANU with training and weapons. It should be noted that statistics of weapons which the liberation fighters possessed are those that were obtained from the military reports from the frontlines or in caches for example the Mapapai raid report otherwise no formal document has been released to the public which has the actual number of

weapons which were supplied by the Chinese. However on the list was the type -58 SKS rifle carbine, AK 47, RPG7, Tokarev, star pistol, Chinese stick grenades (potato mashers) and motors. Therefore, it is clear that ZANU did not settle for Beijing without an ulterior motive evidenced by Zimbabwe's need for weapons and the supply by China making the battle for self-determination possible.

Through the CCP's support, ZANU was provided with a prototypical strategy of military engagement. The Maoist guerrilla warfare strategy was adopted by ZANLA after the failure of the 1960 incursions. Bhebe (2014) ZANU proceeded with the three stages of guerrilla warfare which were outlined by Mao Tse-tung first the enemy is on the offensive, second the guerrilla takes the offensive third and finally was the stalemate period. According to Lan (1985) it was under Chinese tutorship that ZANLA's strategy underwent a fundamental transformation from conventional military tactics to the Maoist model which entailed mass mobilisation of the population. At the hand of the Chinese, there was a transition from ZANU being chaotic to being highly organised party revealing that ZANU had a lot to learn from China.

Amongst other combat benefits ZANU was also supplied with some curative packages. Every army has a medic call and the ZANLA army was not an exception where there was a brigade dedicated for that and it was supplied with drugs like morphine, penicillin and bandages amongst other things. The medical capability was enhanced by the Chinese evidenced by Doctor Sidney Sekeramai who managed to operate on a wounded soldier on the battle field. The rationale behind seeking Chinese help was for ZANU to be capacitated in the fight for independence.

For the Chinese, they might not have been able to further communism as planned but it simply gained exposure as China was on the periphery of international politics and by helping ZANU it was simply trying to gain mileage and support. Melville and Owen (2005) are of the view that China used its own legacy of colonial aggression and experience of liberation to forge links with African nation

states emerging from colonial rule as in the 1960s China lacked resources of the cold war powers but still invested significant energies in support of the independence of Africa. It can therefore be said that both parties had something to benefit out of the colonial period relations.

Moral support. Colonial period relations between China and Zimbabwe was also characterised by moral support. The Chinese were against capitalism which is the furthest reach of imperialism thus they decided to help other developing countries from their oppressors through aid. The then Chairman of the Organisation of African Union Liberation Committee Colonel Mbita was responsible for receiving funds on behalf of the OAU to be channelled towards the liberation of Southern Rhodesia, Angola and Mozambique and it is assumed that China must have donated money towards the emancipation of Zimbabwe then Rhodesia. According to the Herald Zimbabwe of 2015 China's support to the OAU liberation committee and the liberation movements continued for more than 30 years until the end of apartheid in South Africa in 1994.

With particular reference to China which is strongly communist it sought to contest capitalism and promote communism so did Russia when it supported ZAPU. Evidencing that in the international arena assistance will never be given just for the sake of helping without a motive so the main drive behind China's technical assistance could have been to impart communist ideologies there by phasing out capitalist ideals as is it argued that ZANU adopted Chinese warfare ideologies, weapons and even slogans.

There is an old adage which argues that, 'one cannot bite the hand that feeds him' this has been evidenced by Zimbabwe's steadfast support for China in the international arena for instance the refusal to take part in the anti-China campaign over the Tiananmen square saga. Through China's assistance in the fight against imperialism and non-intervention policy in the domestic affairs of other sovereign states, it has won the hearts of many African leaders as it is argued that Africa has

the greater number of states signatory to various international institutions that with the support of Africa alone Zimbabwe included, China has an upper hand.

Burnell and Randall (2008) Napoleon stated that 'China is a sleeping giant, let her sleep for when she awakens she will astound the world'. Revealing that China might not have had the resources like the cold war powers but was in the process of transition therefore it cannot be disputed that Sino Zimbabwe relations are coupled by self-interests after all the realism champions maintain that a state's primary concern is self-preservation.

Chapter Summary

In a nutshell it can be argued that the Sino Zimbabwe relations were based on mutual cooperation evidenced by the Chinese technical and moral support extended to ZANU where it had a lot to learn with regards to war engagement rules. Both countries had something to benefit out of the partnership as Zimbabwe got military weapons, curative packages, combat strategies and financial aid. China found a gap in which capitalism would be countered and gained support of many third world countries Zimbabwe included.

CHAPTER 2

Sino Zimbabwe relations during the post-colonial period.

Introduction

China as an old friend and ally continues to come to the rescue of Zimbabwe where with the turn of the new millennium Zimbabwe's economy nose-dived caused by the reprimand of the West where donors withdrew their support both commercially and economically. Battling with its isolation there had to be an alternative which was going to be used to correct all the wrongs which were being succumb to thus the Chinese became an object of attention by being a saviour in Zimbabwe's trying times cementing the relations between Beijing and Harare which are evidenced politically by elections, diplomacy and military engagements. Economically the partnership is shown by trade, mining, aid, investment and agriculture and socially there is the use of soft power.

Flavour of relations

It can be argued that the relations between China and Zimbabwe have always been cordial. Through China's non-interfere in the internal affairs of its allies has won the hearts of many African leaders with Zimbabwe not being an exception. China offered economic and political support when other powers had turned their backs and disowned Zimbabwe. China's support saw several trading arrangements, aid, loans, investments and diplomatic support in the international fora being extended to Zimbabwe.

Communism failed to fulfil its promises and capitalism was more of a delayed match in newly independent states like Zimbabwe which wanted sustainable development thus Zimbabwe reverted to its colonisers where she was given different forms of aid at the expense of China. With the turn of

the new millennium China was more established and on its way to a super power status that Zimbabwe's fallout with the West gave China renewed strength to engage with Zimbabwe thus the relations were rekindled. It is stated that China's interests are evidenced by its support for those countries which according to Chisi (2013) are 1. Those with considerable political clout and whose friendship is crucial to external countries to have influence on the continent, 2 those with considerable natural resource endowments especially those that are crucial to China's strategic interests, 3 those recovering from conflict and where post-war reconstruction activities have brought in an array of external factors and 4 those whose leadership has acquired a controversial or even pariah status that has ostracised it from the west. With reference to these indicators, Zimbabwe fits in numbers 2& 3 showing that it is not immune to the reach of the Chinese as they try to ensure that they meet the demands of its growing industry.

The major drive towards the rekindled Sino Zimbabwe relations is attributed to the bitter test of relations between the West and European Union evidenced by Zimbabwe's withdrawal from the commonwealth but this was not without repercussions as any form of aid ceased there and then that an alternative means which was going to ensure survival had to be sought thus Zimbabwe turned to China which happened to be the only option at that given time so with particular reference to Zimbabwe, the partnership had was about economic survival. For China her propaganda ensured that she got support from African allies to advance Chinese interests as Africa is the birthplace for all the minerals, raw materials and the markets to which all the three aspects can be combined to support China's growing industry.

[Trend of Sino Zim relations](#)

There are various indicators which can be used to reveal the multi-faceted Sino Zimbabwe relationship in the post-colonial period showing a transition from the colonial period and these are as follows

Political indicators

Elections

It is argued that the Chinese have always upheld a non-interventionist policy in the domestic affairs of its allies but if the Chinese involvement in Zimbabwe's elections falls short of intervention, then nothing and absolutely nothing deserves to be regarded as intervention. On face value it is argued that the Chinese provided t-shirts in support of ZANU PF's electoral campaign but in actual fact there is more to it. Courtesy of the Chinese Communist Party in 2008, there was voter intimidation strategy laid out by the Chinese which according to the 100 Reporters New Journalism for a New Age it 1. Tied land rights in the perimeter of urban areas to card carrying membership in Mugabe's ruling party. An intelligence agency document stated that "absolute neutralization of the enemy is recommended when necessary," 'Hostile votes will lead to loss of land entitlement' 2. It is argued that some CIO documents argued that Zimbabwe's current sitting head of state's patrons in the Chinese Communist Party provided and installed short wave jammers to disrupt "enemy radio stations domiciled in hostile areas" like Studio 7 and updated out dated jamming equipment, particularly for use in rural areas and 3 the strategy called for security forces to deploy thousands of armed young men. One document stated that apart from the army put on standby, over 35000 youth were trained and deployed to the areas expected to vote against the president. Another intelligence document stated that they were supposed to be armed with assault rifles to aid mobilisation and stem resistance." Upon questioning the Chinese Communist Party did not respond to the questions asked via email or fax and the Chinese embassy in Zimbabwe followed suit. Arguably lack of response signifies the admission of guilt had the accusations been false, Chinese response was going to be damaging on the Harare Beijing relations. The benefits for the Chinese in all this was the advancement of a one party state which was one of its aims when it intervened in Zimbabwe's fight for self-determination and to ensure that their investments are secure there by avoiding a scenario where at one case in point where Tony Blair's government revoked all the agreements and benefits

which were directed to Zimbabwe by Margret Thatcher's government saying that they could not be held accountable for the promises made by a former government in light of this, a regime change was detrimental to China thus supporting ZANU PF in every possible way within its reach.

Diplomacy

The diplomatic relations between China and Zimbabwe is evidenced by state visits. As of 2015 President Mugabe had visited China eleven times where as fellow head of state and alleged “ will be economic saviour” Xi Jinping has only been in Zimbabwe once that is 1 December 2015 on a 1 day visit ever since Zimbabwe's independence. Clearly one can argue that the visit was more of a damage control mechanism after Xi Jinping was castigated over his exclusion of Zimbabwe on his previous Africa's visit because Zimbabwe did not possess the required resources which prompted his visit thus it might also be safe to say that China does not care about Zimbabwe's well-being but only its resources thus purporting the irony of the phrase “all weather friend.”

Military hardware supply

The Chinese supplied military gear before that is during the colonial period and are doing it again in the post-colonial period evidenced by their supply in 2004 and 2008 respectively. With particular reference to the post-colonial period after the European Union's Zimbabwe arms embargo China exploited the opportunity and became the sole supplier of weapons. According to the SABC news between 2005 and 2006 the Zimbabwean government bought 12 aircrafts, bullets, rifles, antiriot gear and other military gear and the Voice of America is of the view that the Zimbabwean National Army is believed to have procured 127 trucks worth US\$1.2 million were also bought from China. As the lone investor in Zimbabwe, China is guaranteed that whenever Zimbabwe wants to purchase in terms of military hardware, she will run to China. It might not be too often but Beijing has Harare as a guaranteed source of income which could be it in cash or kind. This was not out of good will but China established a market for itself as it is known to capitalise on countries suffering from the

effects of war or anything that can help create markets for its produced and finished products. Zimbabwe's isolation from the international arena provided the perfect setting for China to exploit it thus China won a market for military hardware under the guise of an 'all weather friend.'

Economic indicators

Trade

Trade amongst other indicators evidences the trend of relations between China and Zimbabwe. According to the National Bureau of China there has been a transition on the trade between China and Zimbabwe since the 1990s where it was \$52.2 million in 1996, \$275.25 million in 2005, \$874.37 million in 2011 with the highest being 1.1 billion as of 2013. It is evident that in all the investments China is set to benefit where in most cases she is repaid with what is duped the 'gold leaf' where China immensely benefits from its lower prices but getting huge profits after its processing evidenced by the fact that China is the world's largest cigarette manufacturer supplying the world's largest cigarette market and it is stated that a state owned China Tobacco produced 2,5 trillion and its nearest competitor Phillip Morris produced 880 billion cigarettes. Zimbabwe does not have medium of exchange which can increase its bargaining power as evidenced by the negative balance of payment being recorded in some instances. It is clear that China is the one which benefits more from the trade than Zimbabwe because Zimbabwe exports raw materials and in turn gets costly processed goods or the substandard Chinese products where China will be getting more profits from Zimbabwe's under-priced raw materials.

Investment

In a bid to try and resuscitate and stimulate the economic development of Zimbabwe the Chinese are also seen investing in Zimbabwe's various sectors with the hope that it will pave way for resource transfer and access to new skills and technologies. Investment and aid are also seen as part of the

Sino Zimbabwe relations where in 2004 there were only three Chinese companies but the number grew to sixty two as of May 2011 evidenced by interviews conducted by fellow researchers in May 2011. It is argued that China's investment in Zimbabwe rose by more than 5000% between the period of 2009-2013 where annual foreign direct investment rose from 11.2 million in 2009 to 602 million in 2013. There was need to balance risk and reward to which Zimbabwe lacked bargaining power and had to take what came to the table reasonable or not the economy needed to be resuscitated although it is evident that the partnership purports a horse rider relationship.

Agriculture

As the world's leading consumer of tobacco, China made significant investments to the local tobacco sector, China Tobacco Import & Export Corporation establishing Tianze in 2005 which has extended US \$100million worth interest-free loans, it is also argued that most Zimbabwean tobacco growers lack capital and are not techno savvy Tianze was there to bridge the gap and subsequently developed the contract-farming business and the corporation was also instrumental in stabilising the market prices. Stanislaus Zindiye states that there are also a number of Chinese companies within the agricultural sector like Hubei Agricultural Reclamation Company, Shandong Dezhou Shuangfeng Cotton Industry Company, Shandong Jinfang Cotton Industry Company, Sinotex and China CAMC Engineering Company which are vigorously improving agricultural co-operation in Zimbabwe but at a cost.

Mining

The Chinese continue to show a growing concern in the vast mineral resources. Africa as the current birth place of most of the world's resource base Zimbabwe included means that any economic policy holds Africa as key, thus as a rising economic and political power China had to counter the Americans and their neo colonialist drive to grab Africa in a bid secure its interests, future resources and market for its now endless supply of goods. This becomes the main drive for China's foreign

policy. Zimbabwe is endowed with particularly, steel, iron, chrome, diamonds and platinum. Beginning of November 2004 Harare and Beijing signed several pacts concerning the mining sector. Stifung (2004) is of the view that one of the agreements constituted the basis for the establishment of a joint venture with the China North Industries Corporation (Norinco) and other agreement provided exploration rights to a group of Chinese experts who would carry out a study on the mineral resources in Zimbabwe. The mining sector is a victim of clandestine activities with authorities stating that there are quite a number of Chinese companies most of which are not documented but are operational for example Dongfeng Pvt Ltd showing that through lack of proper follow up procedures resources are being plundered thus disrupting the principle of sustainable development as the business people are after profits. In as much as the big wigs say we are benefiting from Chinese mining endeavours in Zimbabwe companies like Anjin Investments in Chiadzwa reveal the contrary. Locals have been employed on a low skilled jobs basis where their wages range to at most \$300 compared to Mbada diamond's \$1000 per month for the lowest paid individual and in addition to that the company brings its personnel for high skilled jobs giving the impression that Zimbabweans are not knowledgeable enough to take up such responsibilities. Also Anjin stands accused of using coercive labour relations where the workers advanced that they are not allowed to claim over time but are sometimes called to report for duty even on their off days disregarding the Zimbabwe Labour Act provision which requires a day off for every seven days of continuous work. The Chinese came into a foreign nation instead of following all the regulatory statutes promptly, they are following the Chinese style growth strategies and since nothing is done with regards to their abuses, they seem to be above the law.

Aid

In international relations aid is referred to as the transfer of resources from one country to the other. With the turn of the new millennium Zimbabwe saw various forms of aid being direct to her from the rising super power China where according to Muzondidya (2011.14) in 2005 humanitarian aid was

given to Zimbabwe where 3000 tonnes of maize were donated to alleviate the chronic food shortages which were being experienced. In 2015 Zimbabwe faced an El Nino induced drought which prompted the Chinese to donate rice worth US \$ 24 million. According to ambassador Ping China was going to provide and donate rice worth US \$ 24, 6 million as emergency food aid. This is the reason why the Chinese are given first preference in all activities and they have found a way to safeguard its investments through throwing off its money and if Zimbabwe is to disregard China it would be a grave mistake as evidenced by an adage which states that 'one cannot bite the hand that feeds him' and theoretically Zimbabwe is feeding on China's hands. Financially according to the Herald Zimbabwe, the China Development Bank promised to financial aid and a possible currency swap where Zimbabwe will adopt the remnimbi as a way of trying to revive the economy and it was said to have provided official development aid through grants and concession loans. This is not different from the conditionality's of the West as some people stated that it first stated with the language adoption and now the currency, this clearly shows that Zimbabwe is heading toward a new and other colonisation just like that of the West which all started with language embracing. US \$ 100 million was pledged to purchase medical equipment for more than 90 hospitals and clinics across the country. in most cases the medical equipment are Chinese made showing that the Chinese are not giving anything to Zimbabwe because it gets money and goes on to purchase equipment from where the money came from technically the Chinese are retaining their money but finding other ways of keeping an iron grip on Zimbabwe. A couple of years ago China supplied medical equipment to Parirenyatwa a Zimbabwean capital city based hospital to which none of the medical staff could operate thus calling for Chinese technicians revealing that, in one way or the other the Chinese are stuck in Zimbabwe.

Social indicators

Soft power

Zimbabwe is also benefiting from China's soft power. A number of Zimbabwean students are given scholarships to study in China where according to the Herald Zimbabwe newspaper in 2014 there were 17 government sponsored scholarships which increased to 27 in 2015. There are also independent Chinese companies like Greater Scarlet Heights with the zeal to promote China Zimbabwe relations through soft power which is defined as the non-coercive means of attracting attention. The use of soft power thus reveals that China is benefitting from the extension its influence as a growing superpower and Zimbabwe is benefitting through education.

Basic necessities availability

At the peak of Zimbabwe's economic hardship China proved to be a lesser devil to not having access to basic necessities as most of the people could not purchase upmarket products thus the cheap Chinese goods were of great help where majority of the Zimbabwean could afford to purchase food and clothes revealing that from a business perspective, their presence was disastrous but to the have-nots they were a blessing.

Social amenities provision

Zimbabwe has also benefitted from the provision of social amenities like the building of the national sports and magamba hockey stadiums as well as the Chinhoyi hospital and Mahusekwa growth point hospital. Most people can now access medical services readily evidenced by the hospitals especially in the case of Mahusekwa residents who would talk long distances to get to the nearest health facilities. However those that are sceptical of the Chinese involvement advance that they do not want to invest in the economically sustainable assets because they are only here to benefit from Zimbabwe

at the expense of the Zimbabwean thus stating that they have to shift from focusing on corporate social responsibility which is not sustainable to sustainable corporate economic responsibility.

Costs and benefits of the Sino Zimbabwe partnership

There are a plethora of demerits associated with the Beijing Harare relations. In as much as China claims that just like other developing countries she belongs to the “third world club” it is evident that the core periphery relations are harboured within the south-south cooperation.

Economic costs of the Sino Zimbabwe Partnership

Loss of livelihoods. According to the Zimbabwe Competition Act (chapter 14.28) the Competition Commission section 4 part 2 has the authority and legal mandate to investigate monopoly situation and to prevent such scenarios in an effort to protect “public interest” however there is a loophole to which the aspect of “public interest is not clearly defined thus failing to closely monitor the trend of investment has become detrimental to Zimbabwe where the Chinese traders are not there to fill in the void which has been left by the economic hardship being faced by many Zimbabweans so instead of complementing the markets, they are drastically destroying the livelihoods of those who have come to depend on the informal sector. According to Chigora and Dhehwa (2009) in 2004 estimation brought to 30 000 the number of directly threatened jobs to which the number has increased significantly. The regulation’s failure to address small enterprises and individual entrepreneurs has proved to be detrimental especially to those in the informal sector.

Loss of capital through lack of uniform application of regulation statutes. Selective application of regulatory edicts is a great loss to Zimbabwe with particular reference to the mining sector where the Chinese are exempted from following the requirements of the indigenisation policy yet mining is Zimbabwe’s honey pot. Zimbabwe largely rely on its minerals for survival and the Chinese happen to be the greatest exploiters ever seen where the minerals are being exploited in their abundance.

Chapter 14.33 of the Indigenisation Policy states that all foreign owned companies with the threshold exceeding \$ 500000 to cede 51% to Zimbabweans however the then Minister who was responsible for the policy implementation according to Chibaya (2012) stated that “the Chinese company Tianze, we gave them 100% ownership, why? This is because they have brought in millions and sub contracted our farmers in this country” showing that the same inequalities within the Commonwealth which forced President Mugabe into withdrawing and likening them to the novel Animal farm is deep rooted in our own country to which the major exploiters are left to enjoy the benefits without any multiplier effect. According to the Institute for West Asian and African Studies (IWAAS) researchers (2012) the laws are viewed as too high a standard to be met by Chinese investors pointing out that their own country does not require high standards. It is a major drawback when business becomes charity because just like the Chinese, Zimbabweans are out to make money. By excluding the Chinese major companies from the indigenisation statutes is costing Zimbabwe a lot of capital which might be used for economic resuscitation and advancement

Human capital exploitation. It is believed that the way Zimbabwean workers are being treated by the Chinese was adopted from the Chinese labour culture where in their system, workers do not have any rights and their worth was reduced to that of slaves. For the sake of confidentiality and security, names of the Chinese employees were withheld and the researcher published the names of those who did not mind the spotlight and these were interviewed by fellow researchers. China prohibits the existence or formation of independent trade unions living All-China Federation of Trade Union as the lone representative of Chinese employees in this regard the Zimbabweans working for the Chinese are not allowed to join or form trade unions as evidenced by one article in the Newsday Zimbabwe newspaper of 2010 which argue that one Chinese employee stated that ‘the boss clearly told us that even if we report anywhere nothing would be done to him because Chinese are in good books with the government’ and Samson Taruvinga from Chitungwiza had to quit his job at a Chinese owned Willowvale Industrial area bakery due to deprived operational circumstances on the

record he was argued to have stated that “ these people are slave masters and they use fear to intimidate workers...some of the things are unbelievable. I saw a man being slapped for failing to account for just a dollar.” In another case Susan Matema a former employee for one Chinese entrepreneur stated that she worked for \$4 per day and worked 26 days a month where they were often being accused of being thieves thus she had to quit. In their defence on behalf of all Chinese business people Cheng Li a shop owner in Harare claimed that all those complaints were false accusations aimed at ruining the cordial relations that exist between Harare and Beijing. According to Newsday Zimbabwe concerns have been raised to the Ministry of Labour where former labour minister PaurinaMpariwa sent out a task force to investigate on the issue of abuse but just like any other sensitive issues the issues died a natural death and it was never had of. ‘Our government has behaved like a desperado, casting a blind eye on the abuse of labour laws and ignoring labour unions which made noise about the abuses because there is a horse and rider relationship with Zimbabwe being ridden by China’ that is according to Alexander Rusero (Zimbabwe political analyst) who goes on to argue that the concern now becomes on how fellow Zimbabweans are being treated in the long run the number of dependants will keep increasing beyond the capability of the government thus further straining the already dying economy.

Lack of bargaining power. Solutions from to our ailing economy should come from within because if we depend on outside powers as we are given limited options where they can only do what is beneficial to them a classic example is the adoption of the Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) these ensured that our economy dies a slow and painful death because they were a one size fits all so if the Zimbabwean economy is to survive the current phase, solutions must come from within. It is the same with the Chinese every transaction with them is repaid with minerals to which they have a higher value than the capital which would have been injected into our economy. According to Newsday Zimbabwe of December (2015) Fay Chung argued that Mugabe should look for a solution

to problems than n pile on the look East Policy where she stated that Zimbabwe like many other African countries is highly donor dependant, suffering from the concept . We are too poor to refuse anything. This is a recipe for disaster. Despite them pouring huge amounts of money in the agriculture, energy, mining “the Zimbabwe look East policy has not been supported by more specific and realistic strategies... until and unless Zimbabwe uses what little resources it has more judiciously for developmental purposes rather than for short-term political support, it will fail to develop. It is totally unsound to expect development to come from the East or West development will come from internal drives.’’

Non-compliance to regulatory statutes. This has proved to be fatal to the Zimbabwean economy as the authorities cannot keep track of the activities on the ground. Some scholars argue that Chinese small scale investors are required to register their businesses, after which very little, if anything is known about them, as there are no official updates on the register. If businesses activities shift to other more lucrative endeavors this will be unknown to the authorities and most of these small businesses have been known to occupy most of Harare’s business centers. The fact that the Chinese are not accountable to their actions means it Zimbabwe which suffers the consequences of non-performing investments thus a loss to the economy.

Supply of substandard goods. It is argued that Zimbabwe bought 2 MA60 aircrafts and the Zimbabwe United Passenger Company (ZUPCO) acquired 135 conventional buses and 41 mini buses from China. However by the end of 2008 none of the buses seemed to be functional and 1 of the MA60 never left the ground. This is a loss with regards to Zimbabwe considering the economic hardship being faced, the asserts should be sustainable but just like other money hoarding scheme, transport sector was out to bleed Zimbabwe dry as the authority will be forced to keep purchasing items like buses in an effort to upgrade the transport system, through supplying substandard goods China has gained a market which can ensure that Zimbabwe directs money to.

Political costs of the relationship

Further isolation from the international arena. As if being shunned by the international community over the land reform and alleged human rights abuses was on enough, Zimbabwe continues with activities that attract international condemnation making it difficult to reconcile with the west as it is evident that the 'Look China Policy' has drastically failed to revive our economy. It is alleged that Zimbabwe went on to trade in endangered species further evoking international wrath. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species prohibits the sale of ivory but it is alleged that Zimbabwe purchased military gear and paid it with 30 tonnes of ivory directly contradicting the statutes of the convention. AllAfrica news stated that the matter had to be investigated upon. The fact that Zimbabwe failed to hid the future by addressing imminent problems using 'the forbidden fruit' is detrimental to the ordinary Zimbabweans, the politicians and the country as whole as the politicians lose credibility and ordinary citizens become victims of circumstances.

Lack of transparency. There is no information and nobody is willing to open up on what is done to the Chinese citizens after several misconducts would have been reported like issues of abuse and flaunting laws amongst others. This raises a question on whether there is or has been a single Chinese in the Zimbabwean prisons. However the researcher has discovered that the Chinese seem to be getting some special treatment which is non-existent to the Zimbabwean and in the event that they are tried in Zimbabwean courts no information will be availed to show how the case was dealt with. By lacking transparency, the government is giving the Chinese the yardstick to do as they please knowing that nothing comes out of the inquiry into their affairs.

Environmental costs

Plundering of wetlands. Through the 1971 Ramsar Convention where Zimbabwe became a signatory in 2011 there are some areas which were declared as important as it was discovered that global wetlands were threatened and global interventions have been sought which has seen some rivers

and sites being deemed as Wetlands of International Importance under the convention. The major problem is on the fact that ‘some’ not all and this does not mean that those which are not mentioned in the convention are of less importance and do not serve the same purpose as those which are not internationally protected. This has caused the erection of infrastructure on least expected places like the Chinese Long Cheng Plaza where the rationale of it being erected on wetlands lacks transparency and some environmentalists lament that, that particular move is going to have an unfavorable impact on water supply in Harare. One can say that if our leaders choose to disregard the issue of sustainable development in the name of cordial relations the foreigners themselves do not see the value of compliance.

Disregarding sustainable development. Carrying out environmental impact assessments (EIAs) is central to development and that is according to the International Environmental Law and this is further supported by Zimbabwe’s Environmental Management Act (Chapter 20:27) which subscribes that all large-scale mining operations require EIAs before commencing their operations. EIAs show the potential environmental, economic, social and cultural threats of operations. It is said that mining companies like Tianze, Anjin and Dongfeng only carried out EIAs after the Environmental Management Agency raised concern that the law was being flouted and these were for the sake of formality as they were not properly carried out. To date no formal environmental audits have been conducted by the Zimbabwean officials to check on the implementation of the EIAs as they lack resources. In addition to that, there is the issue of the polluter pay’s principle where by the polluters are asked to compensate for their pollution but it can be argued that it is an anti-thesis for environment as those with money would have been given the greenlight to pollute. Anjin in Chiadzwa was fined \$ 14 000 by EMA for polluting the environment but one can argue that this is next to useless as no money can undo any damage done to the environment above all EMA’s polluter pay’s principle is not punitive enough.

Benefits to either party as a result of the partnership

It would be unjust for the research if it goes without saying that there are some merits associated with the Sino Zimbabwe partnership. Both parties had something to benefit out of the partnership.

Economic benefits

Investments security. With the Chinese, every partnership is like a chase game where they think of the moves way ahead before the commencement of a game. Through the 18 year old Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) signed between the Harare and Beijing. The rising super power's government has secured its investments that whatever happens the odds will be tilted in their favour evidenced by the Chinese ambassador Huang Ping's response over the Chiadzwa scandal. According to DailyNews Zimbabwe of March 2016 he stated that "We hope that the Zimbabwean side would earnestly safeguard the interests of the Chinese companies and employees, according to the local laws and the Agreement on the encouragement and reciprocal protection of investments between China and Zimbabwe." The Chinese also have the audacity to drag the government to court due to a halt of operations thus putting to shame the International Economic Law which argues that a state has the right to protect its resources and the right to control foreign investments. If Zimbabwe is now being dragged to court for protecting what is rightfully hers then the whole world we might as well resort to primitive methods of survival where individuality.

Ready market. Although being duped as 'fongkongs' or 'zhingzhongs' Chinese products despite their poor quality, have always found a ready market and they have proved to be way cheaper than the locally produced ones. This is evidenced by the fact that those who are in the same industry with them always cry foul as people always opt for what it cheaper. The Chinese have supplied weapons, medical equipment and building supplies amongst other things revealing that there is a guaranteed market in Zimbabwe.

Infrastructure development. Zimbabwe is benefiting from infrastructure development. According to Aschauer's study there is a positive and statistically significant correlation between investment in infrastructure and economic performance where investment in infrastructure not only increases the quality of life but also has a positive impact on both labour and multifactor productivity. To some extent the Chinese have proved to be a necessary evil through infrastructure development as evidenced by the Chinhoyi provincial and Mahusekwa growth point hospitals, national sports stadium, long Cheng Plaza shopping mall in Harare and Mutare as well as school like the Daniel academy in Hatcliffe, a national defence college and an agreement was reached with Avik International, for the construction of kunzvi dam in November 2012 amongst others. It can be argued that these are facilities necessary for human growth in the case of hospitals, the longevity of life has been increased through easy access to hospitals where people can get medical attention. It appears that the Chinese have a tendency of investing in corporate social responsibility aspects which are not sustainable like the national sports stadium which currently need a serious renovation unlike investing in corporate economic responsibility which is sustainable revealing that Chinese are here to the Zimbabwe as nation but are here to profit at its expense.

Political benefit

Gained support in international organisations. It is argued that African allies area important to China as they offer support on the international arena like the world trade organisation and the United Nations where Chinese presence is evolving drastically. Thorough its policy of non-interference of the internal issues of its allies and the concept of mutual benefit helped China to gunner African support. Versi (2006) is of the view that Africa is definitely part of the Chinese global strategic concern because she has the single largest bloc of votes in the United Nations and World Trade Organisation. The West's fallout with China was as a result of the 1989 Tiananmen Square scandal which resulted in China being shunned by the West and sought African support on human rights

issues at international conferences to which Zimbabwe openly supported and justified Beijing's actions.

Chapter Summary

It can be argued that there was a change of engagement in the post-colonial period as evidenced by the fact that Chinese presence is being felt in every aspect of Zimbabwe's politics evidenced by elections, diplomacy, military hardware supply and military training. Economically China is involved in trade, mining, agriculture, aid and investment and socially there is the use of soft power and the availability of basic needs. However there are more demerits than merits as Zimbabwe is at the losing end of every transaction as evidenced by its desperation and settling for China as its only shot to survival and Zimbabwe is not at liberty to negotiate for better deals validating assumptions of other writers who argue that Sino Zimbabwe relations purport a horse rider relationship.

CHAPTER 3

Similarities and differences between the Sino Zimbabwe relations in the colonial and post-colonial period.

Introduction

Sino-Zimbabwe relations can be evidenced qualitatively through aid received from the former, trade between the two countries, polling outcomes in the United Nations Security Council meetings, reciprocating visits, military exchanges and cultural agreements. Over the years these have shown significant transition some through diversification showing that there are some similarities and differences between Beijing and Harare's relations during pre and post-independence period. Similarities are seen on the aspect of mutual assistance rather, military support, ideological vacillation and China serving as an alternative to failed efforts of Zimbabwe. Differences are also evident in the sense that there is diversification of aid, the growth of China into a superpower, castigations over gross human rights abuses and the breach of the non-interventionist policy and the future of Sino Zimbabwe relations determined by the leadership status of Zimbabwe, audit into the mining sector, visits exchanged and the aspirations by Zimbabwe to adopt the yuan.

Similarities between the colonial and post-colonial period

Political indicators

China as an alternative option to Zimbabwe's failed efforts. By analogy China has proved to be an alternative cleft for Zimbabwe to run to when things take a turn for the worst both in the colonial and post-colonial period. It is argued that it was after the rejection and non-recognition of liberation movements leaned to Maoism by the Africa Asia People's Solidarity Movement that China came to ZANU's aid through the OAU liberation committee. In turn providing military aid by seconding military instructors at Mbeya, Morogoro, Itumbi and other camps in Tanzania were ZANLA

guerrillas were trained. This is also evidenced by the turn of the new millennium where Zimbabwe once a darling of the West was disowned by the west whom she was becoming a darling. It is ironic that one is called an 'all weather friend' is taken for an alternative where it is argued that, it was only when Russia refused to assist ZANU that it turned to China come independence, they abandoned her and went for the British ties and suits, shopping at the prestigious Saville Row and Harrods of London. It took the West's disowning of Zimbabwe where they could no longer afford to drink tea together in London that the Zimbabwean government reverted to the Chinese again and started shopping at Xtep in Beijing.

Mutual Assistance or relations. Mutual assistance refers to aid that is extended to a party during times of disaster or political economic or military strife. Although not bound by a pact during the colonial period, the only thing which brought together the Chinese Communist Party and ZANU was that they all belonged to the 'third world club' and that China knew how it felt to be colonised as it had beforehand been colonised by the Japanese and the British, and in terms of colonisation China was regarded as the 'big brother' that China sought to help liberate fellow third world countries and fight for self-determination. In the post-colonial period China is seen protecting Zimbabwe against the imposition of sanctions on the alleged human rights abuse allegations that China with the help of a former rivalry vetoed a resolution as they felt that domestic issues had to be solved internally. For example, in July 2008, (Alao, 2014) the US put forth its proposal to enact sanctions against Mugabe's regime, China with the support of Russia gave three reasons for its position on the Zimbabwean case at the United Nations Security Council. First, China advanced that it the state of affairs in Zimbabwe was not a threat to international peace and security accordingly, Chapter VII of the UN Charter did not in any case apply to the situation and argued that Article 2 which recognises non-interference in the domestic affairs of other states was more applicable, second, China claimed that the imposition of sanctions on Zimbabwe would drastically hinder the mediatory efforts which were then being carried out by Thabo Mbeki. Lastly, China was of the view that relevant regional

organisations like the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community, had not pursued the road of UN sanctions rather they asked for ample time to conduct negotiations. This then reveals that just like the old times China still has Zimbabwe's back as the big brother for it knows the irritation and tension when foreign interventions occur as it happened beforehand to China during the Sino-Jap war.

Military hardware supply. The supply of military hardware is both characteristic of the pre and post-colonial period where in both phases the number of weapons supplied is not known. There is a sketchy picture as such information still is regarded classified and detrimental to national security, the only account of weaponry supplied to ZANU's ZANLA is found in contact reports by the Rhodesian Selous Scouts and Army on attacks at Mapai, Chimoio, and other camps where cache dumps were found. According to (Brigitte, 2014) in 2004 government documents recorded that there was a procurement of \$13 million radar system, 6 Hongdu JL-Karakorum8 jet aircraft trainer and ground attack, 12 JF-17 thunder fighter aircrafts and more than 200 Dong Feng general utility military vehicles, the only official report by the state on weaponry received from China. In June 2008 when a major shipment of weapons was returned to China destined for Zimbabwe, international media castigated China's move for the procurement of the weapons stating that it was furthering human rights abuses. China responded that, just like any other shop owner it had no right to ask any customer whether the goods a customer bought were to be used in what way and for what. Thus it was up to them (Zimbabwe) on how they were going to use them for or against the benefit of the Zimbabwean citizens, because just like any other business persons, the Chinese were out to make money.

Ideological vacillation. One of the major reasons why the Chinese got involved in Africa's civil wars was to counter the spread of capitalism as an ideology there by allowing there spread of communism/socialism as the recognised ideology. Both China and Zimbabwe have vacillated between these

ideologies where China has embraced the very ideology that it shunned during Zimbabwe's and many other African countries' fight for self-determination. With the transition from a farm based to a market based economy in 1978 communism seemed to have lacked feasibility than a market based economy and had to be coupled by capitalism. It is the same with Zimbabwe which was pro socialist turned capitalist because of the need for support from the West and other multi-lateral organisations but also reverted to socialism as evidenced by the land reform program where the main rationale behind its initiation was to change the ownership of assets from the minority to the majority but the main drive got lost in the process and the authorities deviated from the main logic.

Variances between the colonial and post-colonial period are also evident where in some instances there are some indicators which are not characteristic of the colonial period but are more inclined to the post-colonial period for instance the breach of the non-interventionist policy, diversification of aid, growth of China into a super power and human rights abuses.

[Differences of the Sino Zim engagement in the colonial and post-colonial period](#)

Political

Breach of the non-interventionist policy. The principles set by Premier Zhou Enlai in 1955 of non-intervention have shown that, Chinese non-interference policy is not sustainable. China's intervention in Zimbabwe's 2008 elections is nothing short of the United States' intervention in the domestic affairs of other sovereign states. In addition to that, it is advanced that China and USA were the brains behind the formation of the Government of National Unity formation in order to avail aid which the government of Zimbabwe was in dire need of. It can be argued that despite the fact that the world has changed so drastically that these principles can be useful because they avoid China being dragged into situations that overstretch and challenge it, they avoid being pushed into a corner where it can be painted as a foe of the US and the rest of the developed world but Zimbabwe's case proves otherwise China is trying to uphold its principles but failing.

Economic

Diversification of aid. Some schools of thought state that during the liberation war and the fight against imperialism. China was more generous with military training support than material support to which the only materials that were provided were military orientated. However, after independence a transition is seen when the Chinese reach is now being seen in the small and medium enterprise aspect through the building of the giant 60 000 seater stadium in Harare and the recent telecommunications venture where Chinese companies like ZTE and Huawei have supplied most of the internet gear for state owned and private communication companies.

Growth of China into a superpower. It is argued that China during the colonial period offered unconditional support to which she asked nothing in return and a lot had to be attended to within China that her foreign policy was contained and consistent. However, that changed in 1999 when China's economy became the 2nd in terms of growth after the United States. this road to a super power status also changed China's way of conducting business where the unconditional support evolved into being conditional shown by the case of Zimbabwe being given loans with extensive payback periods where in an effort to avoid long term commitments the officials are settling debts with mining rights which are more beneficial to the Chinese as their quest for minerals keeps growing than Zimbabwe's benefits through its loans.

Social

Human rights abuses. During the colonial period, Sino-Zim relations had never been attributed to human rights abuses something which is characteristic of the post-colonial period evidenced by China's Tiananmen Square scandal of 1983 where 2000 students died and Zimbabwe cast a deaf ear. Six years later, Zimbabwe was in the spotlight over the Gukurahundi massacres of 1989 and some eleven years later the drastic most debated land reform program was never criticised by Chinese media yet the world ran amock with such stories castigating the Mugabe government for such acts.

This was to follow in 2008 when gross human rights abuses, torture, intimidation and other inhumane acts were accused on Zimbabwe, China under Hu Jintao at the time kept quite whilst actually approving a weapons purchase by Zimbabwe at a time it was accused of gross human rights abuses.

Future of Beijing and Harare relations

It can be argued that the fate of Sino Zimbabwe relations is coupled with uncertainty as no one is certain on what the leadership status of Zimbabwe will be after 2018, what is going to happen after Zimbabwe adopts the yuan, what the result of the mining audit will be or if the apathy between the West and Zimbabwe will continue although some argue that there is a flicker of hope of the relations soldering on basing on the exchange of state visits.

Economic

Aspirations to adopt the yuan. From President Mugabe perspective the use of the Chinese currency as a legal tender will boost liquidity and help give impetus to the faltering economy. However Iraj Abedian the Pan African Investment and Research Services Chief Executive views the move as a political one than economic where he argued that “ am sure there is more political misogyny than economic rationale, Mugabe is basically sending a very strong anti- Western message and to the extent that the Chinese have committed a massive capital injection to Zimbabwe.

Number of visits exchanged between the two countries. It is argued that state visits create an investor conducive environment and they strengthen relations. Since independence and as of 2015 President Mugabe has paid 11 visits to China whereas in two decades the December 2015 visit marked the 1st visit of a sitting head of China by Xi Jinping. It is argued with these exchange of visits, the prophets of doom have been put to shame referring to those who thought that the mutual friendship between China and Zimbabwe was one sided and was quickly fading away. During his two way visit in Zimbabwe, according to Bere and Mudenga 2015 in the Southern Daily newspaper of November

2015 the Chinese president gave a speech and stated that “ the sharpness of a sword results from repeated grinding, while the fragrance of plum blossoms comes from frigid weather” meaning that the exchanges of state visits are a fulfilment of the signatures signed by the two heads of states concerning the megadeals for the acceleration of the Zimbabwean economy to which change cannot happen overnight but evolves through continuous visits and interaction where ideas will be shared. This reveals that China is in support of Zimbabwe’s efforts to revive the economy. If priorities do not change economic stability might be realised thus it can be argued that the Sino Zimbabwe are evolving and will keep on transitioning. While one Zimbabwean idiom states that “chikuni chimwe hachikodzi sadza” the Chinese are of the believe that ‘when everybody adds firewood, the flames will fly high’ revealing that in order to have something meaningful, people need to help and strengthen each other.

Audit into the mining sector. Financial impropriety by the diamond mining firms in Marange has culminated in the government audit into the seven companies in Marange. The government stated that it wants to remain with one or two firms in Chiadzwa after most of them had failed to account for what they get in the area amongst the firms are two Chinese extracting companies namely Anjin and Jinan. To show disdain of the government’s move, firms like Gye Nyame continued with extraction operations after the government had suspended its licence and the Chinese dragged the government to the courts for halting mining activities. It is argued that the audit into the mining sector is a “true test of the Sino Zimbabwe relations” where most of the people are advancing that the outcomes will either further or destroy the relations and that remains to be seen.

Political determinants of the future Sino Zim relations

Leadership status of Zimbabwe. There are indications that trend of relations between Beijing and Harare is likely to continue for as long as President Mugabe remains in power or is replaced by a pro-China ZANU-PF member as succession battles are raging and tearing apart the ZANU PF party

and can be replaced in 2018 which is another distant probability. It is argued that the Chinese are already having a camaraderie with the 'likely to be the successor' of the President that is Cde Emmerson Mnangagwa who happens to be one of the people who were trained in China during the colonial struggle and according to Daily News Zimbabwe 2015 Mnangagwa was reported to have said "make no mistake, Ngwenya is the crown prince and the G40s machinations will come to nought. Gushungo and Ngwenya are joined at the hip "thus it is being suspected that the relations between the Chinese Communist Party and ZANU PF on behalf of Zimbabwe might still surge ahead whether President Mugabe is still in power or is replaced by somebody else. Which just goes to show nothing is for certain. At the same time if Mnangagwa is to succeed Mugabe the relations will become stronger as a result of the fact that Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa was one of the first cadres of the Liberation struggle to be trained and equipped by the Chinese, hence his presence at the helm would further strengthen relations as he understands the Chinese ideology first hand.

The antipathy between Zimbabwe and the West. Once a darling of the West, Zimbabwe was repudiated over the alleged human rights abuses which culminated to the imposition of sanctions to President Mugabe and other members close to him. The relations were further estranged when the west decided to extend the period of expiry of the sanctions. The stalemate between the West and Zimbabwe will continue as Zimbabwe is allegedly continuing with human rights abuses as well as partnering with China, together with the supremacy and reign of the ZANU PF government. China a country without a clean record with regards to human rights. Zimbabwe continues to draw the West's wrath for example through trade in endangered species and the procurement of weapons from China when an arms embargo had been issued. If these estranged relations continue, it becomes a blessing in disguise to China as they can plunder or gain and get into all soughts of agreements with Zimbabwe without any competition.

Chapter summary

Diversified are what the Sino-Zim relations have become. From being a totally militaristic ideological relationship, Sino- Zim relations have evolved to encompass not only military and ideological support but beyond. This can be validated by the recent visit by the National Defence College students of whom were Chinese generals visiting to see developmental projects in education. Furthermore, the relations have differed in that the relations now encompass economic deals which have seen Chinese businesses opening up in Zimbabwe and upping the fiscus levels of the nation. The recent move of the Chinese telecommunications company ZTE to open up to 50 branches to serve Zimbabwe is evidence of the transition of relations to encompass all sectors of society than to be limited to political ideological basis only.

Conclusion

Colonial period contemporary Sino Zimbabwe relations can be traced back to January 1979 during the Rhodesian Bush war where China supplied ZANU with weapons. This is the period in which the trend of relations was characterised by moral support which could have been financial evidenced by the existence of then Organisation of African Union Liberation Committee which was responsible for mobilising funds which would aid various African countries in the fight against colonialism. In addition to that, there was technical support where ZANLA (ZANU's military arm) personnel were trained in China, supplied with weapons and medicinal packages thus the attribution that ZANU's success is mainly credited to China

China Zimbabwe relations which are regarded as always been cordial soldiered on into the post-colonial period where politically this can be evidenced through state visits where President Mugabe as of 2015 had visited China 11 times and Xi Jinping visited one in December 2015. The 2008 elections also show the involvement of Zimbabwe's "all weather friend" where it is alleged that there was a voter intimidation strategy courtesy of the Chinese. Military training and hardware supply also continued in the post-colonial period where the years 2004 and 2008 reveal the supply of weapons to ZANU PF just like old times and the adoption of Mao's principles as the ZDF anthem shows strong military ties

Economically the relationship trend exhibits itself through trade which is more beneficial to China than Zimbabwe as China gets cheap raw materials and exports back to Zimbabwe costly processed and finished products. There is mining to which Harare's resources are at the mercy of the Chinese to the point of being dragged to courts for halting extraction activities. Investment has not been spared Chinese involvement where the amount they are losing through supporting Zimbabwe does not tally with the profits they get showing that Chinese investment is practically not good for Zimbabwe.

Chinese aid just like that of the West is characterised by conditional ties where it is stated that Zimbabwe has to adopt the yuan as part of its currency and most of the Zimbabwe citizens are antagonistic towards the whole idea saying that just like the West it began with the language and now there is a transition into currency, Chinese involvement simply signifies a 2nd colonisation and in agriculture the Chinese have shown the ‘gold leaf’ to be their principal product as it is a source of huge income.

Socially many people have argued that the Chinese were a necessary evil. This is because they made it possible for ordinary Zimbabweans to access cheap basic necessities and those that are sceptical about their involvement state that “if one throws a stone from any corner of Harare’s CBD, it lands on a Chinese business person’s door” revealing that the Chinese are in large numbers. In addition to that, Zimbabwe has benefitted from Beijing’s soft power evidenced by scholarships offered by companies like Greater Scarlet Heights and universities like Xidian.

The Beijing Harare partnership is not without its flaws. Economically through Chinese involvement there has been a loss of livelihoods through the cheap products forcing the closure of local industries, loss of revenue the major Chinese extraction companies are spared from adhering from the principles of the indigenisation laws and do not follow regulatory statutes thus a loss of revenue on the part of Zimbabwe, human capital exploitation is also characteristic of the Chinese involvement where Zimbabweans are being exposed to all sorts of abuses and the cases are not taken seriously due to the Zimbabwe China state relations, lack of brokering power as Zimbabwe has become strongly reliant on its minerals for survival and dumping of shoddy products has also been characteristic of Chinese engagement which has caused them to be subject of the wrath of the Zimbabweans.

Environmentally plundering of wetlands is also part of the demerits of Chinese involvement. The Long Cheng Plaza was erected on wetlands questioning if whether the Chinese have any regard for the environment and sustainable development as environmentalists lament that it is greatly going to impact the supply of water in Harare.

Politically, there is further isolation from the international arena. In an effort to try and please China, Zimbabwe sometimes trades in endangered species making it next to impossible for it to return in the international institutions like the Commonwealth as it being disowned and castigated over various issues.

Similarities and differences of the relations in the colonial and post-colonial period also exist.

Resemblances of the relations during the colonial period are evident in the post-colonial period here there is ideological vacillation, military support and moral backing all of which have helped to cement Sino Zim relations. In addition to that, there are differences in engagement in the post-colonial period not witnessed during the colonial period like diversification of aid, human rights abuses, and breach of the non-interventionist policy and the growth of China into a super power.

It can also be argued that Harare Beijing relations are coupled with uncertainty as in some instances both parties try by all means to make precautionary measures to ensure that relations will continue to be favourable and beneficial to both states where Harare has the aspirations to adopt the yuan in an effort to phase out the dollar which was the condition of getting aid. The audit into the mining sector has revoked so many views pertaining to the nature of relations where some argue that an unfavourable result will ruin the relations.

The Chinese keep banking on the leadership status of Harare and the continuance of the sour relations between the West and Zimbabwe where if drastic changes occur like reconciliation of Zimbabwe and the West might signal the end of Chinese involvement in Zimbabwe thus the partnership is coupled with uncertainty

Reference list

100 Reporters New Journalism for a New Age

Alao, A., (2004) South African Institute of International Affairs. [Online] Available at: www.saiia.org.za [Accessed 17 April 2016]

Anshan, L. (2008) China's New Policy towards Africa, in Rotberg, R. (Ed). China into Trade, aid and influence. Washington: Brooking Institution Press

Antony, Y.B. and Herbert J: Increasing Africa's benefits from China: Developing a strategic approach: Emerging powers in Africa watch, Pambazuka News, Issue 439, June 2009

Bere, T., and Mudenga, B., (2015). Analytic Microscope. [Online] [Accessed 16 April 2016]

Bhebhe, N. 2014 The ZAPU and ZANU guerrilla warfare and the Evangelical Lutheran

Bloomberg (2011). Clinton chastises China on internet, African 'New Colonialism (online) available from <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/201-06-11>. Clinton-chastises-China-on internet. African-new-colonialism.html. Accessed (7 August 2013)

Brigitte, R., (2014) China's hand in Zimbabwe's Military Future. Witsjournalism. [Online] [Accessed 16 April 2016]

Burnell, P. and Randall, V. (2008) Politics in the developing world. 2nd Ed. New York. Oxford University Press

Chen, Z. (2005). 'Nationalism, Internationalism and Chinese Foreign Policy' in journal of contemporary China 14(42): 35-53

Chibaya, M. 2012 Chinese firms immune to indigenisation. The Standard, 16 September. [Online].

Available: <http://www.thestandard.co.zw/2012/09/12chinese-firms-immune-to-indigenisation>

Chigora, P. and Dhehwa (2009) Surviving in a hostile environment: An analysis of Zimbabwe's foreign relations in the 21st century International Relations African Journal of political Science and International Relations Vol. 3 (3), pg. 92.

Chisi, H. T. (2013) All Weather Friends's: Sino Zimbabwe Relations 2000-2008 Themes in Contemporary History of Zimbabwe, Mambo Press, Gweru

Chun, Z, Towards a comprehensive & sustainable Sino-Africa relationship: Sills, 7May 2014,pp.10-12,<http://theindependent.co.za/opinion/17536.html>,accessed 20 June 2013

Cohen L and Manion L (1994) *Research Methods in Education*, Routledge London

Dailynews Live 7 October 2015

Dooley D (1995) *Social research Methods* Prentice Hall

Gaye, A. Is Chinese investment good for Africa,' Discussion Published by the Council on Foreign Relations, February 20, 2007.Available (online) <http://www.cfr.org/publication/12622/is-chinese-investment-good-for-africa.html>

http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49341:xinhua-visits-zimpapers&catid=37:top-stories&itemid=136

Lan, D. 1985 Guns and Rain: Guerillas and Spirit Mediums in ZimbabweBerkerly:

Manyeruke, C. and Mhandara, L. Zimbabwe's view on the current transformation of the international system. Global Review, (2011 p87)

Melvick, C. and Owen, O. 2005 China and Africa: A new era of 'South-South cooperation'

Merriam, S. (1998) Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research: Volume 24. University of Georgia. USA

Morgenthau, H. (1973). Politics among Nations the Struggle for Power and Peace. 5th (Ed). New York: Alfred. A. Knopf

Mpofu, T. 2009. Total History, Southern African History. Harare Priority Projects Publishing

Nakano, T. (2004a) 'Theorising Economic Nationalism' in Nations and Nationalism, 10(3):211-229

Nakano, T. (2004b) 'Hegel's Theory of Economic Nationalism: Political Economy in the philosophy of right in Europe. History of Economic Thought, 11(1): 35-42

Patton (1990) Handbook of Qualitative Research Methods in Entrepreneurship. University of Toronto

Roy, D. (1998). China's Foreign Relations. Basingstoke: Macmillan

Sachikonye, L. Crouching tiger, hidden agenda? Zimbabwe China relations in Naidu, S and Kweku (Ed), Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon? Africa and China. Scottsville: University of Kwazulu Natal Press, 2008 pp124-125

Shelton, G. (2001). China and Africa: Building an economic partnership in South African Journal of International Affairs, 8 (2): 111-119

Stiftung, F. (2004) The Look East Policy of Zimbabwe now focuses on China.

The Economist: China in Africa: 'Never Too Late to Scramble,' November 3, 2006

The herald Zimbabwe. 24 November 2015 accessed 16 April 2016

The Herald Zimbabwe: 'China Allegedly dumping shoddy products' 5 May 2010

Torrington and Hall (1987) NGOs and the challenges of sustainability. Boston University of California Press, pp 127-128

Vakalisa, Z. (1995): Critical Issues in South Africa Education after 1994. Juta and Company. SA

www.allafrica.com/stories/2005082500281.html, Accessed 20 June 2008

Xinhua, Zimbabwe-Friendship Association launched 19 July 2007. All Africa Global Media

<http://english.people.com.cn/9001/90776/6218578/html> posted 19 July 2007

Zhao, (1996). Interpreting Chinese Foreign Policy. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press

Zhu, T. (2001) 'Nationalism and Chinese Foreign Policy' in the China Review, 1(1): 1-27

Zimbabwe buys more military jets from China. Reuters via SABC news

Zimbabwe gets Chinese farm machinery worth \$25mln. Reuters via SABC News

Zimbabwe military plans recruitment drive, mulls pay increases. Voice of America

Zimbabwe: Country accused of trading ivory for military hardware from China. 27 June 2007.

AllAfrica

Zvayi C (2005) West Jittery over Look East Policy, The Herald Harare, Online <http://>

APPENDICIES

Rutendo Adelaide Ruzvidzo is the name of the researcher. Being a student at Midlands State University pursuing an Honours Degree in Development Studies, it is the requirement of the Bachelor of Arts Development Studies Department that every student conduct a research on any area of interest thus I am researching the topic which reads a comparative analysis of the Sino Zimbabwe relations in the colonial and post-colonial period.

The information provided in this research will remain private and confidential. The gathered information will be used academic purposes by the only. Your cooperation is required, valued and will forever be indebted to you for you would have contributed to the success of this research.

Appendix 1

Section A: Interview Questions Zimbabwe's Asia Desk

Please answer all questions

1. What is your understanding of Sino Zimbabwe relations?
2. What are the similarities and differences between China Zimbabwe's engagement in the colonial and post-colonial period?
3. What difference did the enhanced relationship with China make to Zimbabwe's economic and political crisis after the fallout with the traditional western powers?
4. To what extent has China helped to stabilize Zimbabwe's economy after the withdrawal of the West?
5. Where do you see China and Zimbabwe in the next 10 years that is what is the future of Sino Zim relations?
6. What lesson can be drawn from the Sino Zimbabwe partnership?

Section B: Interview Questions for Zimbabwean employees in Chinese businesses

Please answer all questions

1. What do you understand about China Zimbabwe relation?
2. Do you sign contracts when you get employment within the Chinese businesses?
3. Are you paid well in relation to local standards?
4. How many hours do you work per day and per week and are you paid for overtime?
5. Are there any benefits or terminal ones?
6. If you have any grievances pertaining to your working conditions, who do you report to?

Section C: Interview structure for the focus group

Please answer all questions

1. Who is benefiting more from the partnership?
2. What are the benefits and losses with regards to the partnership to both China and Zimbabwe?
3. Are the trends of the relationship during the colonial period consistent with those of the post-colonial period?
4. Given the chance to consult on the China Zimbabwe relations, what would you recommend to ensure that the engagement becomes a win-win partnership?