

**ECONOMIC JUSTICE:
Global and Local
Rev Sthembiso Zwane
ujamaa centre, UKZN**

Economic Justice: Interventions

- The ability of ALL citizens to have access to National Economic Resources (eg BIG campaign)
- The redistribution of wealth to ALL citizens especially the poor
- The ability of Trade Unions to protect working class workers from exploitation by Corporations and big business
- The ability of Civil Society and Social Movements to speak 'Truth to Power'

Extracting Resources from

DON'T WORRY, AFRICA



WE'LL GO AWAY WHEN WE FINISH

Economic Globalization:

Privatization

- State Assets partly privatized
- Increase in basic services
- Focus on productivity and profit

Deregulation

- Limit the state' role in the economy
- Create an investor friendly context: giving power to foreign companies to recruit staff and set minimum wages
- A paradigm shift from standard-to-non standard employment is inevitable

Cont...

Trade Liberalization

- Removal of tariffs from imported goods
- Flexible labour laws
- Economic Policy shifts: (WTO, IMF & WB)
- Strengthens Political hegemony
- Exposes susceptible workers to exploitation

Chinese Investment and trade in Africa



Cont...



Stephen Morrison

China's trade in Africa is driven by three main reasons:

(1) China's quest for Oil

- Challenges the US as an emerging economic powerhouse in the oil sector
- China has signed more than forty oil explorations with many African countries (43)

(2) China's foreign aid policy

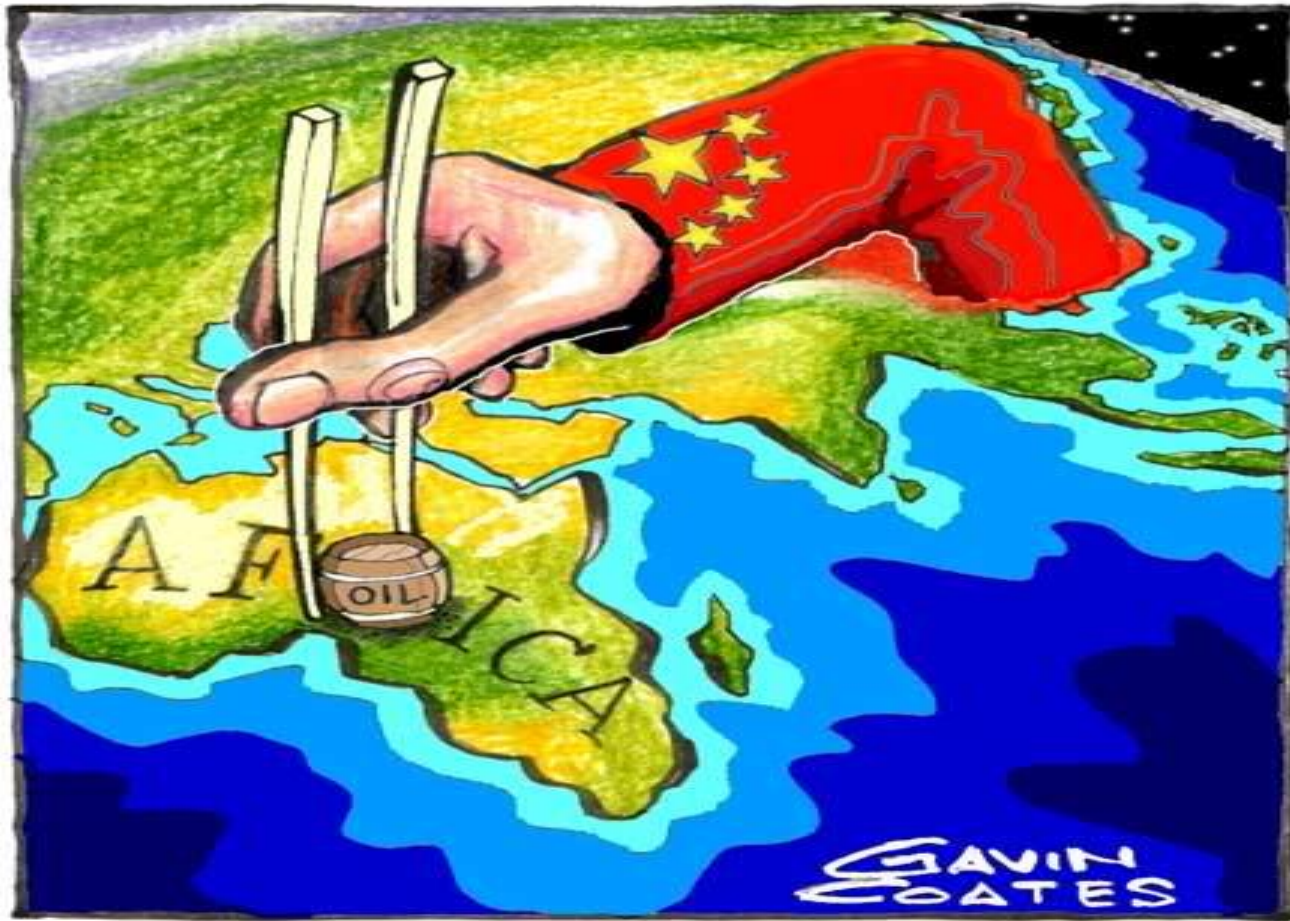
- Most Chinese companies are state-owned and receives subsidies from government to trade in Africa (43)
- China's companies have penetrated the agricultural sector in Africa (43)

Cont...

(3) Job opportunities for Chinese Workers

- The increase use of Chinese workers in China-funded projects has attracted criticism from Africa (44)
- The employment of 25 000 Chinese workers in the construction of the TAZARA railway linking Tanzania and Zambia raised concerns (44)
- The number of Chinese living and working in Ghana is estimated to have grown from 500 in 2001 to 6000 in 2004 (44)
- It is also true that the local people employed in China-funded projects are usually employed as casuals with low pay and poor working conditions (44)

Cont...



Cont...

- China claims that its relationship with Africa is guided by the principles of equality, mutual benefit, achievement of practical results etc (48)
- This is not entirely true: China's economic and trade relations with Africa is far from equal (48)
- Africa-China trade is growing at a very high rate, but at the same time Africa's trade deficit with China is growing at equally rapid rate, if not higher (48)
- Nearly 70, 000 jobs are estimated to have been lost in the textiles sector in South Africa due mainly to the importation of cheaper Chinese substitutes (48)