



### [‘Every place I go, it’s all about China’: Former US diplomats sound alarm on Africa](#)

Former assistant secretaries of state, both Republican and Democratic, have warned that the United States will continue to fall behind China in Africa unless Washington prioritises the continent. Four ex-assistant secretaries of state for African Affairs, whose combined service spanned seven decades and 12 presidents, gathered together on 27 June for the first-ever Carnegie Africa Forum, in Washington DC. The Africa Report moderated the discussion. The Africa Report.

### [Senator Borghi on competing with China and Russia in Africa](#)

The Italian MP stressed the need for Italy and the EU to adopt a proactive approach to counter China, Russia, and Turkey. He also advocated for a comprehensive European strategy, integrated with Italy’s Mattei Plan, to mobilise private investment and enhance national companies in energy, infrastructure, education, culture, and agriculture. In an interview...with our sister company Formiche, Senator Enrico Borghi, a prominent politician from the centrist party Italia Viva and member of the Parliamentary Committee for Intelligence (Copasir), discussed his recent trip to the Horn of Africa. According to Senator Borghi, Italy maintains significant influence in the region and its presence is viewed positively. He stated, “It is recognised that Italy has completely freed itself from colonial schemes.” This standing is evident in Italy’s crucial role in negotiations during the Tigray crisis in Ethiopia and its substantial infrastructural investments. This includes the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, a major hydroelectric project on the Blue Nile worth \$4 billion, which is being built by the Italian WeBuild group. Decode.

### [Cultural differences impede trade for most countries — but not China](#)

It’s a widely accepted notion among economists that cultural differences can pose a significant barrier to trade. The larger the cultural gap between two countries – judging by differences in language, customs, values and business norms – the more challenging and costly trade relations become. This is a recurring theme in research. But there’s one big exception to the rule: China. As an applied economist with a keen interest in how culture influences trade, I’ve conducted several studies of the dynamic. In one such effort, two colleagues and I meticulously analyzed China’s trade relationships with nearly 90 countries over 16 years. Our research uncovered a distinctive pattern: Unlike many other nations, cultural differences rarely influence the scale of China’s trade activities. The Concersation.

### [US adds six companies to trade restriction list, four for training China's military](#)

The United States added six companies to its trade restriction list on Tuesday, including four for their links to the training of China's military forces, according to a government posting. Two of the companies are in China, one in South Africa, two in the United Arab Emirates and one in Britain. Global Training Solutions Limited and Smartech Future Limited, both in China, as well as Grace Air (Pty) Ltd and Livingston Aerospace Limited of the

United Kingdom, were added over their ties to the Test Flying Academy of South Africa and the training of China's military forces using Western and NATO sources, the posting said. "Preventing American know-how from training PRC military pilots and U.S. technology from aiding Russia enhances U.S. national security," Commerce official Matthew Axelrod said in a statement. PRC refers to the People's Republic of China. The companies could not immediately be reached for comment. Reuters.

#### [Africa-China 2.0 with Isaac Ankrah\(Dr\): Nuclear energy dynamics\(2\)](#)

As I wrote in the Part 1 of this series, the race for the development of Ghana's Nuclear power plant invites not just investment but also political gamesmanship from global powers. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) strengthens China's position, solidifying its role in Africa's energy development. Evaluating potential partners based on reliability, financial flexibility, technical expertise, and political stability is crucial in addressing some of these questions to chart a successful nuclear energy path. Table 1 provides a clear comparison of potential nuclear energy partners based on their strengths and weaknesses in critical areas, supported by landmark projects in Africa. The Business and Financial Times.

#### [4 Chinese-military linked companies put on US trade sanctions list](#)

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#### [Ethiopia lauds Huawei's role in talent development in its ICT sector](#)

The Ethiopian government has hailed Chinese tech giant Huawei for its talent development contributions in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector by targeting the country's youth. Solomon Soka, Ethiopia's state minister of the Ministry of Labor and Skills, made the remarks during an event held for Ethiopian students who will be attending the Huawei Seeds for the Future 2024 training program in Morocco from July 1 to 10, Huawei Ethiopia said in a statement issued Monday. Commending Huawei's constructive role in talent development in the East African country, the state minister said such ICT training programs help the country's youth develop their skills and knowledge in the field. He said such skill-boosting training programs will enhance the youth's career prospects and open up new job opportunities for them. Xinhua.

#### [CNOOC Starts Production of First Green Design Oilfield Offshore China](#)

CNOOC has commenced production of Wushi 23-5 Oilfields Development Project, the first green design oilfield located in the Beibu Gulf of the South China Sea. The project's main production facilities include 2 new wellhead platforms, and the renovated Wushi terminal. According to CNOOC's press release, 43 development wells are

planned to be brought on-stream, including 28 oil wells and 15 water-injection wells. The project, operated 100% by CNOOC Limited, is expected to achieve a peak production of approximately 18,100 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boe/d) in 2026, and the oil property is light crude. In the developing phase, the Company pursued efficient and low-carbon development throughout the whole process of design, construction and production. It is the first oilfield in the South China Sea supplied with power from shore. The project will realize full-process recovery and utilization of the associated gas through integrated natural gas treatment. Egypt Oil and Gas.

### [Chinese firms eye Morocco as way to cash in on US electric vehicle subsidies](#)

Investment in electric vehicle manufacturing is booming in Morocco, a country that neighbors Europe and enjoys a free trade agreement with the United States. After the United States passed new subsidies designed to boost domestic electric vehicle production and cut into Beijing's supply chain dominance, Chinese manufacturers began investing in an unlikely place: Morocco. In the rolling hills near Tangiers and in industrial parks near the Atlantic Ocean, they have announced plans for new factories to make parts for EVs that may qualify for \$7,500 credits to car buyers in the United States. Similar investments have been announced in other countries that share free trade agreements with the United States, including South Korea and Mexico. But few countries have seen the kind of boom that Morocco has. *The Independent*.

### [Senior CPC official meets with Chad delegation](#)

Liu Jianchao, head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, met with a delegation led by Mahamat Zen Bada, secretary general of the ruling Patriotic Salvation Movement of Chad, in Beijing on Tuesday. The two sides exchanged views on strengthening inter-party exchanges and cooperation, deepening practical cooperation in various fields, promoting the development of China-Chad relations and building a China-Africa community with a shared future. *Xinhua*.

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