

## Response to

### Nigerian Universities: Chinese in higher demand than French

### Infrastructure Projects in Africa: Chinese Financing

Thanks to **Kehinde Owolabi** for a detailed response, given below:

11 January 2023:

**Editor's Note:** *The author of the following RESPONSE points out that the “West must wake up to the threat to the democratic world.”*

*The fact is that today the West has lost the stamina to be able to work for spreading and strengthening the democratic movement. Institutions like the Freedom House are remnants of the era till 2008, when USA was spearheading the democratic movement.*

*DiGiNews360 feels that living with dignity is as much a right of huma beings in the developing world, as it is the right of those in the west. Hence **large democracies like those of India and Nigeria should now lead the movement for democracy in the world.***

*(Many of my friends from Nigeria feel diffident because they feel that their democracy is not perfect. A democracy is always a ‘Work in Progress’, like all human enterprises. Let it be remembered that the democracies in USA, UK, Germany.. are also in need of many improvements.)*

Dear Editor,

The French language is an established field of study in Nigeria. As a matter of fact, Many Nigerian children of school age experience their exposure to the French language from their elementary school days.

The reason why there seems to be a spike in the number of Nigerians wanting to study the Chinese language is because of the erroneous opinion that their knowledge or mastery of the Chinese language will make it easier for them to emigrate to the China People's Republic.

You may wish to recall that at the advent of the of the Russia - Ukraine War, the government of Ukraine advertised for foreign volunteers to help them in their war

with Russia. Thousands of Nigerians besieged the Ukrainian embassy to register as volunteers to fight their own in foreign war. That should let you know that Nigerians can be desperate and that they will go to any length to emigrate to countries that they perceive as countries that will offer better economic opportunities.

China is financing gigantic multi billion dollars infrastructural project Africa. In Nigeria it is investing in the funding of rail projects, roads and airport terminal projects. The visibility of such projects has become pronounced in recent years.

China is busy building the African leg of the Chinese silk route. And like the earlier Chinese silk route, which Wikipedia described as a network of Euro-Asia in trade routes which the Chinese developed between the second and fifteen centuries, the objective of the current Chinese massive investment in infrastructure across Africa, remains the improvement in terms of trade between China and Africa; it is also meant to spread and grow influence of Chinese culture in Africa.

Like you correctly noted, China will remain a fringe player in the politics and commerce of Africa for the foreseeable future. The battle for the soul of Africa is still for the West to lose.

The dynamics of global politics and alliances are in a state of Flux. The saying used to be "when Washington sneezes, the world catches cold." Technology has become an enabler of Nations. Today, countries like China, North Korea and Russia are challenging the dominance and eminence of the west, especially the USA.

The West must wake up to the threat to the democratic world. They must make it known in unmistakable terms that they are ready to put boots on ground to defend globally peace and freedom.

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