

# Examining Sino-Ghana relations and the role of the Chinese community in Ghana through (Auto) biography as a historiographic approach

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## Abstract

Although reference to the presence of the Chinese in Ghana might currently evoke instant thoughts on illegal mining activities and not so positive reactions, the relationship between China and Ghana transcends this sphere. China and Ghana have a longstanding six-decade history of political, economic, trade, and cultural exchanges. This research employs (auto) biography as a historical method to explore the personal narratives of Chinese individuals living in Ghana and their influence on Sino-Ghanaian relations. By taking a transcultural approach, the study examines these interactions at a micropolitical level, emphasising the Chinese community's strategic contributions and cultural insights in shaping bilateral ties. This approach offers a comprehensive understanding of Ghana's political, historical, and sociocultural evolution through the lived experiences of Chinese residents. Utilising a mixed-methods strategy, the research integrates a systematic review of six decades of journalistic discourse with five in-depth case studies of Chinese people in Ghana. The results reveal the profound impact of Sino-Ghanaian relations on Ghana's post-independence changes. Politically,

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China's emphasis on unity and shared anti-colonial traditions has strengthened their friendship and influenced Ghana's national development. Economically, the introduction of Chinese technology and products has propelled modernisation. However, the long-term suitability of the "Chinese model" in Africa appears relatively favorable as one of the options for development. This study underscores the necessity for Ghana and other African countries to carefully select development paths and partners, balancing opportunities from China's rise with the need for national sovereignty. The enduring historical connection between China and Ghana, marked by a community of a shared future, provides a robust foundation for bilateral relations grounded in mutual respect and cooperative development. The study contributes to Sino-Ghanaian scholarship and offers valuable insights for enhancing public diplomacy efforts between the two nations.

**Keywords:** China, Ghana, Overseas Chinese, Transcultural Communication, Micropolitical perspective

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## **Introduction**

The experiences of the Chinese in Ghana hold profound historical and cultural significance. (Auto)biographical accounts are not merely records of events. In the current study, they serve as a lens to understand the complexities of historical contingency and its impact on the relationships between the Chinese and Ghanaian people. The arrival of European colonists reshaped the perception of blackness in Africa, establishing a racial hierarchy that placed whites above blacks. This disrupted existing social structures in Ghana, marginalising local histories and cultures by portraying African achievements as inferior to European standards. This historical erasure led to a disconnect between Ghanaians and their past, influencing their attitudes toward foreigners, particularly those from former colonial powers.

The Chinese presence in Ghana represents a partnership unburdened by the colonial baggage many Western countries carry. This allows for relationships based on mutual respect and trust. The Chinese approach, distinct from traditional Western methods, brings unique solutions and draws from a rich heritage of wisdom and modernisation. This approach is refreshing

and invigorating for Ghanaians, who are eager to collaborate on projects to transform their country into a modern nation. The growing belief among Ghanaians that Africa's future is closely tied to China underscores the importance of studying the experiences of Chinese expatriates in Ghana. This relationship is viewed economically and as a cultural and social exchange that can benefit both sides. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for appreciating the evolving landscape of Ghanaian-Chinese relations.

Recent academic research has started to delve into these complex interactions. Amo-Agyemang (2021) emphasises the need for African states, including Ghana, to utilise their relationships with China for mutual gain. This perspective is supported by studies such as Teye (2022), which argue against oversimplified views of Chinese migrants. They emphasise the diversity among Chinese expatriates and the role of social networks and peaceful environments in facilitating migration. Additionally, Ndenguino-Mpira (2013) investigated how media and official discourse influence Ghanaian perceptions of the Chinese, indicating a significant impact on public opinion and policy. Lastly, research by Amoah (2020) recognises the potential for mutual benefits and harmonious interactions despite existing concerns regarding competition and labour issues.

These studies provide a detailed insight into the Sino-Ghanaian relationship, indicating that despite existing challenges, there are significant opportunities for positive engagement that could serve as a model for broader Sino-African relations. This research investigates the experiences of Chinese expatriates in Ghana, offering a comprehensive understanding of their substantial contributions to the country's development. It goes beyond merely assessing the economic impact and exploring how these expatriates have formed meaningful relationships with Ghanaians. These relationships are based on shared values and aspirations, reflecting a mutual vision for the future that transcends cultural differences.

The present research delves into the personal stories of Chinese individuals in Ghana, revealing how they integrate into Ghanaian society, thereby driving economic growth and promoting social and cultural interactions. This deeper integration bolsters a stronger bilateral relationship, paving the way for immediate benefits and long-term collaborative goals. Consequently, the personal narratives of Chinese expatriates are vital for a comprehensive understanding of their influence in Ghana, illustrating how their personal and professional engagements merge to form a solid and dynamic intercultural relationship. Consequently, this paper seeks to explore how the personal stories of Chinese individuals living in Ghana, analysed through (auto)biography as a historiographic method, mirror the political, economic, and cultural aspects of Sino-Ghanaian relations over the past sixty years.

The paper is divided into six parts. The first part introduces the topic, offering a historical overview of Ghana's shift from a colonial to a postcolonial state, highlighting the natural opportunities that enabled Chinese engagement, and introducing an alternative development model. The second part outlines the theoretical framework, emphasising (auto)biography as a historiographic method and transcultural communication as a political, social, and cultural re/territorialisation process. The third part reviews the development of Sino-Ghana relations from 1960 to 2020. The fourth part presents five case studies of the Chinese diaspora in Ghana, demonstrating how Chinese wisdom and development models have been applied locally. The fifth part discusses the theoretical implications, focusing on the impact of Sino-Ghana relations on Ghana's political, economic, and sociocultural transformations post-independence. The sixth part concludes the paper and offers prospects for future studies.

### **Theoretical framework**

This paper integrates two theoretical frameworks: the (auto)biographical approach and transcultural communication

theory (Jia & Wang, 2023). The former examines the personal experiences and perspectives of the researcher over 19 years, emphasising the significance of comprehensive micro-level factors in the evolving relationship between China and Ghana. By adopting a transcultural perspective, the paper also explores potential avenues for enhancing international relations, particularly in building a “Community with a Shared Future for Mankind.” (Xi, 2017). This analysis is exemplified through an examination of the Sino-Ghanaian relationship.

### ***(Auto)biography as a historiographic approach***

The French historian Fernand Braudel was among the first scholars to employ (auto)biography in historiographic research. He used his personal experiences and family background to illuminate the cultural and economic transformations in the Mediterranean region (Braudel, 1976/1972). Similarly, the British historian Edward Gibbon (1981) employed his personal experiences as a lens for his examination of Roman history, offering a unique perspective on the subject.

Aurell (2006) observed a significant increase in historians who utilised autobiography as a research tool beginning in the 1970s. This trend coincided with growing complexity in the approaches historians used to engage with the events they had previously analysed from a critical distance. Popkin’s (2005, 2017) recent book, *History, Historians, and Autobiography*, delves into this phenomenon by exploring the connections between history and autobiography. Popkin utilises historians’ autobiographical accounts to understand their experiences and professional positions, emphasising the role of life-writing texts as a source for knowledge of historians’ experiences and perspectives (Popkin, 2021).

These autobiographical texts can serve as more than a window into historians’ professional practices; they can also offer insights into how historians shape our understanding of the past. By examining these texts, one can gain a deeper understanding

not only of history itself but also of how history is written. The parallels between history and autobiography extend beyond their shared structural elements; they invite us to consider how their narratives of events might intersect. This way, we can enhance our comprehension of history and its historiography.

As a research approach, (auto)biographical accounts have gained popularity in historiographic studies, offering a unique perspective for exploring and understanding history. By presenting personal accounts, these accounts serve as a window into both personal and social aspects of historical events.

Firstly, (auto)biographical accounts provide historians with critical personal perspectives. The unique perspective is essential in historical research as it offers insights into individual experiences, thoughts, emotions, and motivations. By examining (auto)biographies, historians gain a deeper understanding of personal life experiences and growth processes, as well as the role and influence of individuals in historical events. These unique perspectives often fill gaps in traditional historical records, offering a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of historical events.

Furthermore, (auto)biographies serve as a reflection of social values and norms. Beyond mere personal accounts, (auto)biographies offer insights into the time's social context and cultural norms. Historians can glean society's expectations and evaluation criteria for individuals, as well as individuals' sense of identity and belonging within society. This information enriches historians' understanding of historical events' social structure and cultural backdrop.

Moreover, (auto)biographies provide unique perspectives and insights into historical events and figures. Given that the authors of (auto)biographies often have personal experience with the events and characters they describe, they offer unique observations and interpretations. These insights can provide fresh perspectives and angles for historians to consider, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of historical figures and events.

Using (auto)biography in historiographic studies has numerous benefits. It offers personal perspectives that enrich our understanding of history, reflect social values and norms, and provide unique insights into historical events and figures. By incorporating (auto)biography into historiographic research, historians can better understand history and its personal and social dimensions.

Incorporating autobiography into historiographic studies offers a deeper, more nuanced understanding of history, as it introduces personal perspectives that illuminate social values and provide unique insights into historical events and figures. However, this method also poses significant limitations due to the inherent subjectivity of autobiographies, which personal biases, selective memories, and subjective experiences can influence. Additionally, autobiographies may suffer from anachronism, where modern beliefs and values distort the representation of past events. To overcome these limitations, historians should critically analyse autobiographical sources, cross-referencing with other historical documents to ensure a balanced and accurate understanding of the past. By acknowledging and addressing these challenges, historians can effectively leverage autobiographies to contribute to a comprehensive and accurate historiography.

It must be noted that this method has its limitations. While providing valuable personal insights and perspectives, it carries potential biases that can impact the accuracy and reliability of historical research. These biases include subjectivity and personal bias, where autobiographies reflect the author's views and emotions, often portraying themselves favourably; selective memory, which leads to emphasising certain events while forgetting others; anachronism, where past events are interpreted through contemporary values; narrative construction, where life stories are shaped to fit specific themes; and cultural and social influences, where the author's background affects their interpretation. The current paper takes a series of measures to mitigate these biases, including:

1. cross-referencing autobiographical accounts with other primary and secondary sources,
2. applying critical analysis to understand the context and motivations,
3. placing autobiographies within broader historical, social, and cultural contexts,
4. incorporating multiple perspectives to provide a comprehensive understanding and
5. openly acknowledging the limitations and potential biases of autobiographical sources.

By employing these strategies, the author has sought to achieve a more balanced, accurate, and comprehensive understanding of historical events regarding the relationship between China and Ghana.

### ***Transcultural communication as a political-social-cultural de/reterritorialisation***

The concept of transcultural communication is multifaceted and interdisciplinary, evolving from the contributions of scholars across various schools of thought. Its origins can be traced back to the 1970s when American cultural scholar, Hall (1973) first introduced the notion of intercultural communication in his seminal work *The Silent Language*. Hall emphasised the significance of cultural differences and similarities in communication processes. Since then, numerous scholars have built upon this concept, contributing to the development of transcultural communication theory.

In a recently published article, Jia and Wang (2023) further elaborate on the nature of transcultural communication. They posit that transcultural communication entails a process of cultural de/reterritorialisation, where different cultures engage in a dynamic exchange that forms new artistic territories. This process involves the reconfiguration of cultural networks, the



integration of diverse elements, and the emergence of new cultural forms under various conditions and circumstances.

The author's discussion of overseas Chinese stories' historical and sociocultural actualisation further exemplifies the micropolitical aspect of transcultural communication. These stories serve as a critical lens for understanding the transcultural dynamics in Sino-Ghana relations. By examining the intricate stories and relationships within the Ghanaian Chinese community, one can better understand the evolving ac/enculturation processes and the shared psychosomatic experiences among global citizens.

*Transcultural communication* is a dynamic, multifaceted concept that involves multiple disciplines. It emphasises cultures' fluidity and mutual influence in communication processes, highlighting the importance of understanding cultural differences and similarities in fostering meaningful cross-cultural engagement.

## **Overview of the development of Sino-Ghana relations: 1960 to 2020**

In this section, the researcher gathered data and statistical information from the news archives of local Ghanaian news websites.

Following World War II, the emergence of the United States and the Soviet Union marked the decline of African colonies. On March 6, 1957, Ghana became the first independent nation in West Africa under the leadership of Kwame Nkrumah, its inaugural president. On July 5, 1960, diplomatic relations between China and Ghana were officially established, making Ghana the second country to forge diplomatic ties with China. That same year, Ghana opened an embassy in Moscow and established relations with other Eastern European nations. However, relations were disrupted in October 1966 due to a military coup in Ghana. Normal diplomatic relations were resumed in February 1972.

The early Chinese settlers in Ghana hailed from Hong Kong, with roots tracing back to the 1940s. Chinese mainlanders arrived in Ghana in droves following the country's reform and opening. In the 1930s and 1940s, Hong Kong migrants-built factories employing many local Chinese. However, regarding their national identity, these early Chinese did not consider Ghana their home.

After Ghana established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, a group of Chinese was dispatched to Ghana in the 1960s for military support and to maintain political and military engagement. Following this, numerous Hong Kong families migrated to Ghana, joined by a wave of immigrants from Shanghai. The early Chinese industries in Ghana encompassed various sectors, such as tobacco, kitchenware, batik production, and steel manufacturing. However, following the military coup in Ghana, many Chinese settlers returned to their homeland. It was not until the 1980s, with China's economic reform and opening policies, that a genuine wave of official and individual Chinese benefits began to populate Ghana.

In general, the Chinese population in Ghana has deepened its economic involvement, contributing to the economic prosperity of both China and Ghana. However, this growth has not yet significantly impacted cultural integration and educational penetration. The mutually beneficial economic development between the Chinese and Ghana is primarily due to Ghana's consistent status as a peaceful nation since 1972. This stability has positively impacted the legitimate financial investments made by the Chinese. In 2018, Ghana ranked 57th in the global peace index, compared to 112th for China and 121st for the United States, highlighting its high level of peace and security.

Jerry John Rawlings, founder of the National Democratic Congress Party (NDC) in 1992, served as president of the Fourth Republic of Ghana from 1992 to 2001. Several significant contributions marked his presidency: 1) ensuring political and

economic stability within Ghana and neighbouring countries; 2) enhancing education, healthcare, and infrastructure; and 3) implementing an excellent foreign policy.

From the early 1980s to the mid-1990s, Chinese from the Chinese mainland primarily came to Ghana to station through state-owned enterprises like the China National Construction Engineering Corporation and China Water Corporation. As both Ghana and China are developing countries, China primarily aided Ghana in developing its infrastructure. When the Chinese first arrived in Ghana, conditions were extremely challenging. Located north of the equator, Ghana experiences extreme heat with substandard living conditions, sanitation issues, frequent power outages, and various mosquito-borne diseases. Additionally, more trained personnel and construction hardware were needed. Daily life was also challenging, as Chinese personnel could only visit their families every two years. Despite these hardships, the Chinese constructed the Chinese Embassy in Accra in 1986, relying on their ingenuity. They progressed from building sheds in their early days to renting dormitory buildings and eventually purchasing land to establish offices and living quarters. Through their diligence and intelligence, the Chinese have completed numerous projects in Ghana, ushering in a new era of revitalisation.

In the early days of China's reform and opening, the Chinese who went to Ghana were primarily translators and practitioners, facing numerous challenges and hardships. These individuals were instrumental in bridging cultural divides and promoting development in Ghana, using their youth and wisdom to contribute to the country's growth. This research report explores the pioneering experiences and diverse contributions of the Chinese people in Ghana during this period.

During this time, the Chinese people in Ghana were not limited to those working in state-owned enterprises. Many Chinese immigrants, including Hong Kong residents and some mainlanders, were also present in the country, engaging in

various industries such as production, restaurants, hospitals, and photo studios. These individuals were crucial in promoting economic development and cultural exchange between China and Ghana.

As China's reform and opening deepened in the mid-1990s, more Chinese mainlanders migrated to Ghana. This migration was further facilitated by increasing official political and economic interactions between China and Ghana. In November 1997, China's Xinhua News Agency and Ghanaian news organisations established direct news exchanges, leading to a surge in public discourse about China and Asia in the Ghanaian media. This opened up opportunities for Ghanaians to engage with oriental countries directly and acquire a global perspective. Additionally, Ghana's status as an African emerging market attracted numerous foreign investors, including those from China.

The early British colonisers had established Ghana's primary production resources, such as cocoa and timber, which became significant exports to China. As a result, China has been a substantial importer of these products, further strengthening economic ties between the two countries. To support Ghana's media sector, the Chinese Embassy provided the necessary equipment to improve the operations of Ghanaian news organisations. Furthermore, China International Hydropower Corporation signed a contract with the Ghanaian government to assist in providing electricity to 106 townships in the Volta Region. This project was funded by a concessionary loan of US\$29 million from China, with interest rates waived for the first three years and a ten-year repayment period at 2% annual interest.

The most significant milestone in establishing diplomatic relations between China and Ghana occurred in 1999 when Vice President Hu Jintao led a 30-member delegation to Ghana. This visit marked the most significant Chinese delegation to Ghana since Premier Zhou Enlai's visit 35 years earlier. During this

visit, Hu Jintao emphasised the close ties between China and Ghana, particularly in agriculture, science, health, trade, and commerce. Economic cooperation agreements worth 50 million RMB were signed during this visit, further solidifying the economic partnership between the two countries.

In 2000, the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Ghana marked a significant milestone. This anniversary signalled the conclusion of the initial historical phase of the Chinese presence in Ghana and ushered in a new era. Throughout this period, high-level officials from both countries actively engaged in discussions and exchanges.

In January 2000, Lu Yongshou, the Chinese Ambassador to Ghana, met with President Rawlings to commemorate the four decades of Sino-Ghanaian relations and Macao's return to Ghana to support the One-China principle. Shortly after that, Chinese State Councilor Wu Yi also met with Rawlings, who praised China's science and technology and expressed hope that China would utilise its technological expertise to support Ghana's development efforts.

In March, Lu Yongshou discussed increasing the utilisation of traditional Chinese medicine in the Ghanaian health system with Ghanaian Health Bureau Director General Danso Bauer. Bauer expressed interest in scaling up production and establishing a training school for acupuncture. Additionally, the Chinese delegation visited the Ghanaian Atomic Energy Commission to collaborate in food safety, traditional Chinese medicine production, cancer treatment, and environmental protection.

In July, Ghanaian Vice President Mills visited China to celebrate the 40 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. He hoped for deeper cooperation in agriculture, trade, and other sectors. Also, in July, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries hosted parliamentary delegations from Ghana to discuss education, cultural exchange, and international relations.

In August, China assisted the Ghanaian police in upgrading and expanding their training facilities. This assistance was built upon previous cooperation between the Chinese and Canadian police forces. As China's engagement with Ghana deepened across various fields, its support in strengthening Ghana's police capabilities contributed to enhancing its security.

In the agricultural sector, China, Ghana, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations entered a tripartite agreement to send Chinese farming experts and technicians to West Africa to enhance food production capabilities. In September, the Ghana-China Friendship Association (GHACHIFA) was established to promote social, cultural, educational, and trade exchanges. October witnessed the signing of an agreement on cooperation in higher education between the Ministry of Education of China and Ghana. This agreement saw China providing 50 minicomputers worth \$200,000 to the University of Ghana and establishing advanced laboratories on campus.

Between 1990 and 2000, in addition to official diplomatic exchanges between China and Ghana, a cultural phenomenon deeply engraved China and its culture into the hearts of the Ghanaian people. Ghanaian state television's broadcast of the complete series of *The Journey to the West*, a Chinese television drama, was a critical factor in this cultural influence. The show, which aired in Chinese with English subtitles, captured the Ghanaian public's imagination with its colourful depiction of the East, the wisdom of survival in distress, and the moral spirit of pursuing the true meaning of life.

The Ghanaian audience, from children to adults, was captivated by this weekly series. Many gave up their Sunday activities, even preceding church attendance, to eagerly await each new episode. The story of the monk Tang Sanzang and his three disciples on their journey to retrieve the Buddhist scriptures from the ancient Indian world resonated deeply with Ghanaian viewers. This resonance was not limited to the storyline;

Ghanaian society also developed a fondness for Chinese TV dramas, stories, and songs.

The impact of this cultural exchange on Ghanaian society has been profound and long-lasting. Nearly 20 years after the broadcast of *The Journey to the West*, random surveys of Ghanaian adults aged 30 to 60 found that the majority still remembered being deeply moved by this Chinese classical literature and that the memory retained its potency over such a long period. This TV series sparked curiosity about China among many Ghanaians, fostering dreams of exploring the oriental world.

This case study highlights that the influence of one nation on another does not solely stem from political or economic cooperation. The power of cultural industries, primarily classic literary works and film and television productions, cannot be understated. Their traditional content can evoke shared emotions and aspirations among all humanity. In historical examples, such as early European Christianity, education, language, and culture played a pivotal role in a nation's "soft colonisation" influence, whose impact persisted beyond the colonial era. The Ghanaian reception of *The Journey to the West* demonstrates China's robust cultural heritage and its importance in facilitating cultural exchanges and communication during cultural collisions.

Next, the researcher will delve into the second phase of the Sino-Ghana relationship from 2001 to the present. In 2001, John Kufuor, leader of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in Ghana, became the nation's president, a position he held until 2009. His tenure marked the first peaceful transition of power in Ghanaian political history since 1957.

Kufuor's presidency was marked by his dedication to developing modern agriculture, enhancing social services, and vigorously pursuing infrastructure development. He contributed significantly to healthcare, education, finance, communication, and sports. The successes under his leadership were partially attributed to China's support of Ghana, mainly as China played a pivotal role in Ghana's modernisation process.

The Chinese Embassy has consistently provided material support to the Ghanaian government, but the scale and quality of these donations have been more robust since 2001. What is particularly noteworthy is the unprecedented economic cooperation between China and Ghana across various sectors of the economy, including agriculture and fisheries, infrastructure and manufacturing, the chemical pharmaceutical industry, tourism, military defence, education, and sports.

Learning Chinese was seen as a natural way to enhance cultural and linguistic connections further and solidify the cultural bond between China and Ghana. Ghana thus initiated Chinese language courses in 2007 through the Language Centre and Professional Research Institutions. Ghanaians recognised that learning Chinese would benefit personal and professional development with China's impending status as an economic superpower. Additionally, the influx of Chinese investors and expatriates into Ghana post-2001 further emphasised the need for language proficiency. In May 2007, the Minister of Human Resources even proposed introducing Chinese language courses in all secondary schools in Ghana. These efforts aimed to propel all facets of Sino-Ghana relations forward by fostering an educational groundswell. It was believed that learning Chinese would not only spread technical knowledge but also instil a valuable perspective on how the Chinese approach problem-solving and their work ethic—critical aspects for societal and economic advancement.

In August 2008, the Chinese government doubled the annual scholarships available to African students, increasing them to 4,000. For the 2008-2009 academic year, 34 Ghanaian students were recipients of Chinese government scholarships, signifying a deepening of the friendship between the two nations. More African students are expected to seize opportunities to study in China, further strengthening cultural and educational ties.



China-Ghana relations have experienced unprecedented growth over the past eight years since President John Kufuor assumed office in 2001. This positive trend is primarily attributed to two key factors. Firstly, the Republic of Ghana has enjoyed political stability, attracting significant foreign investment in various sectors. Secondly, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, China has achieved rapid development across multiple fields, becoming a global powerhouse. Notably, China hosted the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 and marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of New China in 2009. As of 2008, China's foreign exchange reserves exceeded \$1.95 trillion, making it the world's largest holder of foreign exchange reserves. By 2008, China's GDP had reached US \$4.3977 trillion. It is estimated that China's growth in the global economy contributed to approximately 20% of overall growth until 2008. China has transformed from a predominantly agricultural country to the world's third-largest industrial producer, with the "Made in China" label becoming synonymous with global production. With China's economic growth, its transportation, energy, and telecommunications infrastructure have thrived. China is gradually transitioning from meeting basic needs to becoming a well-off society. These are remarkable achievements in China's reform and opening. China's development is evident to the world, as its experience, technology, capacity, and funds in infrastructure construction are invaluable to African countries. In terms of political relations, as a leader among developing countries, China has always upheld the principles of "friendship first, mutual benefit and win-win, and common development" in its relations with Ghana. Ghana has benefited from China's economic and technical support in various fields such as agriculture, science and technology, healthcare, military affairs, tourism, sports, education, and more. Ghana recognises the long-term strategic value of friendship and cooperation with China based on trust, stability, sincerity, equality, mutual benefit, and peaceful development.

As a developing country, China still faces numerous challenges in its development efforts. Nevertheless, it has consistently provided economic support to Ghana, including various subsidies, interest-free loans, concessionary loans, supply of various commodities, and human resources development assistance. Amidst the global financial crisis, China has maintained its commitment to investing in Ghana's growth. Over recent years, China has registered 387 projects in Ghana, which cost US \$235,180,000. Trade between China and Ghana has grown steadily, with China becoming Ghana's second-largest export destination. President Kufuor's tenure laid an excellent foundation for China-Ghana relations and economic cooperation. Building upon this foundation, China-Ghana relations have fostered a positive mechanism for continuously exploring new opportunities and development. The 10th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Ghana Friendship Association was celebrated in 2009. This association has played a highly positive role in non-governmental business cooperation, particularly in joint ventures, cultural exchanges, educational collaborations, and business networking. Currently, the focus of China-Ghana relations remains on government-to-government partnerships; however, there is a growing need for closer cooperation between civil society and enterprises.

Although China and Ghana have made significant progress in economic cooperation, numerous challenges persist. These challenges are primarily rooted in cross-cultural communication obstacles and language barriers. Considerable disparities exist in language and culture between the Chinese and Ghanaian people. China and Ghana must prioritise investing in education and cultural exchange to develop their relationship further. When foreign companies such as those from Europe, America, or Japan conduct business in China, they often expect their Chinese employees to adapt to international standards, including operating according to the company's specific rules, regulations, and language preferences, typically requiring proficiency in

English or Japanese. However, this adaptation is not one-way. For example, Chinese companies operating as foreign-funded enterprises in Ghana must also adapt to the local business practices and cultural expectations while requiring Ghanaian employees to align with some of the Chinese operational norms and language requirements. This highlights the bilateral nature of cultural and operational adjustments in international business settings, where employers and employees may need to make concessions and learn from one another to achieve effective communication and business success.

A thorough understanding of China is paramount to establishing a solid corporate culture and system. Even if Chinese companies utilise English as the primary language of communication, Ghanaian employees require a deeper understanding of Chinese culture and systems. The company should provide ample opportunities for learning Chinese and exploring Chinese culture. Educational institutions should offer more Chinese courses and collaborate with Chinese companies to facilitate cultural exchange. Learning Chinese and understanding Chinese culture should be a benefit provided to their employees by Chinese companies. Sending outstanding employees to headquarters in China for training and cultural immersion is also crucial for enhancing cross-cultural communication. China should establish Ghanaian studies and language programs at language universities or international politics departments. To foster more profound exchanges between China and Ghana, academic research collaboration will play a pivotal role. As an economic powerhouse, China should be more inclusive in academic research.

The compilation of these news discourses reflects the evolving relationship between China and Ghana over the past 60 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations. These accounts are not told from the perspectives of China, Europe, or America but serve as objective narratives of Ghana's experiences. There is no external political or ideological influence

in these accounts. Original research data attests to the peaceful international relations between China and Ghana, characterised by benevolence, mutual assistance, and equitable dialogue. This relationship between China and Ghana represents more than just communication between the third-world countries; there is no history of colonialism or racial discrimination between them. However, in the West, mainly Europe and the United States, Sino-African relations have long been framed through a post-colonial lens, leading to misunderstandings. The author of this study seeks to clarify common misconceptions by examining the bilateral relationship between China and Ghana as a case study. This research aims to show that this partnership is driven not by exploitative motives, as often speculated, but by principles of benevolence, mutual assistance, and equitable dialogue, reflecting broader Chinese diplomatic principles. However, it is essential to recognise that this case study may only represent some facets of China's interactions with other African nations. Due to diverse historical, economic, and political contexts, China's relations with different African countries can vary significantly. Therefore, while this study provides valuable insights into the China-Ghana relationship, these findings should be considered and interpreted objectively within the broader and more complex panorama of China-Africa relations.

### **Case studies of the overseas Chinese in Ghana**

The migration patterns of Chinese individuals to Africa have been widely studied at various academic levels. Nevertheless, fundamental questions remain unanswered. Specifically, why do Chinese individuals choose to live and work in Africa? How, where, and when do they migrate? Moreover, what are the consequences of these migrations on both the migrants and the local population?

In the pre-reform and opening-up era, individuals from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions migrated to Ghana as entrepreneurs, investing in and establishing factories. Post-

reform and opening-up, state-owned enterprises from the Chinese mainland have executed various infrastructure projects in Ghana, including roads, construction, public facilities, hydropower, and other large- to medium-sized projects. Beginning in the 1990s, an increasing number of mainland business people have started their entrepreneurial ventures in Ghana through personal investments. Since achieving independence, Ghana, like many African nations, has faced significant challenges in urbanisation processes. These include developing adequate infrastructure, securing reliable water and power supplies, enhancing education and healthcare systems, advancing technology, boosting agricultural production, and ensuring the availability of daily necessities. While substantial progress has been made in these areas, ongoing efforts are necessary to address these challenges further (Opoku, 2018; Honorati, 2016).

This study takes a unique approach to exploring the micro-level realities of China-Ghana relations through an auto/biographical narrative perspective. The researcher and his family, Ghanaian overseas Chinese, have extensive experience living in Ghana and have personally participated in and witnessed the history of China-Ghana relations. The researcher hopes to make a humble contribution to studying China-Ghana relations.

The researcher then narrates the story from a first-person perspective or through a personal narrative. This narrative is divided into two distinct stages: The first is the researcher's nostalgic recollections of his time in Ghana. The second involves his return to Ghana after a 19-year hiatus to conduct research.

### ***Part 1 Early years in Ghana***

In July 1986, Wang Lizu, the father of John Qiong Wang, was dispatched to Ghana by the overseas department of China State Construction Engineering Corporation Gansu Branch. At that time, John was only four years old. His father's image always remained in his heart during his upbringing, as his mother primarily raised him. Nowadays, fathers often hold

significant roles in their children's lives, as it may be easier for fathers and sons to understand each other as they grow older. However, as John grew, he came to appreciate the significance of his father's departure for Ghana. The state assigned his father to the task of establishing the Chinese embassy. As China's reform and opening began to take shape, Wang Lizu, at the age of 35, arrived in Accra, Ghana's capital. He contributed to establishing the embassy of the People's People's Republic of China on Ghanaian soil, marking a pivotal juncture in the diplomatic history between China and Ghana.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, living and working conditions in Ghana were basic. Initially, Wang Lizu and two colleagues, all pioneers of Chinese enterprises in Ghana, set out for Ghana to bid on projects, establish companies, and seek opportunities. At that time, there were very few Chinese in Ghana; many were elderly overseas Chinese from Hong Kong and Taiwan regions. The China Construction Corporation was the first Chinese mainland company to enter Ghana. They introduced Chinese business practices and management styles to Ghana by establishing one of the first Chinese mainland companies in the country. They adapted to local challenges adeptly, utilising Chinese regulatory frameworks and innovative problem-solving techniques to tackle material scarcity, equipment shortages, and limited financial resources. Despite these hurdles, they demonstrated exceptional perseverance and commitment, contributing to their business goals and Ghana's national development. This approach went beyond mere business operations; it was about building local capacity, fostering bilateral relations, and demonstrating a spirit of cooperation and mutual benefit. Through these efforts, they exemplified Chinese wisdom and solutions, helping to pave the way for future Chinese investments in Ghana.

In 1985, the Gansu Construction Engineering Group collaborated with China State Construction Engineering Corporation to construct the Chinese Embassy in Ghana under the

name “China State Construction Engineering Corporation Gansu Branch. A specialised embassy construction team was formed for this project. This marked Gansu Construction Engineering Group’s first independently managed and self-financed project abroad and their first embassy construction project. After ending their partnership with China State Construction Engineering Corporation, Gansu Construction Engineering Group, they established the Hualong (Ghana) Group Corporation in China. The primary aim of this new entity was to continue and expand construction initiatives at the Chinese Embassy in Ghana.

Hualong (Ghana) Group Corporation evolved from China State Construction Ghana Limited, established on September 9, 1987, and registered with the Ghana Investment Promotion Center. This registration signified the entry and growth of one of Ghana’s first Chinese-funded enterprises from Gansu Province. Over the ensuing decades, the Gansu Construction Engineering Group and its affiliated companies made significant progress in Ghana, demonstrating tenacity and courage in overcoming challenges and building an entrepreneurial legacy. Over more than 20 years, Hualong (Ghana) Group Corporation independently undertook 99 projects (excluding the Ghanaian Embassy and non-governmental organisation offices), completed a total construction area of 363,553 square metres, and generated approximately \$146.53 million in revenues.

### *Chinese Embassy in Ghana Project*

The construction of the Chinese Embassy in Ghana encompassed an area of 5,440 square metres and had a budget of \$2.886 million. The project was carried out from May 1985 to January 1988. The primary contractor for this project was Gansu Yijian (Gansu No. One China Construction Corporation), a subsidiary of Gansu Construction Engineering Group, with Xia Kaiyang serving as the project leader. Located approximately 3.5km northeast of Accra, the capital of Ghana, the embassy sits on a plot of 12,000 square metres with an L-shaped

perimetre measuring 126.8 metres from east to west and 121.4 metres from north to south. The construction contract for the embassy was signed by the Economic Aid Department of the China Construction Corporation with the Embassy of Ghana. The China State Construction Engineering Corporation Gansu Branch was given full operational control, financial autonomy, and responsibility for the project's profitability. The architectural design was provided by Ghana's Ofu Design Firm.

In late 1987, a joint inspection team comprising representatives from the Foreign Affairs Real Estate Department of the Chinese Embassy in Ghana, the Infrastructure Department of the Ministry of Economic and Trade, and the China State Construction Engineering Corporation Gansu Branch conducted a comprehensive review and assessment of the project. The project was rated excellent following this evaluation. Consequently, the construction quality of the building complex, including its primary structure, architectural finishes, and landscaping, met the high standards expected for an embassy project, achieving a highly satisfactory rating.

### *The National Theatre*

In January 1992, Mr. Qian Qichen, former State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China visited Ghana, and one of the inspection projects involved the construction of the National Theatre in Ghana. The National Theatre of Ghana was built in 1990 with funding from the Chinese government. It covers an area of 15,500 square metres with a total construction area of 11,896 square metres.<sup>2</sup> The theatre is a multi-purpose facility with clear zoning and complete amenities. By the end of 1992, the National Theatre of Ghana had been completed and put into operation, becoming one of the symbolic landmarks of the city of Accra.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: [www.nationaltheatre.gov.gh/history/](http://www.nationaltheatre.gov.gh/history/)





Figure 1: The National Theatre



Figure 2: J.J. Rawlings (Former President of Ghana, middle), Wang Daocheng (Head of the China State Construction Engineering Corporation Gansu Branch, Left), Wang Lizu (Deputy Head of the China State Construction Engineering Corporation Gansu Branch, Right)



Figure 3: Wang Lizu(left) and Qian Qichen (right)

### *First Photo Studio in Ghana*

In 1988, Mao Lingli, an English teacher from the Foreign Languages Department at Lanzhou University, followed her husband, Wang Lizu, to Ghana, where the China State Construction Engineering Corporation Gansu Branch employed him. Assigned as an interpreter for the project, Mao Lingli soon found herself involved in establishing a photography studio for Mr. and Mrs. Wang, a Chinese couple from Shanghai. Starting from scratch, this studio became the first in Ghana and a symbol of modernisation. It attracted numerous photography enthusiasts and families eager to purchase cameras and develop photos.

The establishment of Ghana's first photography studio by Mr. and Mrs. Wang marked a significant milestone in the country's journey towards modernisation. This studio did more than introduce new technology; it played a pivotal role in reshaping Ghana's social and cultural landscape.

As a medium, photography offers a visual documentation of change and progress. For many Ghanaians, the introduction of the photography studio was their first opportunity to engage directly with this form of art and communication. It enabled individuals and families to preserve personal and historical moments, a practice that was previously less accessible to the general population.

The studio's presence also symbolised a broader shift towards more global and modern ways of living. It was a manifestation of Ghana embracing and integrating technological advancements into everyday life. This transition was not just about capturing images; it was about capturing the essence of a society in flux, reflecting aspirations and new possibilities.

Moreover, the studio influenced lifestyle changes among Ghanaians. It became a hub where people learned about and interacted with photographic technology, leading to a growing interest in visual arts and media. This, in turn, fostered a greater awareness of global cultures and trends, as people were exposed to styles and ideas brought in by Chinese expatriates and other foreigners. The studio thus became a place of cultural exchange and a beacon of new opportunities, encouraging Ghanaians to explore and express their identities in novel ways.

In essence, the introduction of the photography studio was more than a commercial enterprise; it was a conduit for modernisation that touched on various aspects of Ghanaian life, from art and personal expression to cultural understanding and technological engagement. This studio captured images and the transformative spirit of the era, marking a significant chapter in Ghana's modern history.



Figure 4: Wang Lizu (Left 1 ), Mao Lingli (Left 2), Mr. and Mrs. Wang(Right 1); the picture's background is the photo studio construction site.



Figure 5: The background of the photo studio building.



Figure 6: The interior lobby of the photo studio building

### ***Part 2 A return visit after 19 Years***

On August 15, 2019, Professor John Qiong Wang flew with Air China from Dubai and then transferred to Emirates for his research in Ghana. When he was a teenager and travelled to Ghana with his parents, he flew with British International Airways, KLM, and Aeroflot, among others. Emirates was a new experience for him. Africa and Ghana have a long history, and for over 20 years, he has been eagerly anticipating the midway transition process as it allows him to engage with the culture of Europe or the Middle East.

This journey to Arabian countries rekindled his fond memories of studying and living in Africa, where Arabs were among the largest ethnic groups alongside the Chinese. The cultural intersection in Africa enriched his life, leading to many friendships with Arabs. His profound appreciation for Arabian culture largely stems from his experiences in Ghana, where Chinese and Arab immigrants have created a rich tapestry of cultural integration and interaction.

What sets this journey apart from previous ones is that he travelled abroad as a public researcher on this occasion. Every aspect of the journey resonated with memories of his 19-year-old self. However, there was a significant difference: he is now a member of the Communist Party of China. His experiences as a teenager and his current identity as a party-member teacher shape a unique perspective. In the past, his patriotism stemmed from being one of the few Chinese children who had the opportunity to set foot on African soil, knowing where he came from and what his country represented. Today, his motivation is different. He aims to utilise his cross-cultural experiences to foster friendship and cooperation between the people of China and Ghana, as Ghana holds a special place in his upbringing.

On his way to Ghana, he felt a sense of calmness as it was not a foreign land to him, almost like returning home. His only regret was not being able to bring his parents, who were former overseas Chinese in Ghana, along on this journey. Their connection to the country runs more profound than his own as they had worked there in the past, while he had only visited as a child. Upon landing, he was greeted by the sight of the newly constructed airport in Ghana, next to the familiar old airport. His friend who picked him up at the airport was a Chinese man from Hubei who worked in a hotel that caters to the newer generation of Chinese immigrants in Ghana. This hotel often hosts visitors from China, provides Chinese food and beverages, and serves as a convenient drop-off point for Chinese people in Ghana.

Accra, the capital, has witnessed significant growth in the past two decades by constructing numerous new buildings, resulting in a landscape dominated by high-rise structures in the city centre. However, most street environments and amenities have remained relatively unchanged. Ghanaians are renowned for their exuberant hospitality towards foreigners, creating an atmosphere welcoming to visiting foreign friends. While most buildings may not be tall, the main commercial thoroughfare, "Oxford Street," remains vibrant and bustling. This street

is home to various goods and services, including numerous Chinese and Arab restaurants. “Oxford Street” in Accra is Ghana’s most representative commercial district. John vividly remembers residing in this area with his parents over a decade ago. His experiences here are imbued with sentiments.

Chinese advertisements are omnipresent on the streets, particularly in Chinese restaurants. There has been a significant increase in Chinese restaurants compared to 19 years ago, with Chinese restaurants found in every district of the Greater Accra region.

This research activity was facilitated by local friends in Africa who provided him with a research assistant, a vehicle and driver, and office amenities. Most of the scientific data were collected at the University of Ghana. Following his visit to the University of Ghana, he toured various institutions on campus, including the Language Centre, Confucius Institute at the University of Ghana, the Department of Sociology, and the Institute of African Studies.



Figure 7: Confucius Institute at the University of Ghana

In addition to data collection at the University of Ghana, he also interacted with various Chinese groups, including those involved in the hospitality, catering, medical, production, and high-tech industries.

Ping Kang Clinic, a clinic established by a younger generation of Chinese in Tema, was one of the institutions he visited. In recent years, the number of Chinese immigrants in Tema has gradually increased, establishing numerous institutions catering to the Chinese population. Due to time constraints, he could only gain a cursory understanding of the clinic at that time. The doctor on duty that day was a female practitioner from Hubei. Her family remained in China, yet she had travelled thousands of miles to live and work in Ghana. She arrived in Ghana in April 2019 and spent three years working there, yet she has not been able to return home due to the pandemic.



Figure 8: Ping Kang Clinic





Figure 9: Chinese Doctor from Hubei

On August 18th, 2019, John received a phone call from Dr. Xiao Bo on the third day of his arrival in Ghana. In the name of the Ghana-China Friendship Association (GHACHIFA) and the Ghana-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he was invited to a luncheon at the Tang Palace Hotel. This phone call was particularly inspiring as Uncle Xiao had watched him grow up and had been there for him during his illnesses, including malaria when his father would drive him to Uncle Xiao's clinic for treatment. The existence of a Chinese clinic provided a sense of comfort for many Chinese people in Ghana.

The guests at this unusual party were diverse and included Tang Hong, the president of the GHACHIFA and the Ghana-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Xiao Bo, the vice president; Zhou Lin, the vice president of the staff of the Chinese Embassy in Ghana; and senior representatives of various Chinese institutions in Ghana. At the dinner, Uncle Xiao raised his glass to introduce John to everyone, marking a significant milestone

in his research work and establishing a solid foundation for his future endeavours.



Figure 10: At the Tang Palace dinner party, Vice President Xiao Bo raised a glass to introduce his research work.

Dr Xiao Bo, along with two other vice presidents, posed for a group photo at the dinner party. All three are long-term overseas Chinese residents who have lived in Ghana for more than 30 years. Interestingly, the individual on the left is Shen Hanming from Hong Kong, China, while President Xiao in the middle hails from Beijing, and President Zhou next to him is from the Chinese Taiwan Region. Standing alongside these three elders, who have collectively spent over half a century in Africa, has given him a sense of unity among Chinese people working together for the common cause within the integrated organization that represents the “Chinese people.”

If an individual embarks on an overseas journey, each Chinese person from different regions of China embodies the

essence and spirit of the Chinese people. These three elderly “uncles”, presumably retired, felt that their mission had not been completed. Therefore, they continue to gradually contribute to the China-Ghana relationship. In the broader context of numerous grand historical narratives, it can be difficult to understand these individual stories that contribute to the complex relations between China and Ghana. Among the three, Uncle Xiao and Uncle Zhou left a deep impression on him. Uncle Shen mentioned that he had also seen him when he was a child, although he may not remember clearly. For John, 19 years is not just a specific period or a significant distance; it appears that he is using this time to reminisce, express gratitude, and explore his feelings towards the Chinese diaspora. Time is not merely a measure but an experience of the present moment. However, currently, we feel a connection that drives us to contribute to our country in our own way and to discover the bonds of overseas Chinese as we mature.



Figure 11: Left 1 Shen Hanming(Hong Kong SAR), Left 2 Xiao Bo (Beijing), Right 2 Zhou Senlin (Taiwan Region) and Right 1 Prof. John Qiong Wang

Some may question how an individual raised abroad, without the benefit of extensive patriotic education, could develop a deep sense of patriotism, perhaps even surpassing that of those raised in their homeland. This individual believes that his profound patriotism is largely influenced by his early life in a military family, which instilled in him the core values of loyalty and duty. Furthermore, his time spent in Ghana allowed him to witness the inherent goodwill of the Chinese community, reinforcing his national pride and identity. Observing the positive impact and benevolence of Chinese individuals abroad helped validate and deepen his sense of patriotism, proving that his feelings are well-founded despite his upbringing outside his home country. They are more united, helping one another and sharing a fundamental sense of responsibility. The Chinese can establish roots in a foreign country not only due to their benevolence but also because they extend this benevolence to the hearts of the native Ghanaian people. To prosper in Ghana, people must consider Ghanaians as essential partners. Only by building a shared future for all can we truly achieve the goal of global harmony. Chinese and overseas Chinese excel because they possess a hardworking spirit and know how to conduct business based on benevolence and mutual benefit. They understand what social ethics and a sense of responsibility mean. All this is derived from the exceptional traditional culture of Chinese civilisation, which forms the foundation of every Chinese individual.

### **Case 1: Mr. and Mrs. Lu from Regal Restaurant**



Figure 12: The owners of Regal Restaurant, husband and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Lu

In the heart of Accra, Ghana, nestled within the cityscape, lies a unique Chinese restaurant that has become a local favourite and a must-visit for foreign tourists. For the Wang family, it is more akin to a cherished old friend who holds memories of countless lunches and dinners shared within its walls. This is the renowned Regal Restaurant.

John and his parents once lived nearby, and the Regal Restaurant was a monthly fixture in their routine, a tradition that instilled within John a sense of belonging like no other. Back then, Chinese restaurants were scarce in Ghana, making the Regal Restaurant a quasi-home away from home for the Wang family.

The Regal Restaurant's founder, Mr. Lu, was a diligent and farsighted middle-aged man. In 1970, he journeyed from China to Ghana to work in an iron can factory owned by a Hong

Kong entrepreneur. His responsibilities primarily involved printing patterns on the factory's iron cans, such as the pictures of biscuits on the blue cans exported to Hong Kong. However, over time, the factory's fortunes began to wane. Yet, faced with adversity, Mr. Lu refused to be defeated. He harboured dreams of attaining a more illustrious career than the one he had found himself in.

In January 1991, Mr. Lu and his friends boldly decided to open a Chinese restaurant in Ghana, a rare venture at the time. The Regal Restaurant quickly became a sensation due to its authentic Chinese cuisine and exceptional service. Mr. Lu's restaurant provided Ghanaian residents with a novel food experience and allowed them to savour the allure of Chinese culture.



Figure 13: In March 1983, Mrs Lu was three months pregnant.  
Photo taken at the Ghana Botanical Garden.

Since September of last year, Mr. & Mrs. Lu have retired to Shanghai. They expressed their utmost gratitude to Ghana: “We are extremely grateful to Ghana. Although we were not affluent

during those years, we could send our two sons to college in the United States. None of this would have been possible without years of hard work and dedication in Ghana.” Currently, the restaurant is being operated by a distant relative who has resided in Ghana for over 20 years. He has worked at the establishment for several years and is intimately familiar with all operations.

Since they arrived in Ghana in 1970, Mr. and Mrs. Lu have invested nearly half a century of their youth and wisdom into Ghana. They played a significant role in popularizing Chinese cuisine in their local area of Africa, skillfully blending culinary practices with cultural exchanges. During this extensive period, they established themselves in a foreign land, providing numerous employment opportunities for locals and contributing to the development of the local economy. Their success is not accidental but rather the culmination of hard work and perseverance. Their narrative is one of tenacity, dedication, and gratitude.

Presently, the Regal Restaurant has become a renowned tourist attraction in Ghana. It offers delectable Chinese cuisine, a cosy family atmosphere, and exceptional service. For the John family, it is more than just a restaurant; it is a repository of memories and emotions. Whenever they mention the restaurant, their gratitude overflows.

At this elegant restaurant, Mr. Lu, his family, and his staff are dedicated to delighting every customer with exquisite Chinese cuisine and genuine hospitality. It is a perfect destination for enjoying delectable dishes and immersing oneself in Chinese culture. Here, patrons can indulge in authentic Chinese flavours while admiring the dedication and passion of the Chinese people.

Mr Lu’s success story is not only about his achievements but also a microcosm of the struggles endured by Chinese individuals overseas. His narrative teaches us that if we harbour dreams, exhibit courage, and exert effort, we can overcome all obstacles and achieve our objectives. Additionally, his success underscores the significance of cultural exchange. By introducing

Chinese cuisine to Ghana, he offers locals novel food options and fosters cultural exchanges between China and Ghana.

Individuals who pursue careers abroad and achieve success are admirable. Worldwide, there are numerous other heartening Chinese stories of incremental prosperity. Chinese people depend on their abilities to prosper, remain grateful to their homeland and relatives, and emphasise treating local employees respectfully and integrating with their culture. By fostering cultural exchange and cooperation, these individuals contribute significantly to society.

Mr. Lu's narrative is an enchanting account of wealth and success. His success is a personal achievement and a contribution to the larger community. His flourishing restaurant has become integral to the daily lives of Ghanaians, providing residents with a sense of belonging.



Figure 14: The photograph was taken ten years ago. The restaurant has been in operation for twenty years. Most of the employees shown in the photograph are still working at the restaurant.



## **Case 2 Dr Xiao Bo from the Chinese Acupuncture Clinic**

Located on the road from Ashaiman to Nungua in the Greater Accra Region, there is a unique clinic known for its distinctive approach to diagnosis and treatment, led by its owner, Dr. Xiao Bo, a Chinese physician. Xiao Bo, a native of Beijing, arrived in Ghana in the early 1980s. He brought with him not only the knowledge of traditional Chinese medicine but also a profound respect for life and a commitment to humane care. In 1988, he opened a Chinese clinic in Ghana, becoming the first foreign doctor in Ghanaian history to be allowed to practice.

Initially, the Ghanaians had a limited understanding of the concept of traditional Chinese medicine. All they knew was that a Chinese doctor was practising medicine. At that time, there was only one Chinese doctor in Ghana. Following the clinic's opening, it gained senior local officials' attention. Former Ghanaian President JJ Rawlings faced a challenging recovery after falling from his horse and injuring his arm. Despite initially seeking Western medical treatments without significant improvement, he turned to alternative solutions. At the recommendation of his advisors, President Rawlings sought the expertise of Dr. Xiao, a practitioner of Chinese medicine. This consultation marked a turning point in his recovery, highlighting the potential benefits of Chinese medical practices when traditional Western methods proved ineffective. Dr. Xiao's interview account of this event serves as a notable example of the positive impact of Chinese medicine. This account is based on an interview with Dr. Xiao. Using acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine physiotherapy, Dr. Xiao effectively alleviated President Rawlings' pain and soon achieved remarkable healing results. Word spread quickly, and more and more individuals came to him seeking traditional Chinese medicine treatment, especially for debilitating limb injuries.

Dr. Xiao's reputation increased, and his clinic became a beacon of hope for many who suffered from chronic pain or debilitating conditions. His dedication to his patients and his

commitment to traditional Chinese medicine were inspiring. His story is a testament to the power of conventional medicine and its impact on individuals seeking a more holistic approach to their well-being.



Figure 15: Chinese Acupuncture Clinic, Photo taken with Dr. Xiao

Nineteen years after John's initial visit, he returned to Uncle Xiao's clinic. Unlike the luxurious hospitals he had become accustomed to, Uncle Xiao's clinic was simple. The gate, courtyard, building, flowerbeds, and even the trees in the yard were all etched in John's memory. Remarkably, the clinic had not changed over the past 19 years, just as he remembered it. John was astounded that, despite the myriad changes in his parents and himself, Uncle Xiao's clinic had continued to operate smoothly according to its original principles. Chinese patients were still frequent visitors, and many local Ghanaians sought medical attention there.

The doctor's paramount duty is to heal the patient. As a Chinese herbalist who had practised medicine in Ghana for decades, Uncle Xiao had treated thousands of Ghanaians. This benevolent act of medicine, encompassing different cultures, countries, and ethnicities, profoundly contributed to the friendship between China and Ghana. Unassuming and introverted, Uncle Xiao had established himself as a benevolent Chinese doctor in the hearts of the Ghanaian people. Chinese doctors personified the spirit and character of the Chinese people: they were unafraid of difficulties and complex conditions, taking one step at a time to forge a reputation in Ghana. Few knew Uncle Xiao's name in Ghana, but everyone respected him because he had used his precious skills to safeguard the lives of both Chinese and Ghanaians. He firmly believed that the Chinese and Ghanaians shared a future. His clinic was egalitarian; all lives were treated equally.

Uncle Xiao's clinic may have been small, but it received a steady stream of patients daily, including local Ghanaians and patients from other African countries. Word of mouth had spread, attracting individuals seeking traditional Chinese medicine treatment. Moreover, Uncle Xiao always treated his patients patiently and meticulously, utilising traditional Chinese medicine practices like acupuncture and massage to heal numerous individuals. His exceptional medical skills and noble medical ethics won him the trust and respect of his patients.

Uncle Xiao's story prompts us to consider an important question: As Chinese individuals, how should we view Africa and its people? Should we exploit them, seek only profit, and seize their resources, or should we, like Uncle Xiao, apply our knowledge, skills, and affection to assist African individuals in solving practical problems? Uncle Xiao's actions offer a clear answer: We should respect Africans, care for them, help them, and work alongside them for mutual development, shared prosperity, and commonwealth.

Now in his 70s, Uncle Xiao still visits the clinic daily. His composure and work ethic are exemplary and deserve our utmost respect. What is even more commendable is that with the dedication of the Chinese people, he abandoned the better living conditions at home and diligently took root in Ghana to practice medicine. This undoubtedly reflects a person's sense of responsibility in a far-off land. Uncle Xiao has become a role model for us to admire. His experiences have given us the courage to work harder and realise how crucial family, social, and national responsibilities are.

***Case 3 Tang Hong, Ghana-China Friendship Association (GHACHIFA), and the Ghana-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chairman of the Tang Palace Hotel***

In Ghana, a West African nation, a Chinese entrepreneur has emerged as a leader in numerous industries, distinguished by his exceptional business acumen and keen market insight. This individual is Tang Hong, the President of the Ghana-China Friendship Association (GHACHIFA) and the Ghana-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He also serves as the representative for all overseas Chinese in Ghana.

Tang Hong's presidency has been marked by his unwavering commitment to the success of this research effort. John recalls encountering him at a dinner party when he was young, providing him with valuable support and assistance. Despite the fuzziness of memories from 19 years ago, his words imparted a sense of the preciousness of his research work. The adult overseas Chinese he met as a child were simply friends of his parents, yet it instilled in him a sense of excitement at the idea of having Chinese individuals in Africa. Their arrivals always brought surprises to our lives. They introduced domestic products, skills, and expertise, and under the wings of the Chinese people, they formed the foundation of emotional connections within the overseas Chinese community.

Tang Hong's entrepreneurial empire spans numerous industries, including hotels, real estate, mining, and import-export trade. His enterprises have played a pivotal role in fostering economic cooperation between China and Ghana, serving as a solid bridge for trade relations between the two nations. His journey began in the early 1990s when he arrived in Ghana to work for a state-owned enterprise promoting textiles, hardware, and electrical products. At that time, approximately 2,000 Chinese individuals were residing in Ghana, and the local consumption level was relatively low. Additionally, conditions were not conducive to producing electrical appliances in Ghana; thus, early household appliances were imported from various sources such as India, Arabia, Europe, the United States, or other locations. These appliances carried exorbitant prices and prohibitive maintenance costs for the local populace, limiting their accessibility to only the affluent. Tang's electrical products imported from China initially met with success but were later overshadowed by improper operations within domestic enterprises, necessitating his withdrawal of overseas investments in Ghana. This setback marked a transition in the early planned economic system and proved to be a turning point for Tang. He opted to depart from the confines of state-owned enterprises and continued his operations as a private company specialising in electrical appliances. He visited local supermarkets frequented by Indians and Arabs, promoting Chinese appliances to them. His products excelled in terms of price and were once immensely popular.

Tang's success can be attributed to his astute observation of market trends and his consistent pursuit of innovation. He maintains a vigilant eye on market developments and excels at spotting emerging business opportunities. Moreover, Tang Hong is a visionary entrepreneur who recognised that Ghana's growing economy would increase demand for high-quality hotels and real estate. Consequently, he made the strategic decision to venture into these industries.

As a result, he began importing car tyres from China. This tyre business is also thriving, supported by his extensive import-export experience. Located near the Atlantic Ocean, the capital of Ghana has a long-standing fishing industry. It was at this time that Mr Tang identified new business opportunities. Noticing the primitive fishing tools used by fishermen, he imported fishing nets from China. These nets proved highly effective, increasing fishing production among Ghanaian fishermen.

Subsequently, Mr Tang diversified his operations, producing auto parts and complete vehicles. He primarily serves as the agent for several large enterprises, such as Jianghuai FAW and Shaanxi Automobile. He later expanded into construction machinery and became the exclusive agent of Sany Heavy Industry in Ghana. Following this, he established his hotel business, focusing on tyre and auto parts production while gradually phasing out hardware and home appliances manufacturing.

When queried about his success, Tang Hong attributed it to his in-depth understanding of the market and his commitment to continuous innovation. He remains vigilant in monitoring market trends and spotting emerging business opportunities. As a visionary entrepreneur, he recognised Ghana's developing economy's increasing demand for high-quality hotels and real estate. This insight prompted him to enter these industries, ultimately leading to the establishment of his hotel business.

In 2015, he opened the Tang Palace Hotel in Accra, a four-star luxury hotel offering deluxe accommodations, Chinese and Western restaurants, cafes, gyms, and other facilities. This hotel has become a gathering place for overseas Chinese in Ghana, hosting numerous large-scale events and parties. The Tang Palace Hotel has elevated the standard of hotel service in Ghana and enhanced the reputational standing of Chinese enterprises in Ghana.



Figure 16: Tang Hong, photographed in the Tang Palace Hotel presidential suite.

In addition to his forays into the hotel and real estate industries, Chairman Tang Hong has ventured into mining and e-commerce platforms. He owns a gold mine and aims to collaborate with Chinese partners to establish an e-commerce platform to further expand his footprint in Ghana.

The businessman's accomplishments are confined to his enterprises and extend to his contributions to the GHACHIFA and the Ghana-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. As the chairman of the Ghanaian Overseas Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, he is committed to fostering relationships between overseas Chinese and the local community and enhancing economic and cultural exchanges between the two nations. He believes that Chinese expatriates should play a more active role in Africa's development and hopes to contribute towards this goal through his efforts.

With a deep-rooted Chinese heritage, Chairman Tang Hong offers unique perspectives on promoting exchanges between China and Ghana. He emphasises that developing Chinese enterprises in Africa encompasses economic cooperation and cultural exchange. He maintains that Chinese enterprises should actively fulfil their social responsibilities in Africa and bring tangible benefits to the local community. For instance, his businesses have generated employment opportunities in Ghana and contributed to regional infrastructure development.

Concurrently, Chairman Tang Hong underscores the significance of overseas Chinese in Africa's development. He remarks that overseas Chinese serve as a vital bridge between China and Africa, and their success is advantageous in bolstering Sino-African relations. He expresses the aspiration for more overseas Chinese to participate in Africa's development and collaboratively promote the advancement of friendly relations between China and Africa.

When discussing his outlook for the future, Chairman Tang Hong remarks that he intends to continue expanding his business scope and is committed to enhancing the reputation of Chinese companies in Ghana. He hopes that through his endeavours, more individuals will recognise the advantages and characteristics of Chinese enterprises, thus making more significant contributions towards Ghana's development.

In summary, Chairman Tang Hong is a visionary entrepreneur and community leader whose success is reflected in his business achievements and his contributions to the overseas Chinese community in Ghana and the African continent. His narrative is a testament to courage, innovation, and dedication, embodying the success of Chinese companies in Africa.



### **Case 4 Pan Guozhen, an entrepreneur of a glass factory**



Figure 17: Factory building in Tema. Left 1 Mr Pan, Left 2, Dr John Qiong Wang, Right 2 A research assistant, Right one driver. The factory used to produce glass-related products.

In the hustle and bustle of Ghana's streets, a remarkable business tale has unfolded the journey of Chinese entrepreneur Mr. Pan Guozhen, who settled in this African country many years ago. The 1980s found Pan Guozhen crossing vast oceans to Ghana, determined to carve out a fresh path in this foreign land.

Upon his arrival, he faced significant infrastructure and power challenges. However, he keenly identified a market gap and set out to produce glass products. His foresight was bang on kerosene glass lampshades, which became a sensation, and his factory met the exacting needs of Ghanaian society. Pan

Guozhen made the kerosene glass lampshade an indispensable fixture in Ghanaian homes through meticulous cost management and ensuring product quality.

In an interview, Pan Guozhen reflected: “It’s not easy for foreigners to invest and set up factories in Ghana.” True to his words, Ghana’s government systems were fledgling, and the business environment was fraught with challenges. But these obstacles fired Pan Guozhen’s fighting spirit, spurring him on the path of entrepreneurship. His unwavering efforts and exceptional acumen saw him overcome each challenge, ultimately ascending to the pinnacle of Ghana’s business sphere.

As the years progressed, Pan Guozhen entered his later years. His daughter, who was raised in Hong Kong, is married and has a business. She has returned to her motherland. This period saw Pan Guozhen exploring new horizons in business. This time, he set his sights on soymilk production. In hot Ghana, soymilk is a summertime hit. However, storage issues have hindered its scale production. Undaunted, Pan Guozhen undertook this complex challenge.

He repurposed part of his original glass factory to produce soymilk. He carefully selects high-quality ingredients and meticulously manages production processes, ensuring each cup meets the highest standards. Limited output notwithstanding, his soymilk enjoys immense popularity in the market, meeting the discerning tastes of Ghanaian consumers.

Today, Mr. Pan has reached retirement. His daughter has moved back to Hong Kong to start her family and career, and he is planning to retire there within the next two years. Reflecting on his journey, Mr. Pan is overwhelmed with emotion. He evolved from a regular Hong Kong resident into a celebrated entrepreneur in Africa, a path filled with numerous hardships and challenges.

However, Mr. Pan always firmly believes that as long as you have a dream in your heart and move forward bravely, you can create a world of your own no matter where you are. His

story is the history of the Chinese struggle in a foreign country, and he is an inspiring entrepreneurial legend.

In Mr. Pan's mind, retirement is not the end but a new beginning. He plans to pass on his experiences and stories to the next generation and inspire more people to pursue their dreams. At the same time, he also hopes to continue to pay attention to Ghana's development and contribute to the prosperity of this land.

In the vibrant land of Ghana, Mr. Pan wrote an eternal business chapter with wisdom and courage. His story will always inspire newcomers to pursue their dreams bravely and create their brilliant futures.

### ***Case 5 Taiwanese businessman Zhou Senlin***

Since the early 1980s, Zhou Senlin, an eminent entrepreneur from the Chinese Taiwan region, has left an indelible mark on the Ghanaian business community. His enterprising spirit encapsulates the Taiwanese tenets of adventure, pioneering, and unrelenting hard work.

In 1981, Mr. Zhou set foot in Ghana when Taiwanese business people were relatively unknown. However, with his keen insight into business and determination to overcome difficulties, he decided to pursue business activities there. Initially, he entered the steel bar manufacturing industry, which required significant capital and technological investments. Yet, he established a foothold in the market through his unwavering commitment and tireless efforts.

Unsatisfied with his success in the steel bar industry, Mr. Zhou recognised the rapid market changes and understood that he could remain invincible in the fierce business competition only through constant innovation and adaptability. Consequently, he began to consider transformation and seek new business opportunities. After careful consideration, he transitioned to producing plastic products, an industry with vast market potential.

Once again, Mr. Zhou demonstrated his entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen within the new industry. He actively introduced advanced production technology and equipment, emphasising product quality and environmental sustainability standards, enormously appealing to the market. Additionally, adhering to the principle of ethical management, he fostered excellent relationships with local businesses and government entities, laying a solid foundation for long-term enterprise growth.

Zhou's fighting spirit extends beyond personal career development. He is aware of enterprises' role in driving local economic growth, so he actively participates in social welfare initiatives and contributes to Ghana's economic advancement and societal progress. His enterprise provides numerous job opportunities and offers valuable support for the growth of local businesses by sharing technological and managerial expertise.

Today, Mr. Zhou's son has assumed responsibility for the family business. The young entrepreneur has ample business knowledge and practical experience, having been carefully mentored by his father. He has aggressively expanded operations into real estate investment and other sectors, infusing fresh vitality into the enterprise's development.

In reflecting on Mr. Zhou's entrepreneurial journey in Ghana, one cannot help but be impressed by his indomitable spirit and business acumen. He emerged from unfamiliar territory, weathered the vagaries of the market and industry shifts, and ultimately established a thriving privately funded enterprise. His success story is a remarkable personal odyssey and a model for Taiwanese entrepreneurs seeking to innovate and prosper overseas.



Figure 18: Photo taken with Mr Zhou and his son in his yard.

### ***Case 6 Lawyer Yang Weiqiang***

In the Ghanaian legal profession, the name of lawyer Yan Weiqiang has become renowned. Hailing from Qingdao, Shandong Province, his professional journey and influence have been firmly established in Ghana. Over the past 17 years, Mr. Yan has become deeply integrated into Ghana's legal community, establishing himself as a prominent Chinese barrister in Ghana.

Shortly after graduating in 2003, he embarked on his journey to Ghana. As a fresh arrival, he was curious and eager for this unfamiliar land. He soon realised that a deep understanding and mastery of Ghanaian law was paramount for his work there. Consequently, he embarked on a self-study journey of Ghanaian law, developing a profound interest in its intricacies. Thanks to the introduction by current President Akuffo Addo, he had the opportunity to delve deeper into Ghanaian law. He began translating Chinese and English materials for the Ghanaian High Court upon the recommendation of Addo's law firm.

Throughout this journey, lawyer Yang met with many esteemed members of the Ghanaian legal community. These encounters not only enhanced his knowledge of the Ghanaian legal framework but also enriched his practical experience. Consequently, this deepened understanding and exposure reinforced Yang's determination to qualify as a lawyer in Ghana, where he could adeptly represent Chinese and overseas Chinese clients.

Yang Weiqiang's efforts and perseverance have been widely recognised. Since 2016, he has served as legal advisor to the GHACHIFA and the Ghana-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. These appointments are a testament to the high regard held by the Chinese community and reflect his status and influence within the Ghanaian legal profession.

As a highly respected lawyer, Yang Weiqiang is patriotic towards his motherland and passionate about legal research. He possesses excellent legal acumen and is honest, diligent, and friendly towards others. Simultaneously, he respects and is eager to learn about Ghana's native culture and language, striving to integrate into the local society. His qualities have won him widespread acclaim from Chinese and local communities.

In lawyer Yang's opinion, the law is crucial to a country's foreign development strategy. He understands with the expansion of Chinese enterprises in Africa and the advancement of the Belt and Road Initiative, understanding and navigating local laws in Africa has become paramount. Consequently, he aspires to achieve more significant milestones in Ghanaian law. He hopes that more African Chinese and overseas Chinese will study local laws and become local lawyers to better support the Belt and Road Initiative's activities. This focus suggests an emphasis on aligning with China's economic and political interests through the initiative, potentially prioritizing these over the local legal and development concerns in Ghana. This perspective highlights the complexity of international projects and the significant role legal professionals play in balancing different national interests.

The story of lawyer Yang Weiqiang is one of tenacity, talent, and dedication. Through his practical actions, he has proved that one can become a leader in any field, regardless of location, with a dream, enthusiasm, and perseverance. His story inspires all: irrespective of our challenges, if we dream and move forward courageously, we will one day shine in our respective fields.

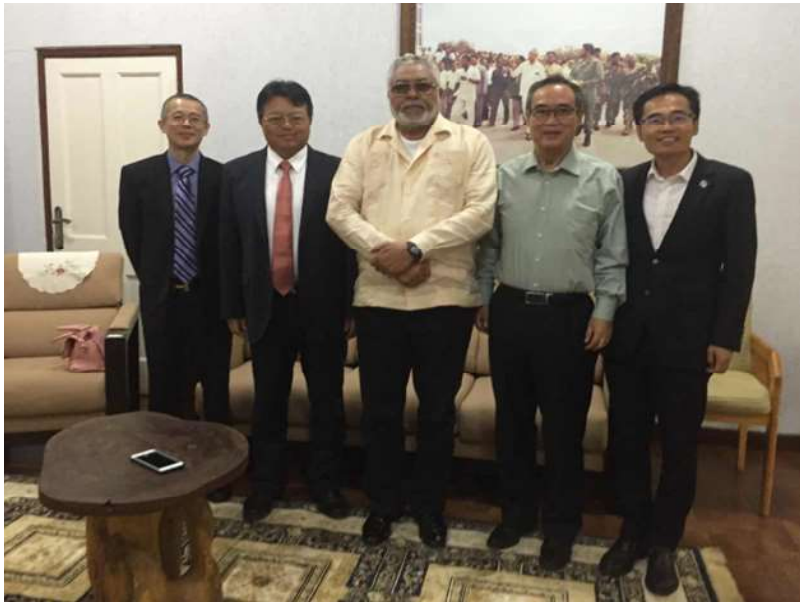


Figure 19: Former President of Ghana (middle), lawyer Yang Weiqiang (Right 1), President Tang Hong(Left 2), Dr. Xiao Bo(Right 2), and others

### **Theoretical implications: The impact of Sino-Ghana relations on Ghana's post-independence political, economic, and sociocultural transformations**

The discussion delves into how these relationships have influenced Ghana's development trajectory and the theoretical frameworks that can aid in understanding the complex dynamics at play. Furthermore, the study highlights the importance of

cultural and historical perspectives in comprehending the evolving nature of Sino-Ghana relations and their impact on Ghana's political, economic, and sociocultural transformation since independence.

In the realm of political, economic, and sociocultural transformations, Ghana's post-independence journey has been profoundly influenced by its relationship with China. This relationship dates to Ghana's independence in 1957 and has had far-reaching implications for the nation's development trajectory.

Ghana's political system, inherited from the colonial era, has challenged its national development and unity path. Attempts at reform have been piecemeal, constrained by the lack of in-depth transformation in the people's class structure, the yawning gap between urban and rural areas, imbalances within the economic system, and career disparities. These challenges are manifest not only in national governance but also in infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare, education, and other sectors.

Establishing diplomatic relations between Ghana and China shortly after independence marked a significant milestone in the country's history. The influx of Chinese nationals injected new vitality into Ghana's economy, introducing various technologies and products that propelled the country's modernisation process. However, as China's influence in Africa has grown, the applicability of the "Chinese model" to African contexts has been scrutinised. Some observers maintain that China's success is predicated on its unique cultural and historical backdrop. African nations should exercise caution in borrowing lessons from it without fully considering their circumstances.

Stephen Chan (2009, 2010) posits that China, India, and even the entire world have made their presence felt in Africa, and it is only natural for the West to grow accustomed to the involvement of China or other nations in Africa and establish themselves as competitors for investment and trade with the



West. Prizgar Gonzales (2014) maintains that China's influence represents a leading and potential force in African development in the 21st century. Africans are witnessing China's emergence as a great power at every step. The Chinese work ethic, which Gonzales highlights, is a significant challenge to African workers, who must adapt their work ethic accordingly. She further asserts that the Chinese have a strong work ethic, committing their time to education, work, and productivity. If Africans can rejuvenate their work ethic, a brighter future lies ahead. Additionally, Gonzales highlights the importance of Chinese Confucianism as the basis for all development and emphasises the centrality of the family in instilling moral values.

Qing (2013) maintains that China's consistent emphasis on political unity with Africa is the foundation for sovereignty-centered relations between China and Africa. China asserts that it understands Africa's views, feelings, conditions, and problems by emphasising a shared anti-colonial tradition. This "natural bond" with "African brothers" forms the crux of China's narrative on Africa. China and Africa share similar historical experiences of struggle for national liberation, leading to a profound friendship.

Choosing a development path and partners is a significant decision for Ghana and other African countries. The rise of China presents both opportunities and challenges for African nations. Many African countries have begun reevaluating their relations with China in search of cooperation that promotes their development while preserving national independence.

At the cultural level, Chinese Confucianism has influenced African workers, emphasising diligence, discipline, and family education. The dissemination of such values has transformed Africa's social and cultural atmosphere to some extent, prompting individuals to emphasise individual and collective efforts. This cultural exchange, however, is not one-sided, as African culture and traditions have also influenced China, adding diversity and depth to Sino-African relations. African culture has also

influenced China in various ways, particularly in the areas of food, language, and lifestyle. For example, the influence of African culture on China is not without its challenges, as evidenced by the differences in language, pedagogical thinking, and lifestyle between Chinese and Angolan students (Long & Xiong, 2014). These cultural differences also manifest in business relations, with the need for greater mutual understanding to minimise misunderstandings (Anedo, 2012).

Looking back at history, the friendship between China and Africa has a longstanding legacy. China and Africa share a similar history of anti-colonial struggle and national liberation experience, and this shared historical memory serves as a profound emotional foundation for bilateral relations. China's policy towards Africa is not merely one of assistance but rather one based on mutual respect and joint development.

In summary, Ghana's post-independence political, economic, and sociocultural transformations constitute complex processes replete with opportunities, challenges, exploration, and reflection. As Ghana faces its future development path, it must delve deeper into its national identity and development strategy to forge a path tailored to its unique circumstances.

## **Conclusion**

Ghana, also known as the "Gold Coast," is renowned not only for its abundant gold resources but also for the unceasing growth of its population. For ages, the residents of this land have fostered a deep historical connection with China.

Since the 1960s and 1970s, Chinese settlers have begun to settle in Ghana, fostering a profound friendship with the local populace. These Chinese have made remarkable contributions to Ghana's development through their diligence and wisdom. Not only did they introduce Chinese technology, but they also disseminated Chinese culture, thereby strengthening the bond between China and Ghana.

The arrival of the Chinese brought economic prosperity to Ghana and introduced a new way of life and thinking to the local populace. They coexist harmoniously with the locals, learning from each other and growing together. This transcultural communication and integration have enhanced the friendship between the two peoples and contributed to global peace and development.

As China's reform and opening deepen in the 21st century, it has forged closer ties with the rest of the world. Increasingly, Chinese enterprises have expanded abroad in search of broader markets and richer resources. As an important African country, Ghana has attracted more Chinese enterprises due to its market potential and resource endowments. However, one must comprehend the local culture, society, and populace to prosper here. We can only achieve mutual benefits and win-win outcomes by integrating into the local society.

In summary, the relationship between Ghana and China has a long history, and the friendship between our two peoples is profound. In the future, we look forward to witnessing more Chinese elements take root in Ghana and writing a more illustrious chapter on Sino-Ghana relations.

Future research should explore the evolving dynamics of the Ghana-China relationship, focusing on the long-term repercussions of Chinese economic activities and cultural integration within Ghanaian society. This entails analysing the socio-economic impacts on local communities, evaluating the sustainability of Chinese investments, and investigating how these interactions affect local cultural identities and social norms. Future studies could also undertake comparative analyses with other African nations with significant Chinese engagements to identify patterns and unique outcomes of Sino-African partnerships. Understanding the successes and challenges within these relationships can offer valuable insights for scholars and policymakers.

Regarding policy-making, it is essential to develop frameworks that enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between Ghana and China. Policies should ensure that Chinese investments promote sustainable and mutually beneficial development. This involves implementing regulations that protect local industries and labour rights while promoting technology transfer and capacity building.

Furthermore, fostering cultural exchange programs and educational collaborations can bridge cultural gaps and cultivate mutual respect. Policies should also address any socio-political tensions arising from increased foreign presence, ensuring that the local population feels included and valued in these international partnerships.

By concentrating on these areas, future research and policy-making can contribute to a more balanced and equitable relationship between Ghana and China, ensuring mutual benefits from their ongoing collaboration and fostering a more harmonious and prosperous future.

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