Journal of International Relations and Diplomacy, Volume 3, Issue 1, November, 2026.
website: https://contemporarychinaafricajournals.com.ng

Assesment of the Perception of President Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Style and Artistry in Nigeria, 2026

Sheriff Ghali Ibrahim

Center for Contemporary China-Africa Research

Contemporary.chinaafrica@gmail.com

Phone: +234 70663 72013

Abstract

This paper examines President Xi Jinping's diplomatic style and artistry on how he has been able to reshape the ambience of contemporry diplomacy within the international system. The paper adopted both primary and secondary intruments of research, where findings show that, Xi's diplomatic artistry is pragmatic, peaceful and legalistic. It transcends the boundaries of national, regional and continental sphere of influence, but emerges to influence global socio-economic and political development. The research also discovered that Xi's diplomatic artistery, style and prowess, is characterised by peaceful coexistence, equal sovereignty, people-centerdness and commitment to international law. The paper concludes that the diplomatic style of President Xi Jinping has brought about a better China-Nigeria relationship based on peaceful cooperation, respect and a mutually benefitial partnership. It has helped in the development of infrastructure, trade and investments as well as economic diversification for Nigeria. However, its effectiveness is hindered by factors like weak institutional commitment, corruption, administrative bottlenecks and worries about ignorance of the locals. The paper recommends that Nigeria should maximize the potentials of the China-Nigeria Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, with focus on policies that will facilitate the active involvement of local content in the manufacturing, industrial parks and value added production with the objective of drawing more Chinese investment to the country to fostering economic growth, job creation and technical partnerships.The federal Government of Nigeria should enhance institutional capacity, curb corruption, streamline administrative procedures and strictly implement bilateral pledges to resolve implementation hurdles and to deepen the effectiveness of China-Nigeria diplomatic cooperation.

Keywords: President Xi; Artistry; Diplomatic Style; Diplomatic Prowese; Pragmatic Diplomacy.

Introduction

China as an emerging global power has greatly challenged the unipolar world as well as its accompanying perpetual tendencies in international relations, most especially looking for ways to strengthen the developing nations. Under Xi Jinping leadership, China employed a diplomatic model of economic cooperation, strategic partnership, non-interference in domestic affairs, and

mutual development. One of the key aspects of his foreign policy is his focus on economic integration and cooperation, including the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to expand China's economic influence in the countries involved. This strategy has enhanced China's footprint in Africa, putting Nigeria among China's major strategic partners in Africa (Chang-Liao, 2016).

Pragmatic engagement, economic diplomacy, multilateral cooperation and a shared future among nations are the essence of Xi Jinping's diplomatic style. The diplomacy of Xi is more focused on the principles of mutual respect, sovereignty, and non-interference, while also rejecting the imposition of political conditions on aid and investment as done in the West. Such a diplomatic approach has helped China develop close ties with numerous African nations, such as Nigeria, where its bilateral ties have grown in transportation, energy, telecommunications, manufacturing and trade (Hirono, Jiang, & Lanteigne, 2019). As such, the significance of knowing the nature of Xi's diplomacy is taken into consideration to understand its impact on Nigeria's foreign policy and developmental agenda.

The diplomatic artistry of Xi Jinping is his ability to utilize political engagement, economic incentives, cultural exchanges and strategic partnerships in a balance and balanced manner, in order to promote China's interests while providing development opportunities for partner countries. This is where the artistry of diplomacy has manifested in Nigeria with several infrastructure investments such as railway rehabilitation, airports development, power generation projects and industrial investments supported by Chinese investments and loans. The engagements have made the relations between the two countries even closer and enhanced the presence of China in Nigeria's development agenda (Economy, 2014). It is also due to the growing cooperation that people-to-people relations, educational exchanges, and technological cooperation between the two countries have been improved.

In addition, Xi Jinping's diplomacy has contributed to the enhancement of economic growth and development in Nigeria. Chinese investments have played a vital role in establishing key infrastructure to enable economic operations and improve connectivity among various parts of the country. The positive developmental impacts of the China-Nigeria relations during Xi's term in office encompass the development of transportation infrastructure, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), job creation, technology transfer and many others (De Jesus, 2022). With Nigeria, China is among the foremost trading partners with Nigeria due to several bilateral and economic partnerships that offer opportunities for economic expansion and industrial growth.

Research Questions

a. What is the nature of Xi's diplomatic style?
b. How does Xi's diplomatic artistry impact Nigeria?
c. How does Xi's diplomatic style improve Nigeria's economic growth and development?
d. What are the challenges faced by Xi's diplomatic style in Nigeria?
e. How can these challenges be overcome?

Literature Review: Conceptual Framework

Diplomacy: Diplomacy is the management of international relations by state officials who aim to achieve their foreign policy goals through negotiation, avoiding the use of force, propaganda, or legal measures (Stanzel, & und Politik-SWP-Deutsches, 2018). It has been called the 'master

institution' of international relations, since Renaissance Italy, a period when diplomats and consuls, protected by legal privileges like diplomatic immunity and residing permanently abroad, began to form a structured network (Jönsson, 2022). Diplomacy is the application of tact and intelligence in the management of official relations between states, extending sometimes to their relations with vassal states; or briefly still, the conduct of business between states by peaceful means (Wiseman, & Sharp, 2017).

Diplomacy is often thought of as being concerned with peaceful activity, although it may occur within war or armed conflict or be used in the orchestration of particular acts of violence. The blurring of line, in fact between diplomatic activity and violence is one of the developments of not distinguishing modern diplomacy. The point can be made more generally in terms of widening the content of diplomacy. Certainly, what constitutes diplomacy today goes beyond that.

In all, diplomacy is the art, process and practice of managing or pursuing relationships among actors through dialogue and negotiations by accredited professionals of a state without recourse to violence or use of naked force. It is however key to note that diplomacy can be bilateral and multilateral in nature. Bilateral diplomacy occurs when two countries are only involved, whereas multilateral diplomacy involves contacts among several states often within the institutionalized setting of an international organization (Wiseman, 2018).

With respect to China-Nigeria relations, diplomacy has been very important in enhancing bilateral cooperations in trade, infrastructure development, investment, technology transfer and cultural exchanges. President Xi Jinping has introduced a new paradigm for the country's foreign policy, which has focused on mutual cooperation, economic integration, and national sovereignty, thus opening up opportunities for further cooperation with Nigeria. So, diplomacy continues to be a vital tool that countries use to achieve development goals and enhance their international status in the political and economic arena.

Chinese Diplomacy: Chinese diplomacy envisages the principles, strategies, and practices that are used by the Chinese government to conduct itself towards other nations and international organizations. The People's Republic of China since its inception in 1949 has experienced tremendous changes in its diplomatic stance, shifting from one of mainly ideology and revolution to one of pragmatism and development, in order to promote national interests and boost China's international status. China's primary foreign policy objectives are national sovereignty, economic growth, political stability and strengthening the role of China in the international system (Shambaugh, 2020).

The modern Chinese diplomacy is based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence put forward by Zhou Enlai in 1954. These are the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence. These principles continue to apply to China's foreign policy and form the foundation of its ties with developing nations, such as Africa, Asia and Latin America (Lanteigne, 2019).

Deng Xiaoping started his reform programme in 1978, and Chinese policies shifted to cut off from communist engagement with the world increasingly focused on economic cooperation and international integration. China embraced a foreign policy of opening up to foreign investment, trade relations, and domestic modernization. With the development of China's economy, China's

diplomatic initiatives were gradually becoming more and more oriented towards economic goals, which eventually gave birth to the concept of economic diplomacy. China has deepened its influence in the different parts of the world via trade and development cooperation, infrastructure loans, and investment deals (Lanteigne, 2019).

Chinese diplomacy has become more active and more international, under the leadership of Xi. International cooperation, mutual development and multilateral engagements are important and necessary things, Xi said, pointing to a "community with a shared future for mankind. The Belt and Road Initiative, one of the key parts of the plan, seeks to improve connectivity, trade and infrastructure cooperation between and among the countries concerned, which was launched in 2013. Under this plan, China can further play an important role in the diplomatic and economic scenes of numerous developing countries, including Nigeria (Poh, & Li, 2017). The Chinese are known for their extensive economic cooperation, infrastructure development, technical assistance and political engagement in Africa. China has emerged as one of the biggest trading partners and leading sources of investment and development finance to Africa. The Chinese have delivered rail development, upgrading of airports and telecommunication facilities, energy development and enhanced bilateral trade in Nigeria. China's policy of non-interference and mutual benefit has made it more appealing as a development partner to various African governments (Ajah, & Onuoha, 2025).

China-Africa Policy: Chinese foreign policy towards Africa, especially since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, has become one of the main agendas in international politics. Considering that every country in international politics strives to maximize its interests, China is consolidating its economic, political, and military power and consolidating its relations with global and regional actors. The basic characteristics of Chinese foreign policy include multilateral diplomacy, mediation in conflict resolution, promoting joint development, non-interference in the internal affairs of any country, and respecting sovereignty rights (Lanteigne, 2019). Especially since the 2000s, parallel to its rapidly growing economy, China has consolidated its position in international politics, particularly in organizations such as the UN. Particularly, China's establishment of the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank and the revival of the historic Silk Road through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are indicative of its global leadership aspirations and challenge to the US-dominated international system without directly confronting the US (Yu, 2020). Therefore, China's foreign policy is based on consolidating its economic and military power and aiming for global leadership without engaging directly with the dominant power, the US. However, this strategy is criticized by other actors and is particularly interpreted by the US as a challenge to its influence in international politics.

Moving from this background, the basic parameters of China's approach to Africa in its foreign policy are based on economic relations, diplomacy, development aid, cultural relations, and military cooperation. In terms of economic relations with African countries, China has established and maintained strong relations before and during the Xi Jinping era (Zhu, 2016). Africa's natural resources and markets are of strategic importance for China's manufacturing industry and export of value-added products. Economic relations are consolidated with diplomacy, development aid, cultural relations, and military cooperation. In this regard, China is increasing the number of its embassies in Africa and the capacities of the existing ones, continuing its search for peaceful solutions to regional conflicts, increasing development aids in various fields from education to health, strengthening its positive image through Confucius

Institutes, and increasing military cooperation both under the UN and bilateral relations when legitimate governments fail to combat terrorism.

Characteristics of Chinese Foreign Policy and Its Approach to Africa: Chinese foreign policy towards Africa, especially since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, has become one of the main agendas in international politics. Considering that every country in international politics strives to maximize its interests, China is consolidating its economic, political, and military power and consolidating its relations with global and regional actors (Lanteigne, 2019).

President Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Philosophy: President Xi Jinping's foreign policy and diplomatic vision is a considerable advancement in China's international and diplomatic relations. Known as the 'new normal' in China's foreign policy, Xi Jinping's administration has developed a foreign policy that aims to build China's influence in the world and to build international cooperation, development and peace. His diplomatic concept is based on the principle that China's development should serve the cause of world peace and common prosperity, not conflict. This approach is part of China's desire to be more involved in global governance and international affairs (Shambaugh, 2020).

One of the key points of Xi's foreign policy is the notion of a "Community with a Shared Future for Mankind. It was introduced in 2013 and underscores the interdependence of nations and the importance of a collaborative response to global issues like poverty, public health flu, terrorism, climate change and economic instability. According to Ohashi (2018), Sustainable development can only be realized through international cooperation and partnerships, and international cooperation will always be vital for global peace and prosperity. The philosophy is one of mutual benefit, dialogue and cooperation, and respecting political systems and development trajectories.

Another part of Xi's diplomatic thought is that of "win-win cooperation." Unlike the zero-sum thinking of international relations, Xi believes that in international relations, all parties can benefit from cooperation and exchange in economic and political aspects. This is a hallmark of China's developing-country relations, especially with Africa, Asia and Latin America. China is trying to push for common development and enhance bilateral relations through investments, infrastructure initiatives, trade and development assistance (Cai, & Zhang, 2024).

The philosophy of foreign policy of Xi Jinping also gives a lot of importance to economic diplomacy. The Belt and Road initiative (BRI) that was launched in 2013 reflects China's efforts to promote connectivity and cooperation in the international arena through infrastructure, trade facilitation, investment cooperation and cultural exchanges. The initiative has become one of the most visible policies of Xi foreign policy, linking many Asian and African and European and Latin American countries (Ohashi, 2018). Under these programmes, China is trying to enhance economic integration across the world and bring opportunities for mutual development.

Moreover, Xi's diplomatic insights are based on the historical Chinese values of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. China has always insisted on the principle of self-determination of political and economic systems for various countries. This has been a role sought after by many developing countries who wish to have international partnerships unconditional of political conditions (Ohashi, 2018). Xi's diplomacy has helped open the door for Nigeria to cooperate with China in Africa on infrastructure, trade, energy, transportation, and technology, especially in Nigeria. The focus on mutual respect, economic partnership and long-term development has helped to develop China-Nigeria relations.

Diplomatic Artistry: Diplomatic artistry is an art, it is skill, creativity, intelligence and strategic competence shown by the political leaders and diplomats in the process of international relations and in achieving the interests of the state through negotiation, persuasion, dialogue and cooperation. Diplomatic artistry, unlike traditional diplomacy, which is mainly an art of state to state formal relationships, is an art that involves the combination of political judgment, communication skills, cultural understanding and strategic thinking to meet the desired foreign policy goals. It entails a delicate balance between national and international concerns, and a positive relationship with a variety of actors in the international system (Neumann, 2016).

Diplomatic artistry acknowledges diplomacy as an art and science. Diplomacy is based on rules, treaties and international norms, yet great diplomacy can be achieved through the innovation and tact of leaders and diplomats in complex political scenarios. One of the qualities of a good diplomat is the ability to sense the shifting realities of the international world and to respond appropriately, according to Bjola, & Kornprobst (2025), the art of diplomacy is thus a practice of negotiation, compromise, coalition and communication, in the pursuit of national goals, without resorting to coercion or conflict.

The art of diplomacy is of growing importance in today's world of international relations, because of globalization, economic interdependence and the complexity of global governance. Diplomatic skills are used by political leaders to build up bilateral connections, to establish economic ties, to draw foreign capital, to settle conflicts, and to promote one's country's image. Diplomatic skills are a crucial component of an effective leadership style, and they can involve a leader's capacity to reconcile internal interests with external opportunities and build relationships of trust with foreign partners (Haynes, Pilbeam, & Hough, 2023).

The example of Xi's engagement with diplomacy is illustrative of the artistry in diplomacy. Since taking office in 2013, Xi has pursued a multi-faceted strategy in economics, diplomacies and multi-lateral relations, cultural exchanges and strategic collaborations to build China's influence in the various parts of the globe. China has tried to demonstrate its partnership with developing countries in development by initiatives like Belt and Road Initiative and Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, instead of just being a global economic force (Shambaugh, 2020). This practice illustrates the skillful use of diplomacy for the nation's goals and the development of opportunities for cooperation.

In Africa, China has been able to utilize its diplomatic craftsmanship to bolster its political and economic ties via infrastructure construction, trade growth, technical support and educational exchanges. In Nigeria, the Chinese have helped to promote cooperation in transportation, energy, telecommunication and industrial development. China's diplomatic and political diplomacy, long-term cooperation through strategic negotiations and political engagement, have built up a cooperative relationship that brings about political goodwill and economic cooperation (Morgan, 2019).

President Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Artistry: Xi's diplomatic skills embody effective strategic communication, economic engagement, ideological narrative, and institutional diplomacy, all aimed at reshaping China's position in international governance. It has been successful that Xi has been able to shift the policy of China's foreign relations from mostly being reactive to more proactive and assertive in engaging with the world since 2013. His diplomatic virtuosity manifests itself in the fact that he works with statecraft instruments like economic incentives,

infrastructure diplomacy, cultural exchange and multilateral cooperation to promote China's national interest in a way that appears to be beneficial for the partner states (Shambaugh, 2020).

One of Xi signature traits as a diplomat has been the role of economic diplomacy in advancing foreign policy. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has connected China with Asia, Africa and Europe in many different ways – funding and building transportation, energy, telecommunication and industrial infrastructure. This demonstrates the financial power being converted to political leverage, establishing a more profound mutual dependence between China and the countries concerned and laying the groundwork for long-term strategic partnerships (Lin, 2019), which will help strengthen China's influence and power. This way, economic opportunities turn into diplomatic capital.

The other characteristic of Xi's diplomacy is his use of the concept of a "Community with a Shared Future for Mankind." This vision was meant to help convey the sense of a need for collective action to deal with problems such as poverty, climate change, terrorism and pandemics. Through this narrative, Xi helps to convey a message that China is a responsible world player that is dedicated to an inclusive development path and global peace. Such ideological positioning builds up China's soft power, and assists the domestic legalization of China's growing international presence, especially among developing countries which are looking for alternative development partners (Nathan, & Zhang, 2022).

Africa, particularly Nigeria, is another example of the diplomacy that Xi is adept at on China's side. China's policy of diplomacy is centered around sovereign equality, non-intervention, cooperation based on mutual interest, and transferring infrastructure, trade and technology. This has coincided with massive investments in railways, ports, energy and telecommunication infrastructure in Nigeria, which has helped to boost economic activities and connectivity. (Sokunbi, 2026). China has enhanced bilateral ties and enhanced its influence in West Africa through carefully negotiated agreements and a persistent diplomatic effort,

President Xi's diplomatic prowess is also demonstrated in his active participation in multilateral institutions and in reform of global governance. China has been more prominent in the United Nations, BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and has advocated for reform of the international governance structures that are more in tune with the developing world interest. The multilateral interaction will be helpful for China's legitimacy and extends its bilateral relationship from multilateralism.

Theoretical Framework

This study reviewed the following theoretical foundations, namely; Socialism with Chinese characteristics, Liberalism, Constructivism, Marxism, and adopted interdependency theory as the theoretical framework.

Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

The philosophy of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics is a political and economic ideology that is the guideline for modern China. The theory was born in 1978 under Deng's leadership after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC. The theory was developed by Deng Xiaoping to deal with the economic problems of China in the Maoist era, and to find a model of socialism that is more in line with China's historical, cultural and developmental realities. Instead of giving up on socialism, Deng said the country should

incorporate the socialist principles into the real situation of China. This came to be known as "Socialism with Chinese Characteristics" (Jinping, 2022).

According to the theory, the implementation of socialism must not be done in a rigid and uniform manner. Deng Xiaoping insisted that China remained at the "primary stage of socialism" which called for economic modernization and productive development before it could reach the advanced socialist goals. As a result, he called for market-oriented reforms that did not involve changing the political leadership of the Communist Party. Deng argued that the use of market mechanisms does not have to run counter to socialism; it could be used as a tool to attain socialist development goals (Jinping, 2022).

One of the key elements of the theory is the mixture of state control and market economy. In this system, the state has jurisdiction over strategically important industries, such as energy, banking, transportation and telecommunication, while other industries and foreign investments are allowed to participate in the economy. This mixed economic structure resulted in the implementation of Special Economic Zones, foreign direct investment, growth of international trade, and fast industrialization. The theory thus moved away from the concept of central planning in socialism and became what some scholars define as a socialist market economy (Zheng & Huang, 2018).

This theory was developed by later Chinese leaders. In 2000, the "Three Represents" was introduced by Jiang Zemin to extend the social base of the Communist Party by adding entrepreneurs and professionals. In 2003, Hu Jintao put forward the "Scientific Outlook on Development", which underscored coordinated and sustainable development. Since 2012, Xi Jinping has been building upon the theory as “Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era,” which has put an emphasis on national rejuvenation and poverty eradication, innovation and ecological protection, and the role of the Chinese nation in international affairs (Jinping, 2022).

The importance of Socialism with Chinese characteristics is the fact that it provides an explanation of the phenomenon of China's great economic transformation. The theory offers a blueprint for how China managed to successfully integrate market reforms, foreign investment and globalization, while maintaining a strong hold on political power for its rapid economic development. It is also the ideological underpinning of China's internal governance and its external policy, such as the Belt and Road Initiative and China's relations with developing countries. Consequently, Socialism with Chinese Characteristics is one of the most important political and economic doctrines of today's China and its relationship with the outside world.

Liberalism

Liberalism is one of the significant theories in international relations and political science, which has attempted to explain the nature of cooperation among states and the contribution of institutions, democracy and the interdependence of states to peace and development. Liberalism has its intellectual origins in the ideas of John Locke (1689) and Immanuel Kant (1795). Individual liberty, limited government, and protection of natural rights were central to Locke's ideas, as were Kant's notions of democratic government, international law, and the reduction of the risk of war and the creation of lasting peace (Kant, 1795/2006). These points were the roots of the modern liberal theory of international relations.

The First World War saw the development of an international relations theory known as liberalism. One of its earliest advocates was Woodrow Wilson, who incorporated the concepts of collective security, self-determination, open diplomacy, and international organisations to ensure peace in his Fourteen Points speech in 1918. Wilson thought that wars could be avoided if states worked together and could develop institutions that would promote peaceful solutions for disputes. His views contributed to the establishment of the League of Nations, the first attempt to institutionalise liberal ideas in international politics (Ashworth, 2014).

The key tenet of liberalism is that states are not the only significant actors in international relations. Other actors in the international arena, such as international organisations, multinational companies, civil society and individuals, also shape international issues. According to liberal theorists, states can cooperate because there are shared interests in trade, security, environmental protection, and economic development. Liberalism differs from realism in its belief that international politics is not a perpetual power struggle, but mutual benefits and interdependence foster peaceful relations between nations (Keohane, 2020).

An important part of liberal theory is the Democratic Peace Thesis, which assumes that war is less likely to break out between two democratic states than between two non-democratic ones. According to the liberal scholars, democratic institutions foster accountability, transparency and peaceful conflict resolution. Economic interdependence is also a key factor. Liberalists say that more trade and more investment leads to mutual interests that deter violence and motivate people to work together. Political relations between countries are more likely to be stable and peaceful when there is economic co-benefit (Keohane, 2020).

Liberalism remains very pertinent in the analysis of international relations and foreign policy in our day. It discusses how international organisations like the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation and regional organisations that foster cooperation between states have developed. Liberalism, in the case of the China-Nigeria relationship, also highlights role of trade, investment, diplomatic interaction in promoting mutual development. China's investment in Nigeria's infrastructure and cooperation with Nigeria are based on the assumption that the world will experience benefits from international cooperation and economic interdependence. Liberalism thus offers a valuable perspective on today's diplomacy, economic cooperation and joint efforts for common development goals in a more interdependent world.

Constructivism

In international relations, constructivism is a leading theory that investigates how ideas, norms, values, identities and social interactions influence the actions of individual actors in the international system, including states. Constructivism differs from realism, which emphasizes power and security, and liberalism, which emphasizes institutions and cooperation, and holds that with regard to international politics, it is socially constructed by human interaction and shared understandings. The theory became prominent in the late 1980s and 1990s, due to the work of scholars like Nicholas Onuf, who coined the term 'constructivism' in his 1989 book, World of Our Making, and Alexander Wendt, who wrote extensively on the theory throughout the 1990s (Jung, 2019).

Constructivism's main thesis is that international reality is not static, but rather is constructed and reconstructed in the social interactions between states and other actors. Constructivist scholars argue that state interests and identities are not essential, but are formed through previous

historical experiences, cultural values, beliefs, and social norms. Fearon, (2018) argued that international system does not necessarily result in conflict or cooperation, it is a result of the choices made by the states. Rather, states' behavior is determined by their perceptions of each other and perceptions they give to their relationships.

A fundamental concept in constructivism is identity. For constructivists, a state's identity affects both its interests and foreign policy goals and relations with other states. For instance, states that think of themselves as partners are more likely to cooperate, while states who feel they are competitors are more likely to adopt confrontational policies. Therefore, ideas, beliefs, and shared understandings (Fearon, 2018) as well as material capabilities like military strength and economic resources are relevant for international relations.

Norms are another important element of constructivism. Norms are "shared expectations" regarding appropriate conduct among the international community. Constructivists argue that international norms affect a state's behavior, and that they can have an impact on foreign policy choices. Norms on human rights, sovereignty, environment protection and diplomatic practice. These norms are repeated in interaction, they are institutionalized and they affect the manner in which states act even in the absence of coercion (Keohane, 2020).

Constructivism is a theory of particular interest not only for the analysis of the modern world of diplomacy and international cooperation but also for the understanding of this cooperation in the modern world. The theory applies specifically to the China-Nigeria relations and provides an explanation on how the common values of South-South cooperation, mutual respect, non-interference and common development have been instrumental in enhancing the bilateral relationship. These principles like “Community with a Shared Future for Mankind”, “win-win cooperation”, etc., are often used by China's diplomacy to shape perceptions and build a positive image of China and its partners. These ideas shape the attitude of Nigeria towards China and the relationship between both countries in the international setting.

Marxism

Marxism is a political, economic and social theory that was developed in the 19th century by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. First published in 1848 in The Communist Manifesto, and developed in Marx's Das Kapital published in 1867, it was first systematically presented. The Marxist theory works upon explaining the organization of society, nature of economic relationship and the causes of social and political changes. The theory is that economic factors form the basis of society and that political, legal, and social institutions are largely influenced by the mode of production that exists in society (Engels, & Marx, 2004).

Historical materialism is the basic tenet of Marxism, which teaches that ideas and human acts are not the drivers of the evolution of human societies, but rather material and economic conditions. Throughout the progression of history, Marx believed that there are stages of modes of production: primitive communism, slavery, feudalism, capitalism, socialism, and communism. There are contradictions within each stage, which create a conflict and ultimately culminate in social change. Therefore, the economic structures are the basic factors determining the political and social structures (Engels, & Marx, 2004).

Class struggle is another central tenet in Marxism. Marx believed that each society consists of classes that have fundamentally opposite interests. The capitalist system has three main classes:

the bourgeoisie, who own the factories, land and the capital; the proletariat, who sell their labour for wages. Marx argued that a bourgeoisie class exploitates workers to accumulate wealth and cause inequality and social tension. Thus, class conflict is the basis for political and economic transformation (Kalita, & Namati, 2021)

An explanation of international relations and global economic inequality is also provided by Marxism. According to Marxist scholars, the current global capitalist system is set up to the advantage of the rich, industrialised nations at the expense of the poor developing countries. This view was echoed in subsequent theories, including dependency theory and world-systems theory, which examine the economic dependency of less developed countries on advanced capitalist ones. Foreign investment, trade relations and international financial institutions, according to the Marxists' analysis, can strengthen the imbalance between the developed and developing states (Juan, 2017).

Marxism is directly applicable to present-day international relations as it can be applied to the study of Imperialism, Globalization, Economic Dependency and North-South relations. Marxist theory can be applied in the study of the economic aspects of China-Nigeria relations such as investment, trade, resource extraction and infrastructure financing in the context of China-Nigeria relations. It offers a lens for understanding the quality of these relationship and their potential to create real development or forms of economic dependency. The theory also helps to understand the way the economic interests can affect the diplomatic relationship and foreign policy decision.

Interdependence Theory

The study adopted Interdependency Theory as its theoretical framework. The theory was developed by Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye Jr. in Power and Interdependence (1977). International relations are interdependent, as states and non-states actors are dependent on each other, and this dependency is more and more pronounced in economic, political, technological and social aspects, in accordance with the Interdependency Theory. They criticized the realist premise that military power is the primary determinant of state behavior, and instead proposed that economic and institutional ties are just as important as security issues in determining state behavior under the “complex interdependence” of globalisation era (Keohane, 2020).

One of the key principles of the theory is the multichannel relationship between states, such as trade, foreign investment, diplomacy, communication networks, and international organizations like the United Nations, World Trade Organization (WTO). Any action a state might take is hard to make without having to think through how it would impact others. The theory also provides insights into the benefits and vulnerabilities associated with interdependence, in that states not only gain access to resources and markets but they also become vulnerable to the effects of external economic shocks and political influences (Keohane, 2020).

In terms of interdependency theory, the following three conditions are essential for complex interdependence: multiple channels of interaction between societies; an absence of a hierarchy among issues; and a decrease in the use of military means to resolve issues. In such a context, economic and diplomatic strategies are likely to be more influential than coercive measures in determining international developments. States are thus urged to work together to reap the maximum benefit and minimize the risks arising from the disruption of world relations (Bharti, 2023).

The interdependency theory can be of use to the current study on the relationship between Nigeria and China, on how Nigeria and China's diplomatic and economic relations have developed over the years. China's investment in Nigeria has been strengthened under Xi Jinping's leadership in the areas of infrastructure, trade, energy and technology. Nigeria relies on China for funding for infrastructure, industrial equipment, telecommunication technology, and foreign direct investment. China, in turn, relies on Nigeria for its own vast consumer market, sources of natural resources like crude oil and strategic political alliances in Africa.

This is interdependency, the basic tenets of interdependency theory, in which both nations gain from ongoing cooperation and both are attuned to the shocks and impacts of uncooperative behavior. For instance, a shift in trade policies, debt arrangements or diplomatic relations between the two countries could have a major impact on economic stability. The theory then provides a rationale for the ongoing strengthening of Nigeria-China relations despite the debt sustainability and trade imbalance issues. It also emphasizes a need for negotiations, cooperation between institutions and diplomatic activity in the maintenance of stable bilateral relations.

Empirical Review

Establishment of Nigeria/China diplomatic relations

Ezeani and Ngoka (2022) analyzed the relationship between Nigeria and China, focusing on infrastructural development in Nigeria. The global economy has become significantly integrated due to globalization. The mutual advantages of investments, scientific and infrastructural advancements, and financial assistance have compelled numerous nation-states to establish connections with one another. Since the inception of diplomatic relations in 1971 between Nigeria and China, both nations have endeavored to explore opportunities for mutual benefit. The study examines the influence of Nigeria-China relations on infrastructural development in Nigeria. The research aims to examine whether China's investments in the energy sector have facilitated a sustainable energy transition in Nigeria and to assess if China's investment in the Belt and Road Initiative has contributed to the development of transport infrastructure in Nigeria. The study employed the documentary approach for data collecting. The data were analyzed by content analysis. The research utilized dependency theory as its theoretical foundation. The results indicated that China's involvement in Nigeria's energy industry has not resulted in a sustainable energy transformation. China's involvement in the Belt and Road Initiative has facilitated the development of rail and road transport infrastructure in Nigeria, although the country continues to encounter challenges in its transport sector.

Oghuvbu (2022) examined Nigeria-China bilateral relations, focusing on the prevailing challenges from 2015 to 2020. In 2020, Nigeria and China commemorated the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic ties. Despite the operation of Sino-Nigeria bilateral relations, Nigerians have expressed resentment and criticism towards every socio-economic contact. Concerns were expressed regarding the purported detrimental effects of the influx of substandard Chinese industrial items on Nigeria's ailing economy. Certain experts assert that Nigeria's investment in China has diminished prospects for sustainability due to employment and visa constraints that hinder many Nigerians from pursuing commercial opportunities in China. This study analyzed the relationship between Nigeria and China, evaluating their strategic significance and the current issues in their bilateral relations. The study also focuses on Sino-Nigeria ties during the new coronavirus pandemic. This study use the historical technique of discussion and analysis to examine Nigeria-China bilateral ties from 2000 to the COVID-19 era. To effectively accomplish

this, this research examines primary and secondary sources, including books, newsstudy articles, interviews, and journal publications, among others. The research employed the Neoliberal Institutionalism paradigm to elucidate Sino-Nigerian bilateral relations. The study's findings indicated that the bilateral relations favored China more regarding commerce, as well as its reluctance to aid Nigeria in addressing unemployment issues and its refusal to transfer technology to Nigeria. The report indicates that Nigeria's issues cannot be resolved by China, as Nigeria must learn from China's arduous path to industrialization due to the imbalanced relationship.

Adewumi and Ayomola (2024) analyzed the bilateral relationship between China and Nigeria to promote equilibrium in their interactions. The study indicated that Nigeria has experienced a greater number of official trips to China compared to the reverse, and while Nigeria has consistently faced balance of payment deficits in its trade with China, China continues to maintain a surplus in its balance of payments. This disparity has been ascribed to the characteristics of the commodities and services exchanged between these nations. The study revealed that China has significantly invested in various sectors of the Nigerian economy, particularly in manufacturing, construction, oil and gas, and technological services. These Chinese investments in Nigeria receive special incentives, including tax holidays, expatriation quotas, and tariff-free imports, among others. In light of these facts, China and Nigeria must reassess their bilateral relationship to achieve equilibrium.

Afolabi and Oji (2021) examined Nigeria-China bilateral relations: a skewed or balanced relationship? Foreign relations, also referred to as international diplomacy, primarily aim to promote a nation's interests and regulate its interactions with other global entities. Nigeria and China formalized their diplomatic ties in 1971, although interactions between the two nations predated this establishment. The partnership has expanded to include significant domains of mutual economic, strategic, trade, and infrastructure collaboration. Nevertheless, several disagreements surrounding analyses of Nigeria-China ties pertain to Beijing's position as a "development partner" or "neo-colonizer" in Nigeria. This article examined some sensitive problems in Nigeria-China relations. The study employed a qualitative research design, augmented by interviews with purposefully selected specialists in Nigeria's foreign affairs and Nigeria-China ties. Participants were selected from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs. A thematic analysis was conducted using an interview guide for data collecting. Grounded in the theory of complex interdependence, the study advocated for the mutual interdependence of nations notwithstanding the perceived asymmetry in their relationship. The research revealed that Nigeria-China relations are characterized by both asymmetry and complementarity. Nigeria aspires to emulate China's developmental path, although financial considerations underpin China's alliance and relations with Nigeria. The analysis determined that Nigeria-China relations had produced significant benefits for both nations. Over the years, the benefits have emerged in economic, strategic, and other domains, which have also become a topic of contention in the literature. The report advocated for a deeper enhancement of Nigeria-China relations aimed at rectifying the imbalance. Nigeria ought to assert its agency in its interactions with China as equal partners in development.

China-Nigeria Strategic Partnership

Lyman and Yashchenko (2025) analyzed the strategic alliance between the People's Republic of China and Nigeria, focusing on security, political, and economic factors. Amid substantial

transformations in the post-bipolar international relations system, the engagement of the People's Republic of China is markedly intensifying, especially in African nations. A primary focus of China's foreign policy in Africa is its strategic cooperation with Nigeria, which seeks to attract fresh investments, particularly from China, to enhance its international standing. It solicits assistance from the PRC in the political, military-technical, and financial-economic domains. This article aims to examine the historical and contemporary status of Sino-Nigerian relations, investigate the comprehensive range of the People's Republic of China's interests in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and delineate the primary facets of their strategic partnership, particularly the security aspect of bilateral collaboration amid rising conflicts in West and Central Africa. The techniques employed to attain the research objective encompass historical-comparative analysis, systematization and generalization, and the retrospective method. The essay illustrates that since the inception of diplomatic relations in 1971, collaboration between China and Nigeria has markedly increased owing to the persistent expansion of bilateral trade. The study's results indicate that the relationship between the two countries is evolving most rapidly in the economic domain. Nigeria has emerged as a vital oil source for the Chinese economy. Concurrently, China has extended substantial investment, military-technical assistance, and political backing to Nigeria, regarding it as a pivotal member in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Nigeria was the inaugural African nation acknowledged by China as a strategic partner following the execution of a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding in 2006. The two nations routinely endorse one another in international organizations, notably inside the United Nations and the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). China significantly aids Nigeria militarily by giving weapons and equipment to combat insurgents and terrorist organizations, especially in the Niger Delta. The visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Nigeria on January 9-10, 2025, is expected to expedite the advancement of bilateral relations and the Global South overall.

Otegbeye (2026), analyzed the Nigeria-China economic relationship, concentrating on the Ondo-Linyi Industrial Hub in Ore, Ondo State, which was developed in 2017, via a public-private collaboration between Ondo State and Linyi City, Shandong Province, China. The research utilizes a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data from a 2025 survey of 150 stakeholders, including local residents, workers, and business owners, with qualitative insights obtained from semi-structured interviews with hub employees in sectors such as cassava-to-ethanol production and textile manufacturing. The results underscore the hub's considerable impact on economic development, encompassing the generation of more than 20,000 direct jobs and notable infrastructure improvements, with 81.8% of respondents confirming improved trade logistics and connectivity. Challenges remain, with 63.0% of respondents indicating restricted investment opportunities for local enterprises, highlighting trade disparities, while Nigeria's projected ₦3 trillion debt to China raises apprehensions of economic dependency. Situated within Dependency Theory, the analysis elucidates the partnership's dual characteristics, fostering economic growth via foreign direct investment and infrastructure but jeopardizing reliance on Chinese imports and loans. The study advocates for enhancing economic diplomacy to prioritize Nigeria's interests, diversifying non-oil exports like cassava to mitigate trade deficits, and reinforcing local industries via investments in technology and skills training to promote sustainable development and equitable trade relations.

Labiran and Idachaba (2024) examined the evolving dynamics of Nigeria's strategic partnership with China. The entry of China into Africa and subsequently Nigerian markets has prompted inquiries over the trade imbalance between Nigeria and China. Despite the examination of

numerous facets of economic ties between the two nations, little focus has been directed onto the influence of the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA), a significant policy implementation instrument, on Nigeria-China trade relations. This study was thus formulated to investigate the rising potential resulting from Nigeria's trade relations with China. Twenty-five in-depth interviews (IDI) were performed with 25 respondents using purposive sampling. Secondary data were obtained from books, journals, and media outlets. The trade figures between Nigeria and China were obtained from the World Integrated Trade Solution, Trade Maps, SAIS-CARI, the Central Bank of Nigeria, UNCTAD reports, and World Bank reports spanning 1995 to 2020. The data underwent content analysis. The SPA has facilitated the modernization of railways and airports in Nigeria, established annual scholarships for university students, and rehabilitated the manufacturing and agricultural sectors. The SPA enhanced cultural exchanges for China and facilitated improved access to Nigeria's natural resources and markets, resulting in an annual import growth rate of 21.3%. The reported problems of the SPA included the exacerbation of Nigeria's trade deficit, characterized by a 68% increase in imports from 2018 to 2020 as a result of the CSWAP, along with heightened illegal fishing, mining, and logging activities, compounded by inadequate monitoring, evaluation, and ineffective policy enforcement. China highlighted hurdles including a significant deterioration in the quality of Nigeria's traded goods, non-compliance with import laws, logistical issues, language barriers, and security concerns. The Strategic Partnership Agreement has presented both opportunities and problems for Nigeria and China. Consequently, both nations must formulate an inclusive and comprehensive economic growth strategy.

China-Nigeria Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

On Sunday, 2026, an analysis was conducted on China's soft power and strategic diplomacy in Nigeria from a neo-imperial perspective. China's increasing involvement in Nigeria signifies a vital aspect of its overarching global strategy within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Although Beijing characterizes its connection with Abuja as a mutually advantageous "win-win" collaboration, increasing evidence indicates that Chinese soft power and strategic diplomacy are yielding asymmetric results. This report analyzes China's utilization of soft power mechanisms, including Confucius Institutes, media partnerships, educational scholarships, and infrastructure diplomacy, and evaluates how these instruments bolster China's geopolitical and economic objectives in Nigeria. Rooted in the neo-imperial theoretical framework, the research examines how economic statecraft, cultural diplomacy, and elite-driven bilateral agreements synergistically create new forms of dependency akin to historical imperial patterns. The study employs qualitative, document-based methods and secondary data from academic literature, official reports, and media analyses to demonstrate that China's involvement enhances infrastructural and cultural development in Nigeria, yet simultaneously compromises the nation's policy autonomy and promotes structural dependency. The study asserts that Nigeria's interaction with China, needs more transparency, diversification, and reciprocity.

Ugochukwu (2025) examined Nigeria-China relations and trade development in Nigeria. Nigeria's socio-economic development links with China have existed since 1971, more than a decade after Nigeria attained independence from British rule. These links have extended to encompass financial loans, bilateral trade, and strategic cooperation in socio-economic development. The primary objective of this study was to examine Nigeria-China relations and trade development in Nigeria, specifically concentrating on trade relations and their effects on socio-economic development in Nigeria from 2015 to 2022. The study specifically analyzed the

influence of Nigeria-China relations on commerce in Nigeria and assessed their impact on the country's socio-economic growth. The research utilized dependency, complex inter-dependence, imperialism, neo-colonialism, and globalization theories as its theoretical framework. The study employed a qualitative research design methodology. The documentary approach for data collecting employed includes published and unpublished documents, official government gazettes, textbooks, journals, articles, newsstudys, and internet sources. The data produced for this study was examined utilizing a textual approach of analysis. The study's findings indicated that China's economic objectives are motivated by robust political, ideological, and economic ambitions rather than altruism. This study's findings indicate that the trade relations between Nigeria and China are characterized by an imbalance, with Nigeria's imports exceeding its exports. Consequently, China has benefitted more than Nigeria over time, particularly in the domain of oil exploration and exploitation. Furthermore, it highlighted that Nigeria's relations with China have facilitated access to funds intended for revitalizing Nigeria's agricultural sector, constructing projects, infrastructure, security apparatus, education, socioeconomic growth, and total food production. The study determined that an unequal connection exists between Nigeria and China, leading to a trade imbalance and dependency on Nigeria's part. China's connections with Nigeria have revitalized and funded Nigeria's agricultural sector, transportation, bilateral trade, and food production. The study recommends that Nigeria should enhance the efficacy of its indigenous technician training and strive to retain these technicians. This will ascertain the project's success and establish the foundation for Nigeria's future industrialization; all loans from China must be appropriately allocated to initiatives that enhance citizens' welfare, and measures should be implemented to guarantee accountability in the utilization of all received loans to prevent detriment to future generations. The Nigerian perception that China's current trade relationship is advantageous must be altered. Nigeria should pursue economic agreements that would benefit the nation instead of those that perpetuate its limitations. Nigeria must address issues of political instability, insecurity, deteriorating infrastructure, capacity building through functional education, and economic diversification to reduce dependence on the West and China for socio-economic development. Furthermore, the Nigerian government should minimize reliance on imports from China, as this adversely impacts economic growth in terms of real domestic product. They ought to commence the production of their items and subsequently consume them.

This study examines the developing dynamics of Nigeria-China ties, outlining the progression from simple conference attendance to the formation of a bi-national commission. The relationship between Nigeria and China has significantly transformed over the years, evolving from mere symbolic gestures to substantial collaborations. The connection, once marked by occasional meetings at conferences, has evolved into a formal cooperation with the creation of a bi-national commission. This transition indicates an enhancement of collaboration across multiple sectors, including commerce, investment, infrastructure development, and cultural interchange. The study examines the variables influencing this evolution, including geopolitical considerations, economic interests, and diplomatic initiatives. Additionally, it analyzes the ramifications of this change for both nations and the wider international community. This abstract elucidates the complexities and opportunities present in the contemporary diplomatic relations between Nigeria and China by mapping their progression.

Nigeria and the Belt and Road Initiative

Gbadebo (2025) examined China's Belt and Road Initiative and its impact on Nigeria's infrastructural development, evaluating the risks and benefits associated with railway investment. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China has profoundly influenced Nigeria's infrastructure development, especially in railway projects. This study evaluates the risks and advantages of BRI-funded railway investments, concentrating on their economic, social, and environmental consequences. A structured survey was administered to 300 participants from the Federal Capital Territory and Keffi, Nasarawa State, employing a stratified random sample technique. The data and hypotheses were examined utilizing the chi-square statistical method. Although BRI investments in railway infrastructure improve transportation, increase economic activity, and bolster regional connectivity, apprehensions remain about debt sustainability, dependence on Chinese technology and labor, and governance transparency. The statistical research indicates that the claimed advantages of BRI railway projects lack a statistically meaningful effect on Nigeria's infrastructure development. Moreover, the related hazards, including heightened national debt and economic dependency, are not significantly more pronounced than the advantages. The report advocates for the renegotiation of BRI agreements to enhance local enterprise participation, the execution of thorough cost-benefit studies prior to obtaining additional loans, and the enhancement of governance structures to guarantee transparency and accountability. Furthermore, prioritizing long-term maintenance methods and environmental impact assessments is essential for sustaining infrastructure efficacy and mitigating negative consequences. Although the BRI presents significant potential for Nigeria's infrastructure advancement, a measured strategy is crucial to optimize its advantages while mitigating the related hazards.

Quadri (2020) analyzed the "One Belt One Road Initiative and designated that: Should Nigeria scrutinize Chinese charity or take it as a free lunch? The Belt and Road Initiative, as asserted by its proponent, purports to be a mutually beneficial arrangement. Nonetheless, the study's findings indicated that OBOR serves as China's instrument to achieve specific economic and political objectives. Including issues of industrial overcapacity, demographic aging challenges, and the necessity to exert structural influence. OBOR perceives Nigeria, and by extension Africa, as a means to a goal. The topic is quite intricate, with information meticulously analyzed. Four distinct hypotheses were employed to critically analyze the initiative "OBOR. Nigeria, like to China, perceives OBOR as a strategic instrument to achieve its objectives. The policy's rationale will ultimately result in Nigeria's dependent development, intensifying its reliance on Chinese technology and manufactured commodities. The Chinese interpretation of win-win within the framework of OBOR appears to be a guise, as it offers five advantages to China while benefiting Nigeria in just two ways. China's OBOR foreign policy will facilitate the exploitation of Nigeria's infrastructural requirements, demographic advantages, access to natural resources, and the generation of returns on loans. It will establish a secure connection between Nigeria and China, potentially fostering loyalty from the recipient towards the giver or lender, akin to the alliances formed during the Cold War. OBOR would provide Nigeria with crucial infrastructure aimed at enhancing the export of primary commodities. The potential presented to Nigeria by China is substantial. Nigeria must exercise caution to prevent encountering a scenario such to that of the Kenya Standard Gauge Railway project, based on its experience with the Chinese. Nigeria and Africa should exercise utmost caution while accepting substantial gifts from non-Africans, given the evident historical realities reflected in artifacts, historical archives, museums, and the socio-political, socio-cultural, and socioeconomic frameworks. No nation will reveal to another the genuine road to economic growth, as governments are inherently self-serving.

Modern Africa must avoid repeating the errors that enabled outsiders to undermine its historical heritage. Morality appears to be an unattainable luxury in international politics. OBOR is quite formidable and it appears beneficial to the world. The allure of progress and civilization rendered pre-colonial African leaders susceptible to early Westerners; this should serve as a warning to Nigerian and African leaders while seeking OBOR loans. The Chinese react according to one's self-presentation.

Chinonso and Jonah (2023) evaluated the influence of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on infrastructure development in Nigeria. It poses the essential inquiry: Has the BRI triumphed where prior Chinese initiatives in Nigeria have faltered? The study employs a historical analysis to compare the execution of prior Chinese initiatives in Nigeria, including the oil-for-infrastructure agreement, with those under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Utilizing the notion of complex interdependence, the study examines how the BRI strategy has mitigated Nigeria's infrastructural deficit while simultaneously allowing China to export its surplus industrial capacity and offer foreign jobs for its nationals. The study methodologically utilized various data gathering techniques, incorporating both primary and secondary data via key informant interviews and documented sources. The article finds that, in contrast to prior Chinese projects in Nigeria, which were marked by delays and frequent abandonment due to financial deficiencies and policy inconsistencies, the Belt and Road Initiative has yielded concrete outcomes where earlier efforts did not.

Nigeria and president Xi Jinping Initiatives

Banwo and Okide (2025) analyzed Xi Jinping's leadership in the context of China's socio-economic development strategy. Leadership involves developing philosophies and devising strategies that promote progress and address societal issues. President Xi Jinping has proposed a framework for examining historical phenomena and their intrinsic challenges. His worldview was founded on the established ideas of two influential Chinese leaders, Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping. This study analyzes President Xi thoughts and ideas to reveal his strategies for China's economic planning and development. This study utilized data acquired through conventional case sampling and content analysis. This study identified specific aspects, including economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological growth. This work employs the philosophy of historical materialism for comprehension. A society's mode of production determines its social, political, and intellectual development. It contends that a nation's political leadership ought to facilitate the socio-economic advancement of its populace by fully harnessing the economy's productive capabilities. President Xi has identified 14 fundamental areas for government concentration to accelerate the nation's socio-economic development and advancement. This study indicates that the interaction of economic productive forces, guided by the political leadership of the state, can effectively promote necessary socio-economic development and progress.

Ubi (2023), analyzed the foreign policy of developing major powers, namely Nigeria's involvement in China's Belt and Road Initiative. This study examines Nigeria's relationship with China, specifically on China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and observes that the international system is experiencing transformations. Emerging countries like China, India, Brazil, and Russia are deliberately aligning their foreign policy to assume significant roles in the international order. This chapter analyzes the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China's extensive development program designed to enhance maritime and overland trade while fortifying economic, political, and cultural relations with participating nations worldwide. Africa has engaged with the Belt and

Road Initiative (BRI), and both individual member states and the African Union have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding BRI collaboration with China. Nigeria officially joined the Belt and Road Initiative in September 2018. The chapter disclosed that prior to the endorsement of the BRI, China was already the predominant financier of infrastructure in multiple African nations, including Nigeria. The chapter finishes by asserting that the "debt trap" story lacks validity. Nonetheless, it advises that Nigeria should formulate and implement prudent strategies for debt repayment and servicing that will not impose a burden on the public or jeopardize future generations.

Gaho (2024) analyzed Xi Jinping: A Dynamic Reformer and Visionary Leader. Xi Jinping, the incumbent President of China and General Secretary of the Communist Party, has established himself as a transformative reformer and visionary leader, reshaping China's socio-political and economic direction. His leadership embodies a synthesis of practicality and ideology, grounded on his formative exposure to China's revolutionary politics and influenced by his academic and rural experiences. Since taking office in 2012, Xi has led significant domestic and foreign policy reforms, enhancing China's international prominence while tackling internal issues such as corruption, inequality, and economic modernization. Domestically, Xi administration has been characterized by assertive anti-corruption actions, poverty alleviation efforts, and market-oriented economic reforms designed to modernize state-owned firms and mitigate socio-economic inequalities. His emphasis on establishing a "moderately prosperous society" has coincided with initiatives to elevate rural living standards, boost healthcare, and promote environmental sustainability. Xi leadership approach prioritizes centralized authority and long-term strategic planning, frequently attracting criticism for restricting personal liberties and dissent. Xi has established China as a dominant global force through initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), enhancing connectivity and trade among Asia, Africa, and Europe. His muscular foreign policy, characterized by military modernization and participation in the South China Sea disputes, highlights China's aspirations for regional supremacy and global influence. Xi leadership has underscored the "China Dream," promoting a seamless integration of socialism and modernity while positioning China as a governance model separate from Western liberal democracies. Notwithstanding considerable accomplishments, Xi encounters reproach for autocratic methods, human rights issues, and belligerent geopolitical tactics. His leadership has undeniably changed China into a significant global actor, influencing the nation's destiny and its position in a multipolar world.

Chinese Foreign Minister's Visit to Nigeria

Odinye (2016) analyzed the link between China and Africa. The name "China" evokes many associations for individuals. It evokes associations with the world's largest nation, the second-largest economy, a communist state, products manufactured in China, and various other elements. China signifies various interpretations for diverse individuals. For the United States and certain European countries, China represents a rival and adversary; but, for the African populace, China is regarded as a collaborator and ally. China has maintained a longstanding friendship with Africa. China has assisted African states throughout the colonial period, throughout their quest for independence, and subsequent to achieving freedom. Despite China's funding and help to African states, some Africans remain skeptical of China's sincerity in friendship. The situation is exacerbated by accusations from the United States and several European nations, which allege that China engages in imperialism and neo-colonialism. The Chinese leadership has asserted that the China-Africa relationship is founded on historical

friendship, equality, shared development, mutual support, and reciprocal collaboration. This study seeks to address the skepticism among certain Africans over the authenticity of China's affinity with Africa and aims to refute allegations of China's imperialism and neo-colonialism on the continent. The study indicates that China is a reliable ally of Africa, supported by several instances of assistance from China and endorsements from various African leaders.

Shola and Manjo (2025) did a study examining the impact of diplomacy as a tool of foreign policy on Nigeria-China relations. Diplomatic engagement with China facilitated the development of infrastructure like as roads, railways, and electricity projects, but also generating concerns regarding potential debt traps. China extended substantial financing, accompanied by significant interests in essential projects and raw materials. Nigeria's indebtedness to China has increased annually, raising concerns that these payments are more a burden of control than a catalyst for prosperity. The purpose is to evaluate the nature, outcomes, and challenges of diplomacy within this bilateral framework. The study employed realism and liberalism as its foundational theoretical frameworks. This study utilized a qualitative data collecting strategy via interviews with twelve key informants. Participants assessed Nigeria's diplomatic strategy as somewhat effective, although identified debt dependency, lack of transparency, and inadequate negotiation skills as significant obstacles. Qualitative insights indicated that Buhari's diplomacy was pragmatic and focused on development, although hindered by inadequate institutional coordination and policy inconsistency. The study concluded that diplomacy acted as an effective stimulant for infrastructure and commerce development, while its influence was inconsistent. The report consequently advocated for enhanced institutional coordination, transparency in bilateral agreements, and diversification of international partnerships to guarantee sustainable and equitable development results.

Chidiebere, Hui, and Chidiebere (2019) investigated in the past four decades, the globalization of higher education has led to an increase in students mobility for studying abroad. Students have expressed interest not only in wealthy nations such as those in Europe and America but also in developing countries like China, India, and South Africa. Following China's increasing interest in collaborating with Africa via the FOCAC forum, the number of African students traveling to China for education has significantly risen. This study examines China's educational assistance to Africa, focusing on Nigeria as a case study. Nigeria is one of the pivotal nations in Africa's collaboration with China via FOCAC. China's educational assistance includes higher education and vocational training, Chinese language teaching in developing nations, school construction, and partnerships with multilateral organizations. In recent decades, Chinese university scholarships, vocational training programs, and Chinese-language education have experienced significant growth. This study also examined four facets of China's educational assistance to Africa, including: (i) Confucius Institutes, which offer language and cultural training in host nations; (ii) long-term scholarships and short-term training for Nigerians in China; (iii) school construction; and (iv) independent educational initiatives. In analyzing the various forms of help in Nigeria, it is essential to assess the methods of their delivery. This study specifically examines the last two decades, notably the time following the initiation of the formal Sino-African triennial conferences under the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2000.

Methodology

This study employed both quantitative and qualitative research to assess the Perception of Xi's Diplomatic Style and Artistry in Nigeria, with the following objectives: to examine the nature of

President Xi's diplomatic style, investigate how Xi's diplomatic artistry impact on Nigeria, ascertain how Xi's diplomatic style improves Nigeria's economic growth and development, identify the challenges faced by Xi's diplomatic style in Nigeria and explore how can these challenges be overcome in Nigeria. The study location is Abuja, it was chosen because it is the administrative and political center of Nigeria, hosting several government ministries, departments, agencies and embassies. The population of the study is 4,300,858 million. The targeted population include; Political leaders (476), Media outlets (278), Think tanks (10), Academic scholars (95) and the general Public (4,300,000). The population was gotten through field survey and from the national population commission projected population, 2025. The sample size for the study was determined using the Taro Yamane (1967) sample size determination technique.

This is expressed below as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+Ne^2} \quad \ldots\ldots\ldots\

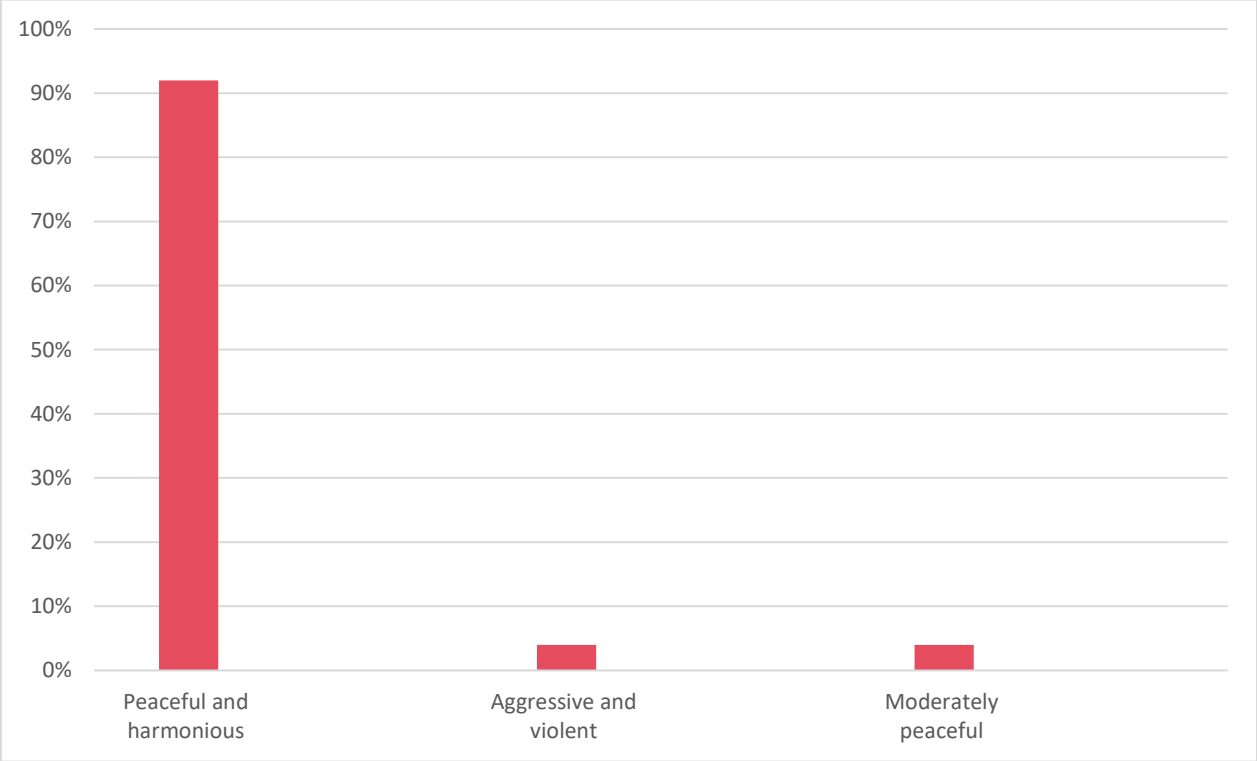
The sample size is 400, this was distributed using disproportionate stratified sampling method to ensure that each group is adequately represented based on their population (Creswell & Creswell, 2023). Hence, Political leaders (476; 20), Media outlets (278; 15), Think tanks (10; 10), Academic scholars (95; 15) and the Public (4,300,000; 340). A total of 400 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents, while 275 copies were retrieved. This forms the bases of the analysis.

Data presentation and Analysis

Nature of Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Style

How would you Describe the Key Characteristics of Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Approach in Contemporary International Relations?

Fig 1.1

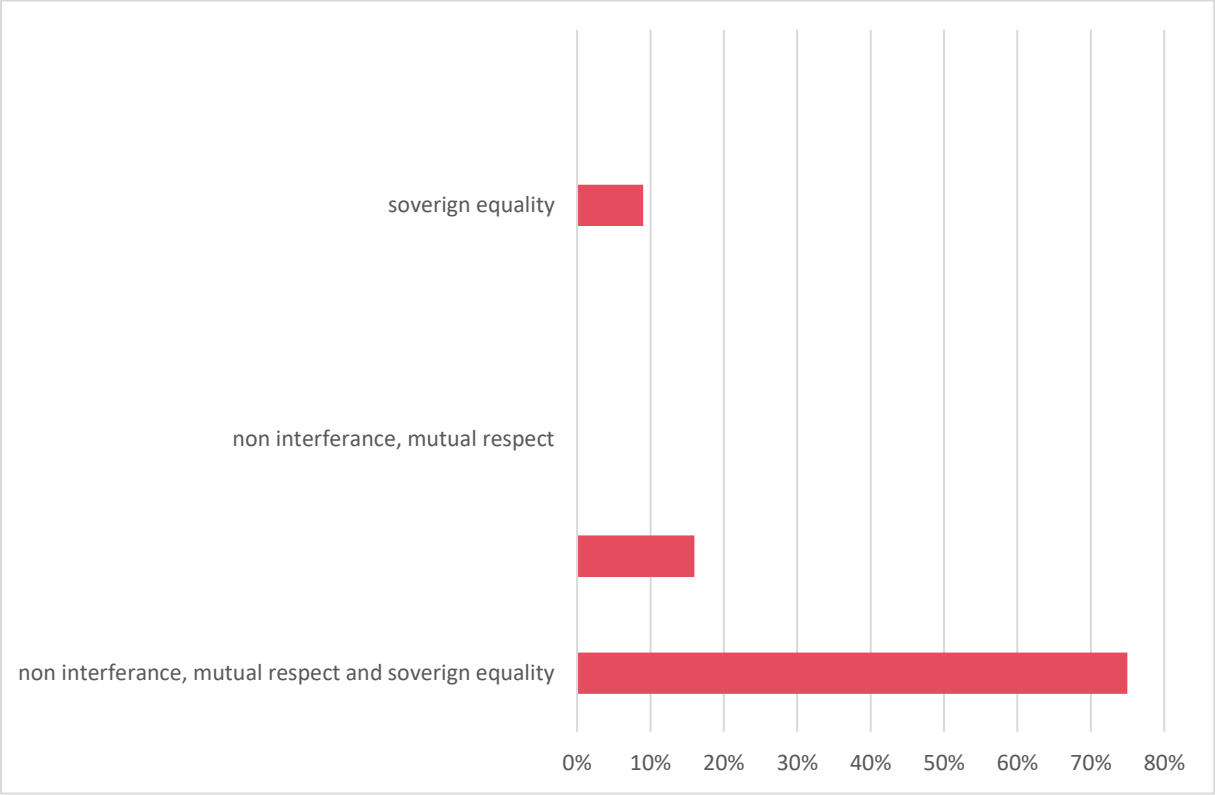


Source: Field work, 2026.

Fig 1.1 shows that 92% of the respondents describe Xi Jinping's diplomatic approach as peaceful and harmonious**,** suggesting a strong perception that his foreign policy emphasizes cooperation, dialogue, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence. Conversely, only 4% viewed it as aggressive and violent**,** while another 4% considered it moderately peaceful**,** indicating minimal divergence in respondents' perceptions.

In Your View, What Principles Guide China's Diplomacy under President Xi Jinping?

Fig 1.2

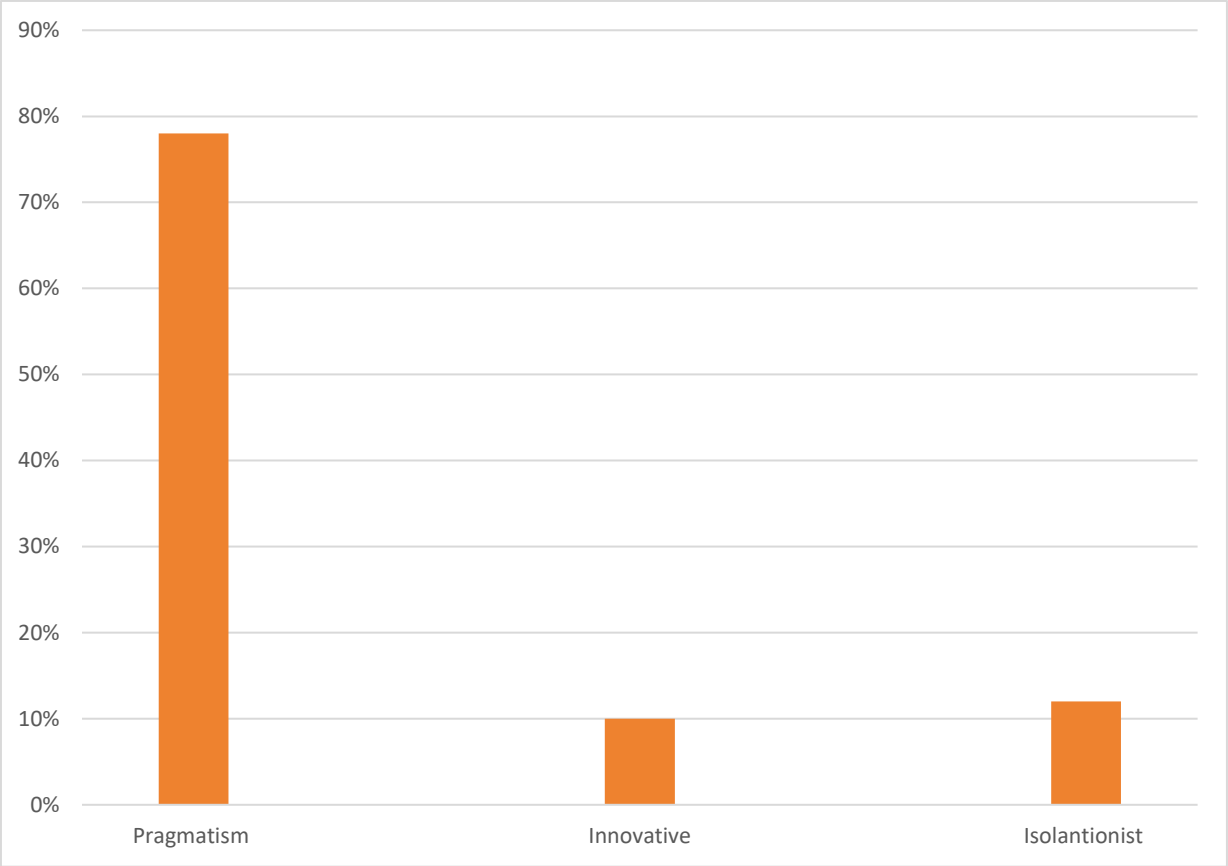


Source: Field work, 2026.

Fig 1.2 indicates that 75% of respondents consider non-interference and mutual respect, coupled with sovereign equality, as the variables that describe Xi's diplomatic style. At the same time, 16% only stressed on non-interference and mutual respect, while 9% only stressed on sovereign equality. This indicates that the key attitude of respondents towards Xi's diplomacy is his balance between the cultivation of respect for national sovereignty and the development of mutually beneficial international relations.

How does Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Style Differ from Previous Chinese Leadership Approaches?

Fig 1.3



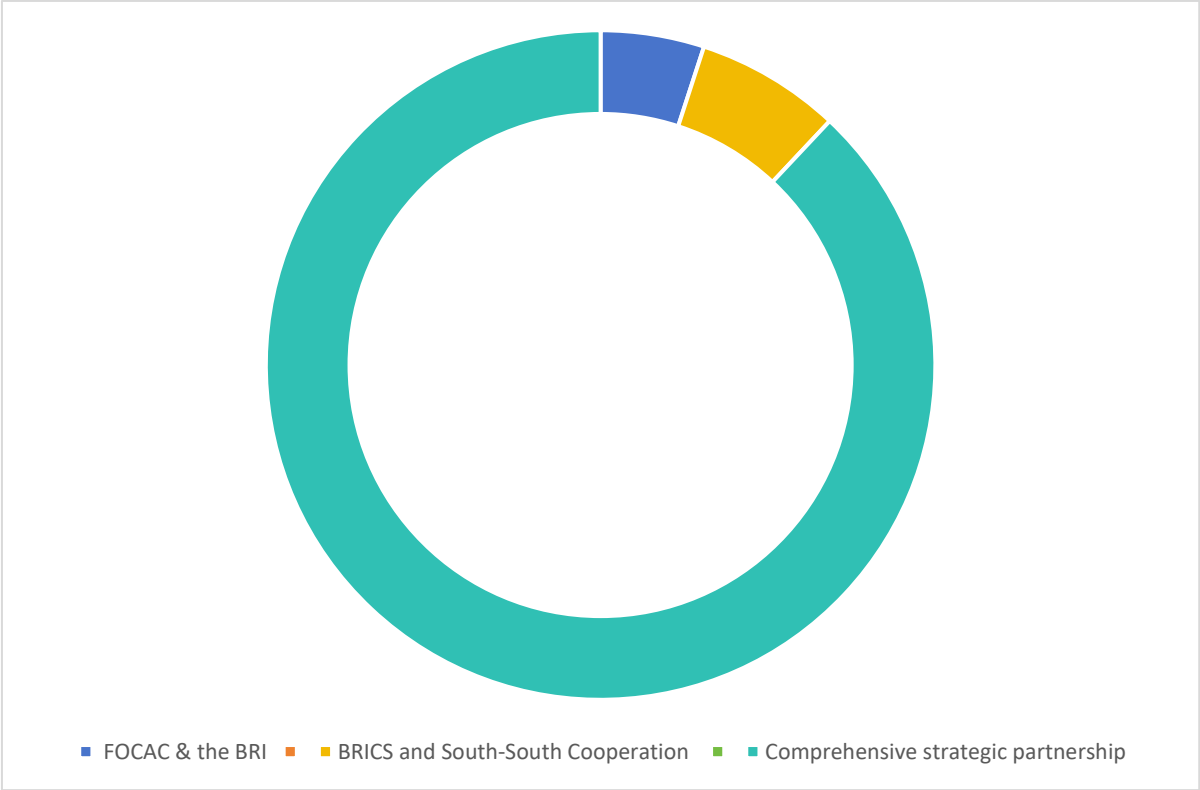
Source: Field work, 2026.

The results from fig 1.4 show that 78% of respondents considered Xi Jinping's diplomatic approach as pragmatic, implying that his foreign policy is practical, flexible and aimed at mutually beneficial results. 12%, by contrast, saw it as isolationist, which shows that few people believe that China's diplomacy is inward-focused or disengages from the international arena.

How Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Artistry Impacts Nigeria

In What Ways China's Diplomatic Engagement under President Xi Jinping Influences Nigeria's Foreign Relations?

Fig 1.5

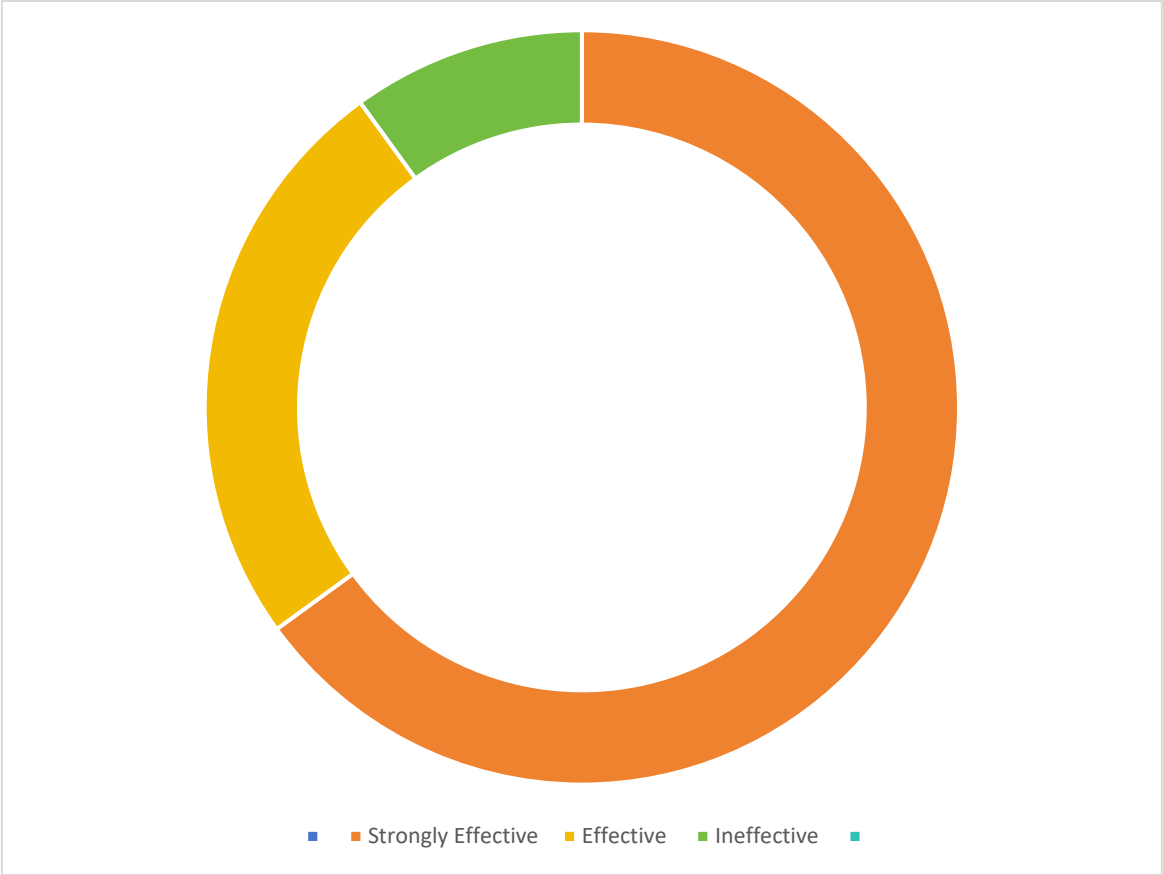


Source: Field work, 2026.

The results indicate that the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has been a principal tool with which Nigeria has been affected by President Xi's diplomatic engagement with 88% of the respondents stating that the policy had done so. Meanwhile, 7% mentioned BRICS and South-South Cooperation, and 5% mentioned Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), indicating that these are seen as complementary mechanisms, which can complement the overall China-Nigeria diplomatic relationship.

How Would You Assess the Role of China–Nigeria Diplomatic Ties in Shaping Bilateral Cooperation?

Fig 1.6

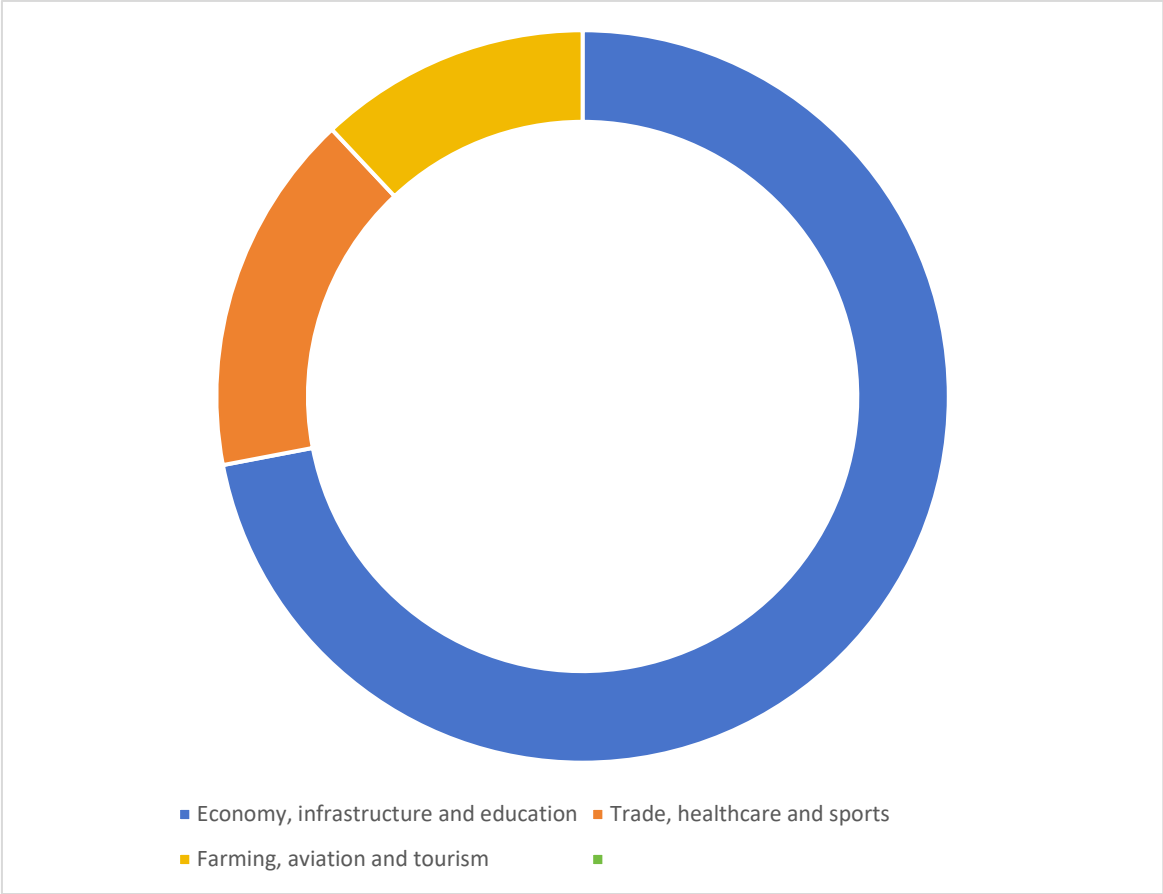


Source: Field work, 2026.

The results also show that 65% of the respondents rated Xi Jinping's diplomatic engagement as very effective in shaping Nigeria's foreign policy and 25% rated it as effective. This indicates a resounding positive evaluation of China's diplomatic approach under Xi. But 10 % saw it as ineffective, which was attributed to concerns regarding the level of its influence on Nigeria's foreign policy and international relations.

What specific areas in Nigeria have benefited most from China's diplomatic initiatives under President Xi Jinping?

Fig 1.7

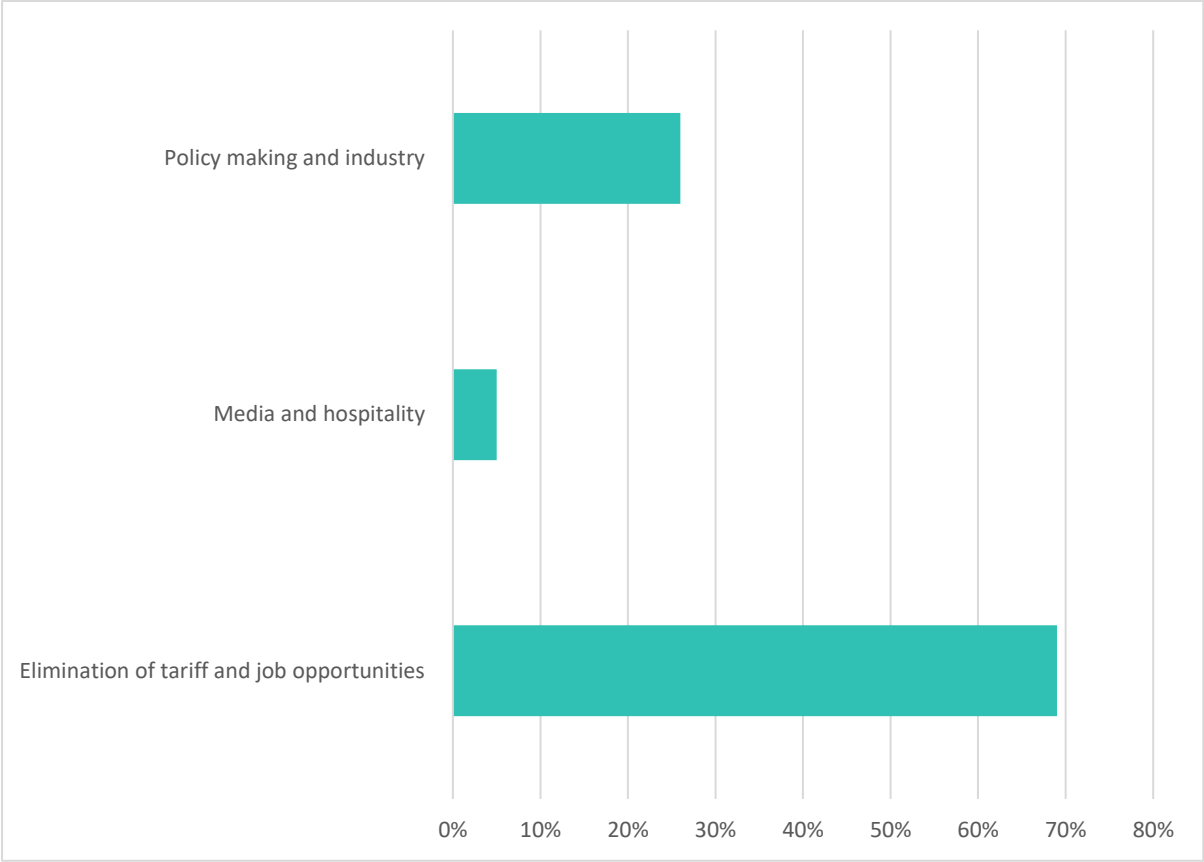


Source: Field work, 2026.

The results indicate that 72% of the respondents are of the opinion that Xi Jinping's diplomacy has had a positive effect on Nigeria's foreign relations mostly through economic cooperation, infrastructure development and education cooperation. At the same time, 16% were of the view that trade, healthcare and sports as its areas, and 12% viewed farming, aviation and tourism as its areas. This indicates that economy and infrastructure partnership are the most important areas of China–Nigeria diplomacy in the era of President Xi Jinping.

How Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Style Improves Nigeria's Economic Growth and Development?

Fig 1.8

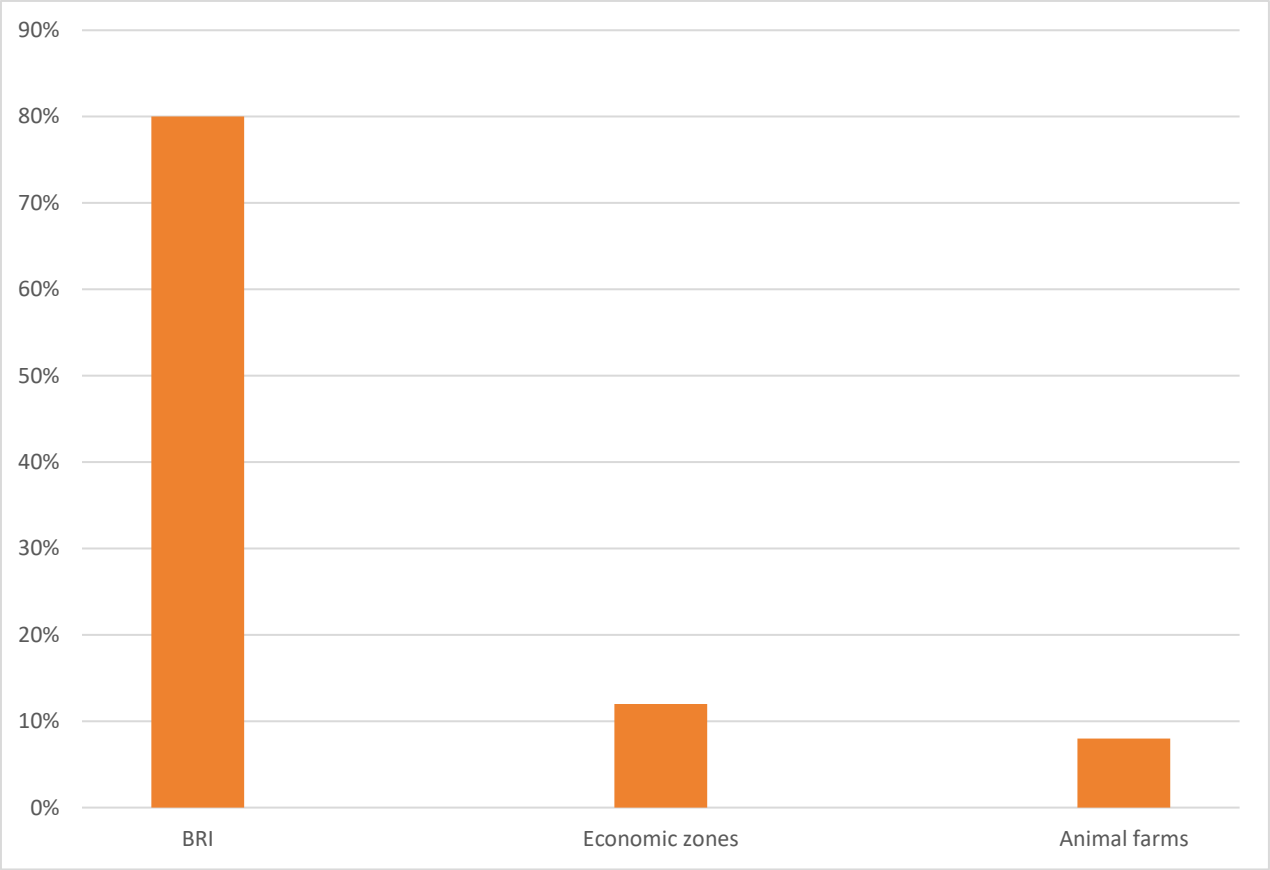


Source: Field work, 2026.

The results show that 69% of the respondents agreed that the diplomatic style of President Xi Jinping contributes to the economic growth and development of Nigeria due to zero tariff and job opportunities China provides to Nigeria. This was considered as the major economic advantage. In the meantime, policy making and industrial development was identified as the major areas of contribution by 26%, with only 5% citing the media and hospitality sector.

How has Chinese Diplomatic Engagement Contributed to Infrastructure Development in Nigeria?

Fig 1.9

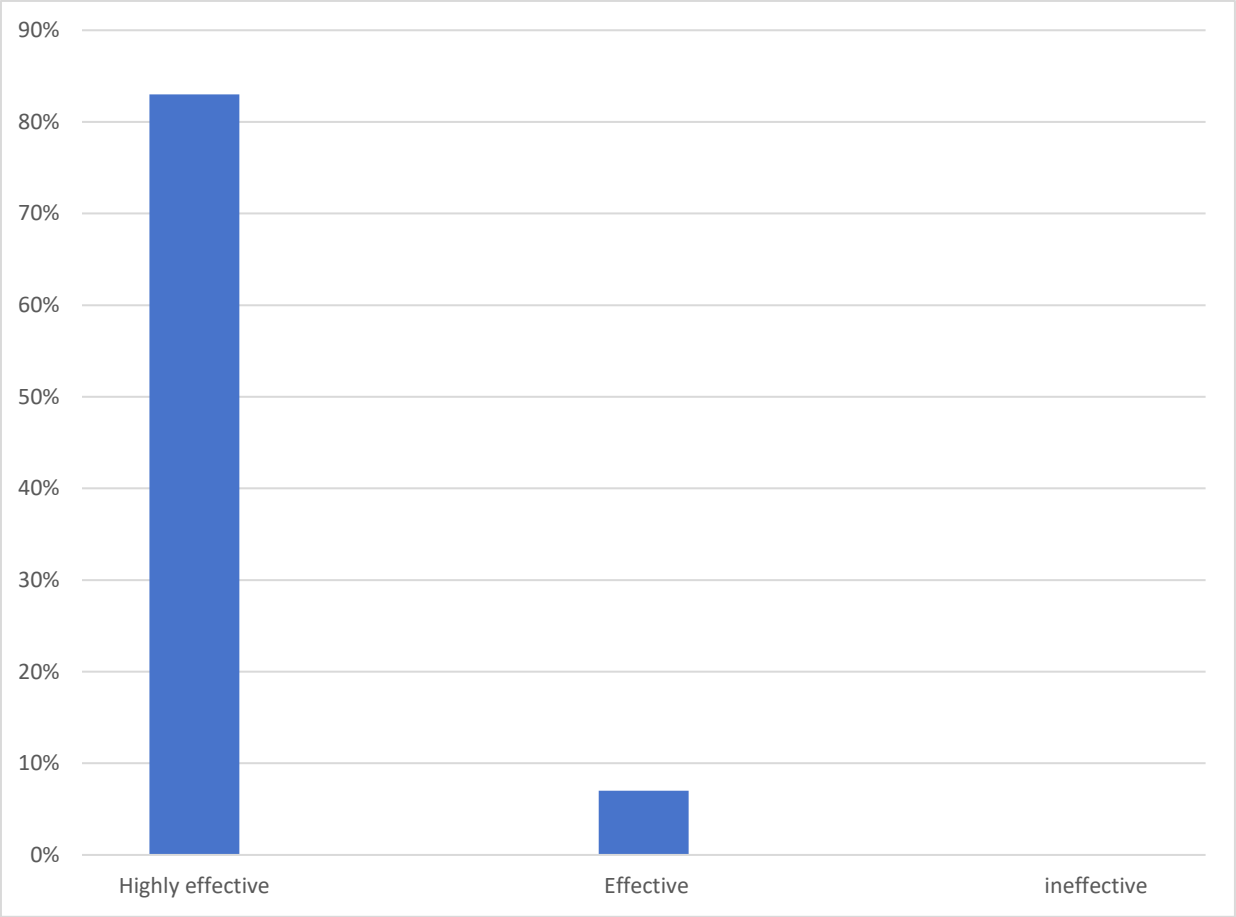


Source: Field work, 2026.

The study shows that 80% of the respondents believe that the Chinese government has played a major role in the development of infrastructure in Nigeria through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), an initiative that is the main source of funding and implementation of massive infrastructure projects in Nigeria. Meanwhile, 12% mentioned economic zones, and 8% mentioned animal farms, which are seen as relatively unimportant contributions.

What is the Impact of China–Nigeria Relations on Trade, Investment, and Industrial Development in Nigeria?

Fig 10

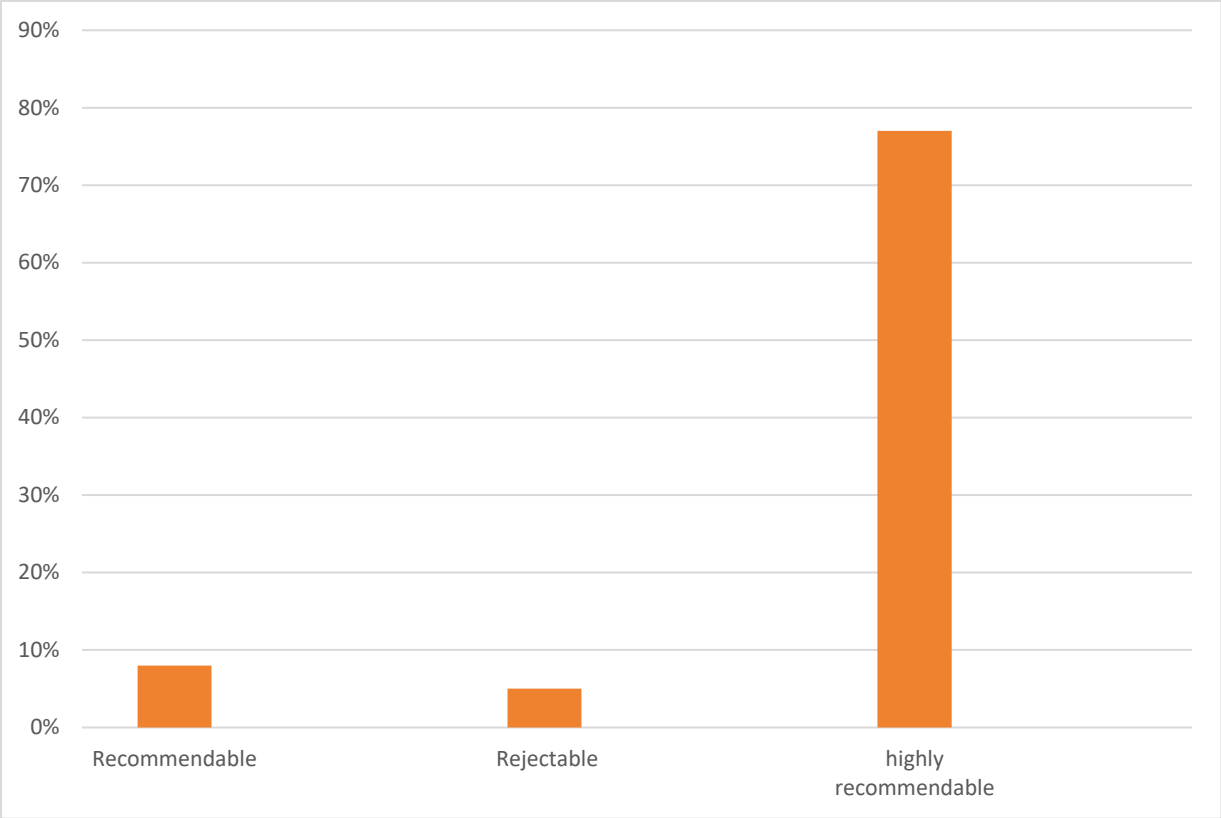


Source: Field work, 2026.

The results indicate that a high percentage (83%) of the respondents perceived the China–Nigeria partnership as highly effective in facilitating trade and investment, and industrial development. Another 7% thought the impact was effective with 0% saying it was ineffective, indicating a strong level of agreement that China's diplomatic relations with Nigeria have benefited Nigeria's economic and industrial development.

To What Extent has China's Diplomatic Partnership Supported Nigeria's Economic Diversification Efforts?

Fig 1.11

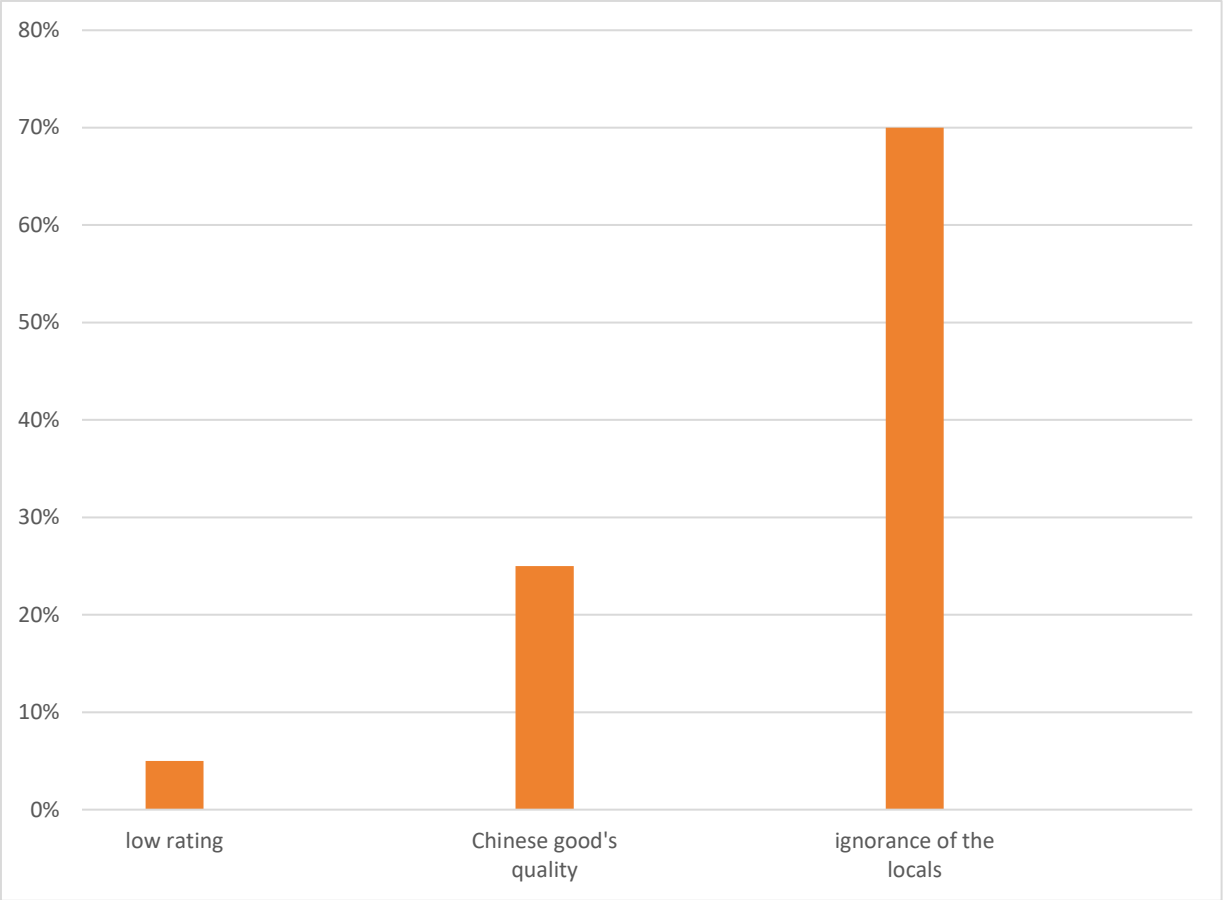


Source: Field work, 2026.

The results show that 77% of the respondents found the activities of Nigeria's diplomacy with China in its development very recommendable in the area of economic diversification. Furthermore, 8% said it was recommendable and 5% said it was rejectable, indicating that a small minority doubted its effectiveness in promoting Nigeria's economic diversification goals.

Challenges Faced by Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Style in Nigeria

Fig 1.12

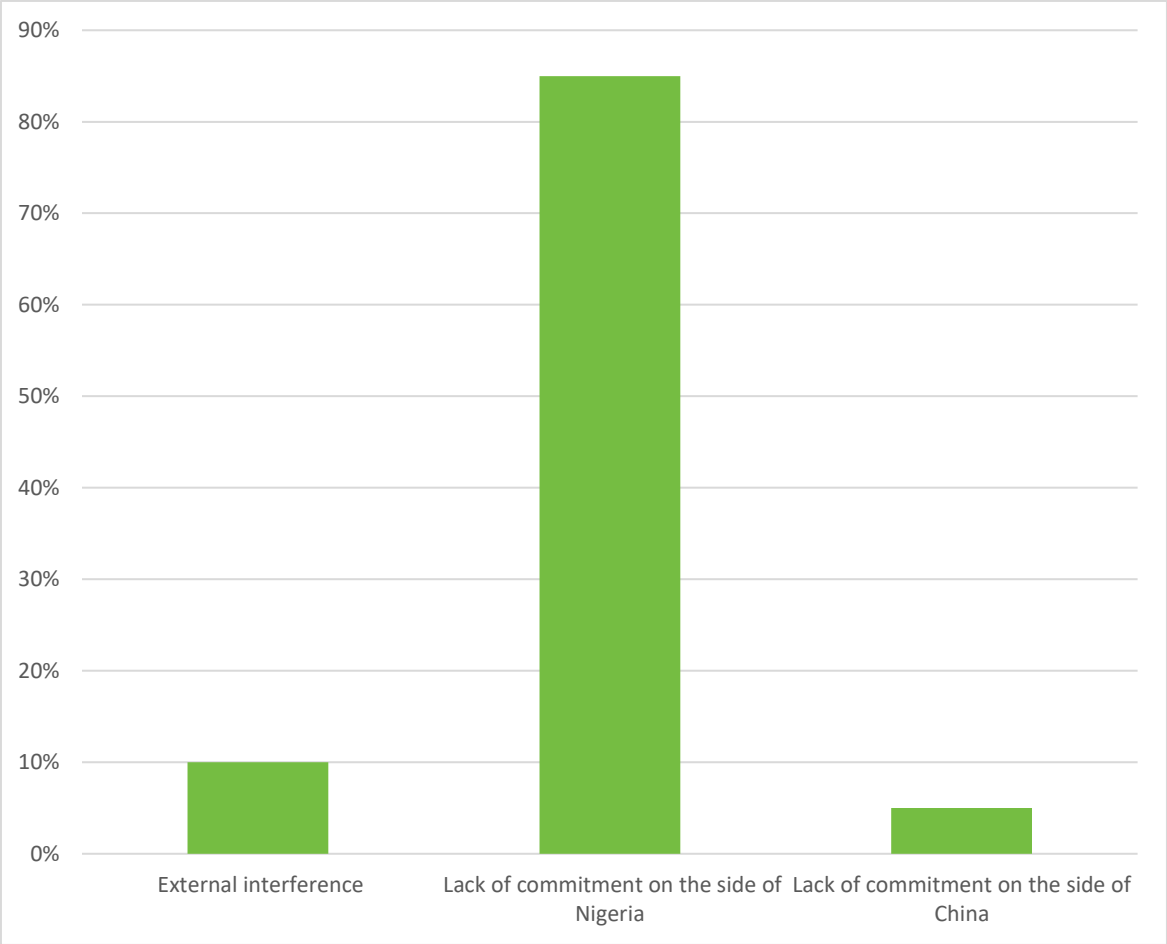


Source: Field work, 2026.

The results indicate that 70 % of the respondents pointed to the ignorance of the locals on President Xi and his diplomatic styles, which require more public diplomacy and creation of awareness in Nigeria, thus indicating the need for further expanding public diplomacy and awareness creation on President Xi and his diplomatic style. Further, 25% referred to the quality of Chinese products and 5% to the lower ratings of Chinese engagements, suggesting that ignorance of the locals in Nigeria is seen as the most important problem.

What Challenges have Emerged in the Implementation of China–Nigeria Diplomatic and Economic Agreements?

Fig 1.13

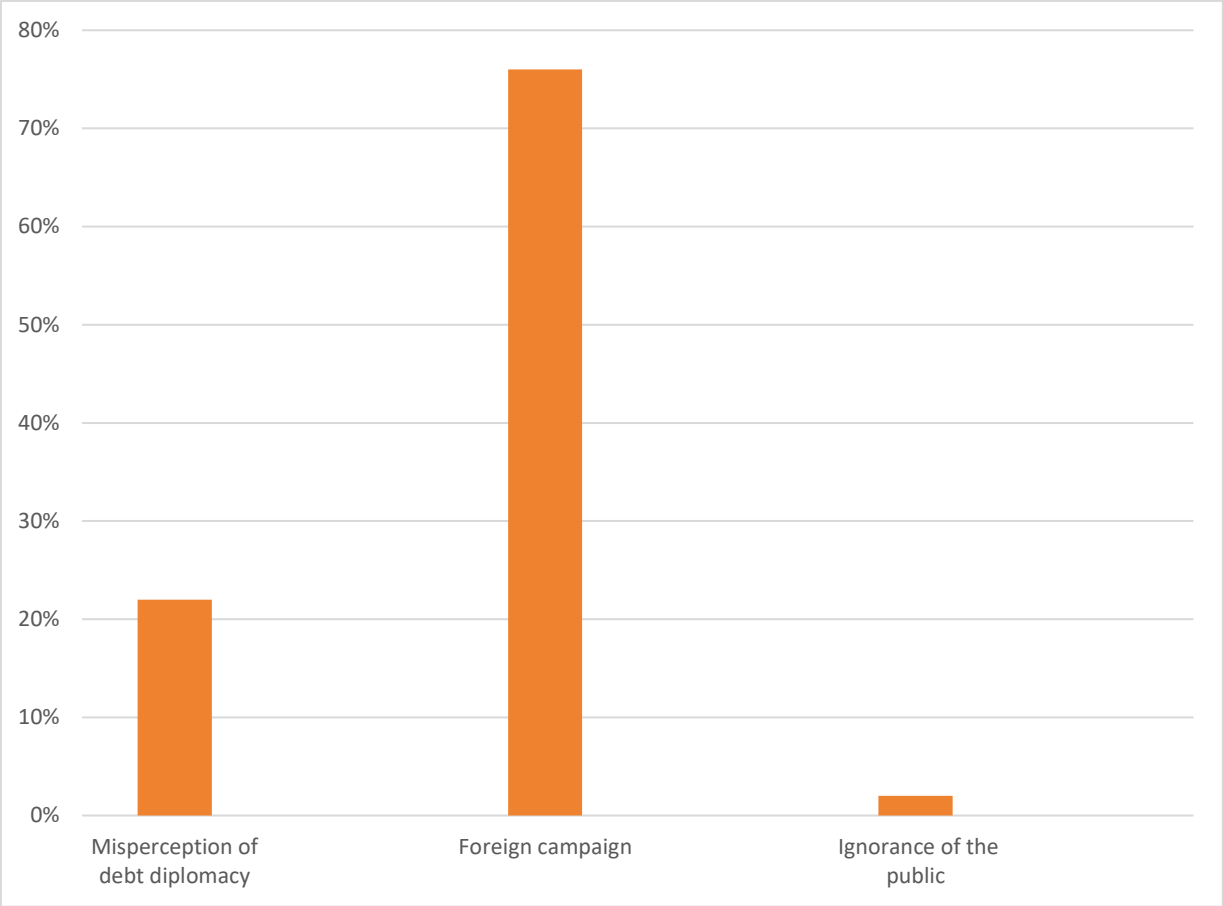


Source: Field work, 2026.

The result shows that the major challenge that affects the implementation of China-Nigeria diplomatic and economic agreements is lack of commitment on Nigeria's part as identified by 85% of the respondents. In the meantime, 10% blamed outside interference and five percent blamed China's lack of commitment. This indicates that the main limitation for effective bilateral cooperation is the domestic implementation constraints.

How do Issues such as Debt Sustainability and Project Transparency Affect China's Diplomatic Relations with Nigeria?

Fig 1.14

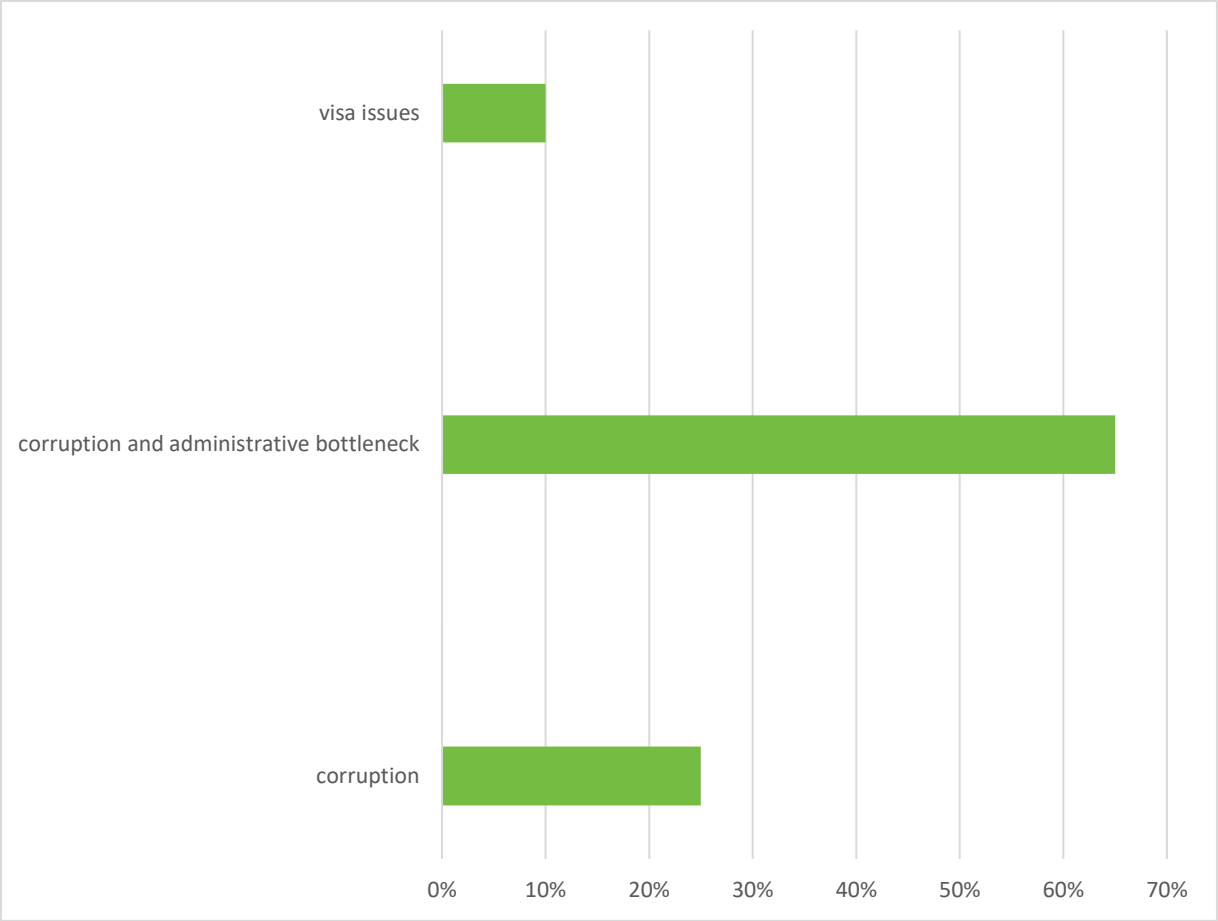


Source: Field work, 2026.

The results show that 76% of the respondents feel that foreign campaigns are the most influential source of perceptions of Nigeria's debt sustainability and project transparency, which influences China's diplomatic relationship with Nigeria. Furthermore, 22% mentioned misinformation on the subject of debt diplomacy, and 2% said that the problem was due to the public's lack of knowledge, indicating that external narratives have a great influence on the perception of the public on this issue.

What Institutional or Policy Constraints Limit the Effectiveness of China's Diplomatic Engagement in Nigeria

Fig 1.15



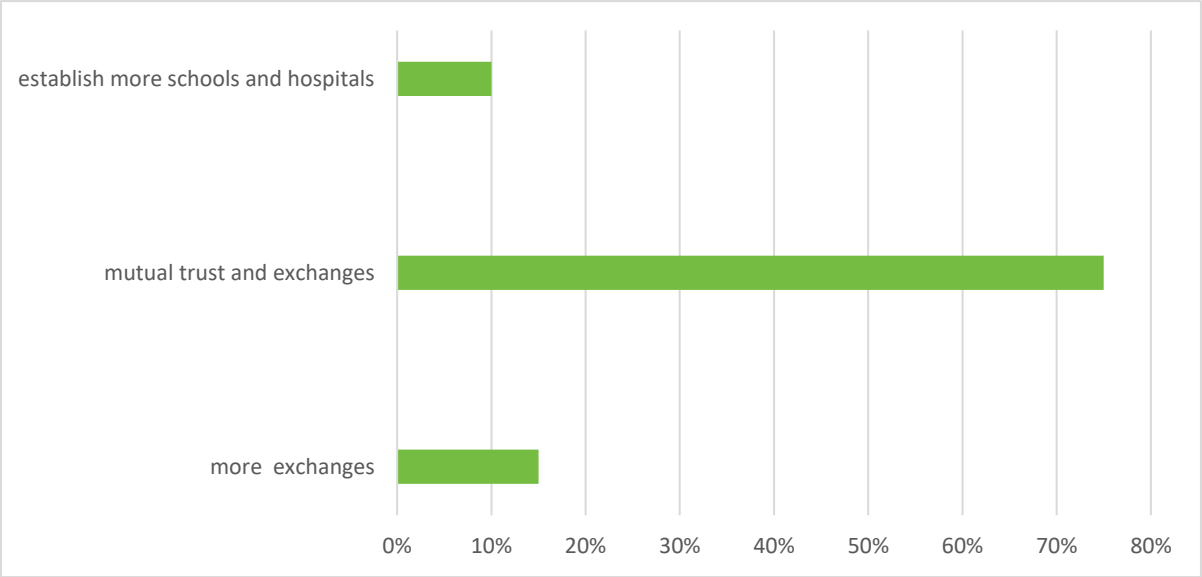
Source: Field work, 2026.

The results show that 37% of the respondents considered corruption and administrative bottleneck the biggest institutional challenge to the effectiveness of China's diplomatic engagement in Nigeria. This was closely followed by administrative bottlenecks (25%) and visa related issues (10%). The findings indicate that corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency are the main challenges to the effective implementation of China–Nigeria diplomatic efforts.

These Challenges Can be Overcome in Nigeria

What Policy Measures can Nigeria adopt to Improve the Effectiveness of its Diplomatic and Economic Relations with China?

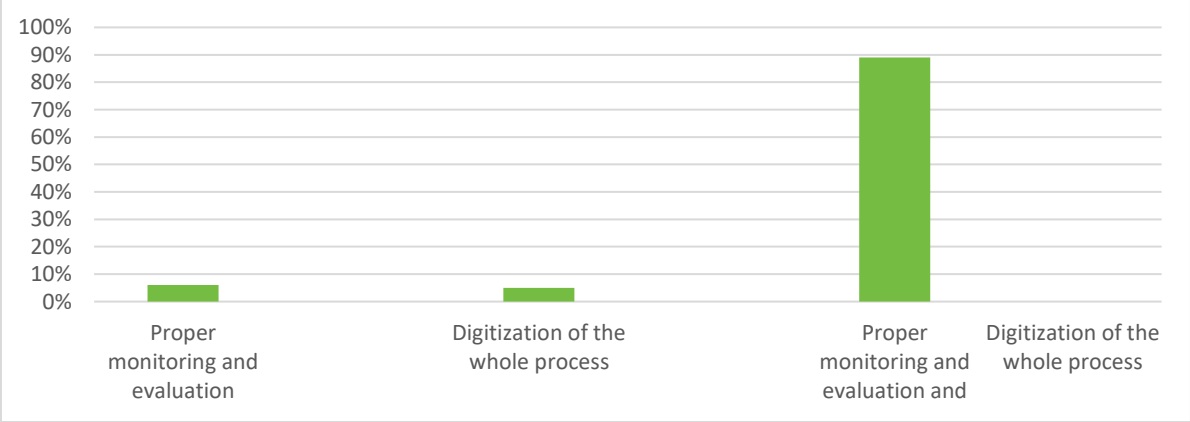
Fig 1.16



The results show that 75% of the respondents think mutual trust and exchange would promote investment and job creation, which would have a positive impact on Nigeria's diplomatic and economic relations with China. In addition, 15% said that Chinese schools and hospitals should be established, and 10% said that it is necessary to increase bilateral exchanges, which indicates that economic cooperation is the policy measure that is most likely to be effective.

How can Accountability and Transparency be Strengthened in China–Nigeria Bilateral Projects?

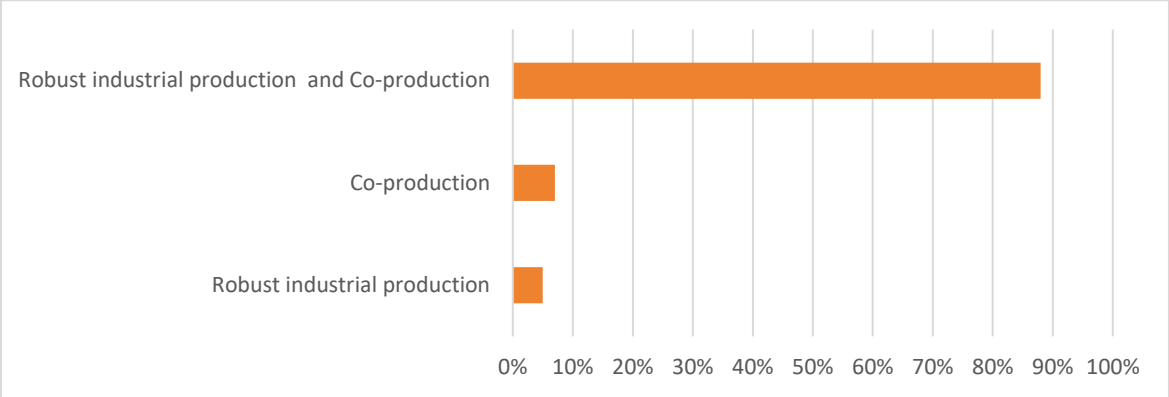
Fig 1.17



The findings show that 89% of the respondents agree that a combination of good monitoring and evaluation and digitization of project processes is the most effective means of enhancing the accountability and transparency of the project in China–Nigeria bilateral projects. Conversely, 6% indicated a preference for monitoring and evaluation only, 5% said it had stated a preference for digitization only, highlighting an overall preference to support both measures to improve project governance.

What Role Should Nigerian Institutions Play in Ensuring Mutually Beneficial Outcomes from China's Diplomatic Engagements?

Fig 1.18



The results also showed that 88% of the participants felt that the Nigerian institutions should encourage strong industrial production and co-production with the Chinese partners to produce some good outcome from the diplomatic engagement with China. At the same time 7% highlighted only co-production and 5% only strong industrial production. This indicates that the most common approach that is recognized as the best way is the integration of industrial capacity and collaborative production.

Discussion of Findings

The findings indicate that Xi Jinping's diplomatic approach is generally considered peaceful, pragmatic and based on the principles of non-interference, mutual respect and sovereign equality. His diplomacy was seen by respondents as 'cooperation and dialogue in action' rather than confrontation, which was in line with China's foreign policy tenets and its drive towards mutually beneficial international relations.

The study also revealed that Nigeria-China relations have improved considerably, largely as a result of the artistry of President Xi Jinping, under which Nigeria has now declared itself to be in the process of achieving a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which has brought about better cooperation between the two countries, most especially in the areas of infrastructure, trade, education and economic development. In terms of enhancing bilateral relations and fruitful cooperation between both sides, respondents viewed China's diplomacy as very effective.

Through the findings, it was established that Xi Jinping's diplomatic style is responsible for Nigeria's economic growth by supporting trade facilitation, employment creation, industrial development, infrastructure development and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The finding indicated that these diplomatic engagements have helped Nigeria's economy diversify, created more investment opportunities and boosted the country's productive capacity and development prospects.

Nevertheless, the finding revealed the problems that face Xi Jinping's diplomacy in Nigeria, such as ignorance of the locals, lack of institutional commitment from the Nigerian authorities,

corruption, administrative delays, and the negative foreign narratives about debt diplomacy. These factors pose a challenge to the successful implementation of bilateral agreements and restrict the comprehensive benefits of partnership.

Conclusion

The diplomatic style of President Xi Jinping has brought about a better China-Nigeria relationship based on peaceful cooperation, respect and mutual-benefitial partnership. It has helped in the development of infrastructure, trade and investments as well as economic diversification for Nigeria. However, its effectiveness is hindered by factors like weak institutional commitment, corruption, administrative bottlenecks and worries about ignorance of the locals.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made;

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs should hold regular dialogue forums between the people of China and Nigeria to facilitate understanding of Xi's principles of diplomacy, particularly those of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and non-interference in others' affairs, to enhance the dialogue between the two nations' diplomatic elites.

The federal Government of Nigeria should maximize the potentials of the China-Nigeria Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which includes infrastructure, education and technology transfer, cultural exchange, and other fields to increase the diplomatic and socio-economic benefits of the partnership.

The Federal Government should focus on policies that will facilitate the active involvement of local content in the manufacturing, industrial parks and value added production with the objective of drawing more Chinese investment to the country for faster economic growth, job creation and technology transfer.

The federal Government of Nigeria should enhance institutional capacity, curb corruption, streamline administrative procedures and strictly implement bilateral pledges to resolve implementation hurdles to deepen the effectiveness of China-Nigeria diplomatic cooperation.

Nigeria Government should create a joint China-Nigeria Monitoring and Evaluation Committee to supervise the projects, build transparency and transparency in project management by means of digital systems, and implement project-related local workforce and industrial co-production policies in the implementation of bilateral projects.

References

Adewumi, J. B. E., & Ayomola, O. (2024). A Theoretic Analysis of Key Issues and Challenges in Nigeria-China Relations. *Edo Journal of Arts, Management and Social Sciences*, *6*(2), 35-49.

Afolabi, J. A., & Oji, C. E. (2021). Nigeria-China bilateral relations: a skewed or balance relation?. *International Journal of Diplomacy and Economy*, *7*(2), 129-145.

Ajah, A. C., & Onuoha, J. I. (2025). China's Belt and Road Initiative and Infrastructure Development in Nigeria: Unveiling a Paradigm Shift or Repackaging of Failed Ventures?. *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, *54*(2), 119-148.

Ashworth, L. (2014). *A History of International Thought: From the origins of the modern state to academic international relations*. Routledge.

Banwo, A., & Okide, U. (2025). Xi Jinping's Leadership In China's Socio-Economic Development Blueprint. *Malikussaleh Social and Political Reviews*, *6*(2), 80-97.

Bharti, S. S. (2023). Development policy and an analysis of complex interdependence theory. *Reality of Politics. Estimates-Comments-Forecasts*, *26*(4), 7-18.

Bjola, C., & Kornprobst, M. (2025). *Understanding international diplomacy: Theory, practice and ethics*. Routledge.

Cai, Z., & Zhang, W. (2024). Quantitative evidence of the community of shared future for mankind as a driver of sustainable development in human society. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, *11*(1), 1-16.

Chang-Liao, N. C. (2016). China's new foreign policy under Xi Jinping. *Asian Security*, *12*(2), 82-91.

Chidiebere, E. E., Hui, W., & Chidiebere, E. E. (2019). *China Nigeria cooperation in education and training: A comparative analysis*. LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing.

Chinonso, A. A., & Jonah, O. I. (2023). China's Belt and Road Initiative and Infrastructure Development in Nigeria: A Paradigm Shift or Failed Ventures Repackaged?. *China Quarterly of International Strategic Studies*, *9*(01–04), 195-225.

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2023). Research design.

de Jesus, D. S. V. (2022). Domestic Stability and Economic Growth: China's Foreign Policy Under Xi Jinping's Administration (2013-2022). *International Journal of Business Administration*, *13*(5), 2.

Economy, E. C. (2014). China's imperial president: Xi Jinping tightens his grip. *Foreign Affairs*, *93*(6), 80-91.

Engels, F., & Marx, K. (2004). *The communist manifesto* (Vol. 13). Penguin UK.

Ezeani, E. O., & Ngoka, R. O. (2022). Nigeria-China relations and infrastructural development in Nigeria. *University of Nigeria Journal of Political Economy*, *12*(2).

Fearon, J. D. (2018). Cooperation, conflict, and the costs of anarchy. *International Organization*, *72*(3), 523-559.

Gaho, G. M. (2024). Xi Jinping: A Dynamic Reformer and Visionary Leader. *Assaj*, *2*(4), 922-938.

Gbadebo, A. D. (2025). China's Belt And Road Initiative And Nigeria's Infrastructural Development: Assessing The Risk And Benefits Of Railway Investment. *Journal of Governance & Administrative Reform*, *6*(2), 264.

Haynes, J., Pilbeam, B., & Hough, P. (2023). World politics: International relations and globalisation in the 21st century.

Hirono, M., Jiang, Y., & Lanteigne, M. (2019). China's new roles and behaviour in conflict-affected regions: Reconsidering non-interference and non-intervention. *The China Quarterly*, *239*, 573-593.

Jinping, X. (2022, October). Hold high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics and strive in unity to build a modern socialist country in all respects. In *Report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China* (Vol. 10, p. 49). People's Publishing House.

Jönsson, C. (2022). Theorising diplomacy. *The Routledge Handbook of Diplomacy and Statecraft*, 13-26.

Juan, D. M. M. S. (2017). Why Marx was right: Third world edition. *Journal of Developing Societies*, *33*(1), 1-26.

Jung, H. (2019). The evolution of social constructivism in political science: Past to present. *Sage Open*, *9*(1), 2158244019832703.

Kalita, B., & Namati, N. (2021). Marx's Concept of Class Struggle: A Study. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Educational Research*, *10*(7), 12.

Keohane, R. O. (2020). Understanding multilateral institutions in easy and hard times. *Annual Review of Political Science*, *23*(1), 1-18.

Labiran, A. F., & Idachaba, E. (2024). The Unfolding Dynamics Of Nigeria's Strategic Partnership With China. *University of Jos Journal of Political Science*, *1*(1), 424-451.

Lanteigne, M. (2019). *Chinese foreign policy: an introduction*. Routledge.

Lin, Z. (2019). Xi Jinping's 'major country diplomacy': The impacts of China's growing capacity. *Journal of Contemporary China*, *28*(115), 31-46.

Lyman, S., & Yashchenko, K. (2025). Strategic partnership between the People's Republic of China and Nigeria: security, political, and economic dimensions. *The Journal of VN Karazin Kharkiv National University. Series: International Relations. Economics. Country Studies. Tourism*, (21), 74-80.

Morgan, P. (2019). Can China's economic statecraft win soft power in Africa? Unpacking trade, investment and aid. *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, *24*(3), 387-409.

Nathan, A. J., & Zhang, B. (2022). 'A shared future for mankind': Rhetoric and reality in Chinese foreign policy under Xi Jinping. *Journal of Contemporary China*, *31*(133), 57-71.

Neumann, I. B. (2016). Diplomacy and the Arts. *The SAGE Handbook of Diplomacy*, 114-22.

Odinye, S. I. (2016). China-Africa relationship and friendship. *INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF AFRICAN & ASIAN STUDIES (IJAAS)*, *2*(1).

Oghuvbu, E. A. (2022). Nigeria-China Bilateral Relations: The Current Challenges, 2015-2020. *Annals of Spiru Haret University. Economic Series*, *22*(1), 283-299.

Ogunjewo, H. B., & Steven, A. A. Evolving Dynamics: Nigeria-China Relations From Conference Participation To Bi-National Commission.

Ohashi, H. (2018). The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the context of China's opening-up policy. *Journal of Contemporary East Asia Studies*, *7*(2), 85-103.

Otegbeye, P. (2026). Economic Impacts of the Nigeria-China Partnership: A Case Study of the Ondo-Linyi Industrial Hub. *Available at SSRN 6597038*.

Poh, A., & Li, M. (2017). A China in transition: The rhetoric and substance of Chinese foreign policy under Xi Jinping. *Asian Security*, *13*(2), 84-97.

Quadri, L. A. (2020). One Belt One Road: Should Nigeria sieve the Chinese benevolence, or accept it as a free lunch?. *Akdeniz Havzası ve Afrika Medeniyetleri Dergisi*, *2*(1), 43-77.

Shambaugh, D. (Ed.). (2020). *China and the World*. Oxford University Press.

Shola, J. I., & Manjo, D. Y. G. (2025). Examining The Impact Of Diplomacy As A Tool Of Foreign Policy On Nigeria-China Relations: A Study Of The Buhari Administration (2015-2023). *The Nexus*, *3*(1).

Sokunbi, G. M. (2026). Infrastructure, trade expansion, and inclusive growth in Nigeria: Evidence from ARDL analysis. *AEFUNAI Journal of Economics, Finance and Development Studies*, *3*(1), 223-242.

Stanzel, V., & und Politik-SWP-Deutsches, S. W. (2018). New realities in foreign affairs: Diplomacy in the 21st century.

Sunday, O. (2026). China's Soft Power And Strategic Diplomacy In Nigeria: A Neo-Imperial Perspective. *University of Jos Journal of Political Science*, *3*(2), 127-142.

Ubi, E. N. (2023). The foreign policy of emerging big powers: Nigeria in China's belt and road initiative. In *Nigerian Foreign Policy 60 Years After Independence* (pp. 185-207). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

Ugochukwu, O. J. (2025). Nigeria-China Relations and Trade Development in Nigeria, 2015-2022.

Wiseman, G. (2018). Norms and diplomacy: The diplomatic underpinnings of multilateralism. In *The new dynamics of multilateralism* (pp. 5-22). Routledge.

Wiseman, G., & Sharp, P. (2017). Diplomacy. In *An Introduction to International Relations, Third edition* (pp. 296-308). Cambridge University Press.

Yu, H. (2020). Motivation behind China's 'one belt, one road'initiatives and establishment of the Asian infrastructure investment bank. In *China's new global strategy* (pp. 3-18). Routledge.

Zheng, Y., & Huang, Y. (2018). *Market in state: The political economy of domination in China*. Cambridge University Press.

Zhu, Z. (2016). *China's new diplomacy: Rationale, strategies and significance*. Routledge.