

**Document 20.10: Excerpt from “China Takes on the World,” by Michael Elliott,  
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China’s commitment to nonintervention means that it doesn’t inquire closely into the internal arrangements of others. When all those African leaders met in Beijing, Hu promised to double aid to the continent by 2009, train 15,000 professionals and provide scholarships to 4,000 students, and help Africa’s health-care and farming sectors. But as a 2005 report by the Council on Foreign Relations notes, “China’s aid and investments are attractive to Africans precisely because they come with no conditionality related to governance, fiscal probity or other concerns of Western donors.” In 2004, when an International Monetary Fund loan to Angola was held up because of suspected corruption, China ponied up \$2 billion in credit. Beijing has sent weapons and money to Zimbabwe’s President Robert Mugabe, whose government is accused of massive human-rights violations.

Most notoriously, China has consistently used its place as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council to dilute resolutions aimed at pressuring the Sudanese government to stop the ethnic slaughter in Darfur. A Chinese state-owned company owns 40% of the oil concession in the south of Sudan, and there are reportedly 4,000 Chinese troops there protecting Beijing’s oil interests....

China doesn’t support unsavory regimes for the sake of it. Instead China’s key objective is to ensure a steady supply of natural resources, so that its economy can sustain the growth that officials hope will keep a lid on unrest at home. That is why China has reached out to resource-rich democracies like Australia and Brazil as much as it has to such international pariahs as Sudan and Burma, both of which have underdeveloped hydrocarbon reserves.... (Those Westerners who criticize China for its behavior in Africa might remember their own history on the continent.)...

Source: Michael Elliott. “China Takes on the World.” *Time*. 22 January, 2007.