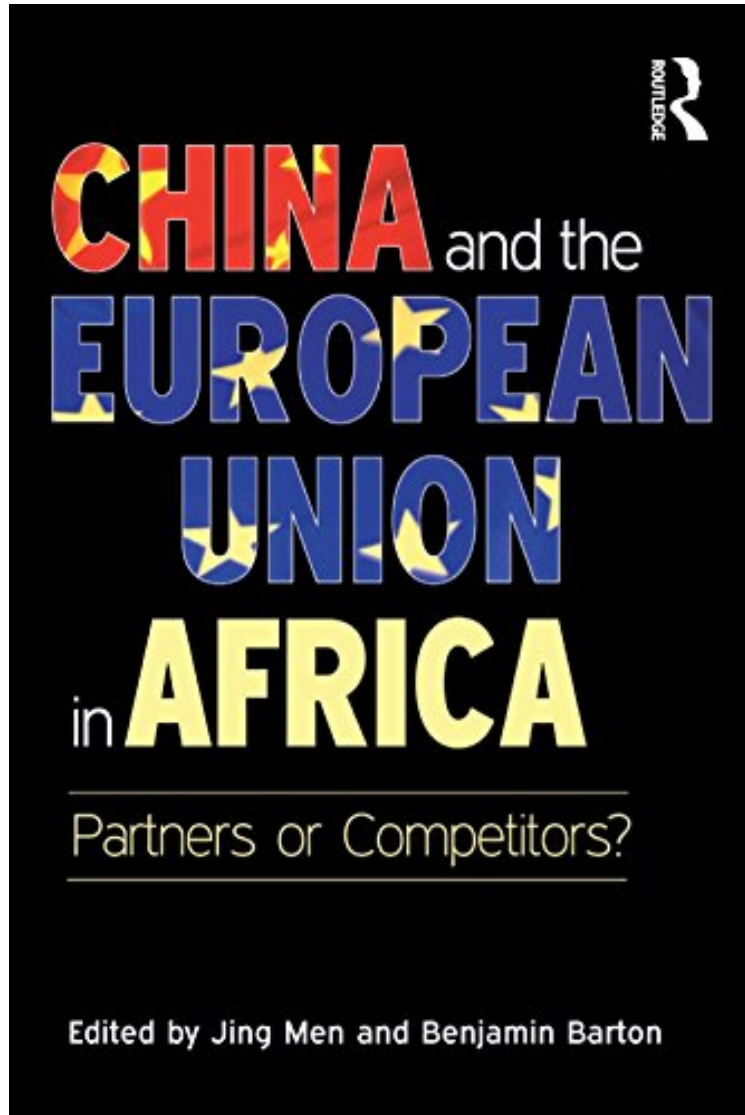


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# China and the European Union in Africa: Partners or Competitors?

*Benjamin Barton*

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**Benjamin Barton : China and the European Union in Africa: Partners or Competitors?** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised China and the European Union in Africa: Partners or Competitors?:

China's rise on the international scene over the past few years has correlated with its exponential economic growth. The European Union (EU), the world's largest development aid provider, has been feeling the heat of Beijing's closer ties with Africa. As a result, the EU's overall policy-making towards Africa has suffered from a loss of credibility and

this has been further exposed both by the success of China's investments in Africa, and by the favourable response that China's investment proposals have received from African leaders. Dividing the book into five parts, the editors and an outstanding line up of Chinese and European contributors guide the reader through the complexities of China's rising influence in Africa, but they also analyse if and how the EU should adapt to this. "

'This unique book is a goldmine of information. Its wide-ranging, remarkably informative and often critical analysis by Chinese and European specialists will be essential reading for anyone interested in the crucial relationship between the EU, China and Africa.' Francis Snyder, Peking University, China and London School of Economics and Political Science, UK 'Men and Barton have beautifully simplified China 's enormity and variegated dynamism. From rags to riches, the big country effect is a lesson for all. Can Africa cope?' Philip Idro, Former Ugandan Ambassador to China '... this book provides a useful and wide-reaching discussion of "China's rise" and its implications for Africa, as well as examining how the EU could most usefully respond in a way that best benefits African development.' The China Journal 'The volume includes a rich and up-to-date overview of the well-known issues concerning European and Chinese approaches to Africa, with an emphasis on the rapid pace of evolution in all three continents... the volume helps those who see the world through the prism of interest and ideology to understand that especially since the end of the cold war, Africa itself has become a subject in terms of economic development and international relations, and no longer remains a mere object of outside powers. In that sense, in spite of huge setbacks and in face of overwhelming odds, Africa does, indeed, have good reason to try to gain from the needs and experiences of both Europe and China.' Journal of Chinese Political Science 'China's burgeoning presence in Africa has received much scrutiny in recent years. Western perceptions of the Chinese model of resource and infrastructure focused engagement have often been sceptical, if not outright hostile, suggesting that China's laissez-faire approach has undermined reforms by perpetuating the status quo and entrenching corrupt regimes. This edited book challenges some of those Western shibboleths, highlighting the positive contributions of China in Africa, explaining its motivations in the region, and exploring the effect of its presence on the European Union (EU). To do this, the editors have assembled a diverse range of Chinese and European expert contributions. ... The book does well to untangle the sources of Chinese aid to Africa, which are varied and can seldom be categorized as conventional official development assistance. ... This book is of great value to anyone interested in the relationship between the EU and China in Africa.' African Affairs

About the Author Professor. Dr, Jing Men is InBev-Baillet-Latour Chair of European Union-China Relations at the College of Europe. She also works for Vesalius College, Brussels. Benjamin Barton is Research Assistant for the InBev-Baillet-Latour Chair of European Union-China Relations at the EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies Department of the College of Europe in Bruges since September 2009.