

## **The US Role in African Development: An Analytical Assessment**

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### **Abstract**

United States-Africa relations have always remained a significant part of American foreign policy. The African dimension of US foreign policy is fundamentally focused on infrastructural development and humanitarian aid, both of which offer engagement opportunities as well as pose potential challenges. The cooperative ties of different African nations with the United States have resulted in multileveled two-sided engagements in the political, economic, and social domains. Washington's varying patterns of development agenda for the African continent have created certain bilateral and multilateral cooperative frameworks between the United States and the sub-Saharan nations. These frameworks have developed a robust interconnectedness between the US and the African continent while also posing certain challenges in great power politics. The central purpose of this paper is to provide a comprehensive account of various arguments concerning the African directions of the US international development agenda and its multi-layered pattern. Focusing on American development campaigns, the paper highlights the emerging response of Chinese and Russian trading designs in Africa as a potential challenge to the promotion of the American soft image. Informed by the theory of soft power, the paper analyzes American cultural diplomacy, political coordination, and

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economic cooperation in the African region while also accounting for the counterbalancing challenges in this engagement.

**Keywords:** US-Africa Relations, American Foreign Policy, African Development, Humanitarian Aid, Economic Development, Soft Power.

### **1. Introduction**

The increasing American cooperative engagement in the African continent has become an essential feature of US foreign policy, strictly aligned with its strategic, trading, humanitarian, and cultural objectives. The employment of these objectives in Washington's mainstream foreign relations with the continent has resulted in different cooperative agreements for military engagement, political coordination, and diplomatic support. Such collaborations have led the formal US state authorities to advance American core interests in the continent, cemented in Washington's broader development agenda. Historically, it was the Act Prohibiting the Importation of enslaved people that laid the foundations of two-sided supportive ties under President Thomas Jefferson (Bois, 2020). It was a constitutional measure for stopping the transatlantic slave trade and structured the cooperation between the two continents. The creation of the American Colonization Society (ACS) also played a significant role in connecting the United States with the African continent, and it was modeled on the British charitable association, the Committee for the Relief of the Black Poor (Burin, 2016). The major turn in bilateral relations witnessed high-level governmental associations between the leaders of the two sides after the Second World War. This coincided with the American quest to contain expanding Soviet influence in the world via the US-sponsored international anti-

communist global campaign. This campaign led the United States to develop a multileveled strategic engagement with the pro-western nations, keeping them safe from the threats of communist global extensions (Godfrey, 2015). Washington's main objective during the decades-long Cold War period was to counterbalance the prevailing influences of Russian and Chinese cooperative strategic connections with the African nations.

Thus, this paper is an endeavour to study American interests in the African continent, where the increasing multifaceted cooperation between China and Russia has become an undeniable reality and an irrefutable truth. The American interest in keeping African governments engaged with US African policy became a major challenge during the Cold War. The anti-communist moves of Washington during the Cold War activated the economic and strategic supplies to African nations. They enlightened them on regional stability, economic growth, and sustainable development. In this way, the realist-driven structure of international politics and its unavoidable pressures originating from the communist international expansion shaped the specific Africa-centric approach of the US. This approach was formulated by the contesting geopolitical patterns of great powers and their unavoidable pressures on the American global standings (Clough, 1992). A persistent concentration of Washington on Africa continued in the post-Cold War era when the new realities of the international system persuaded American policymakers to remain active in Africa with a broader agenda of social prosperity and economic development. In this way, Africa remained a significant point of American legislative measures, which could be understood with the help of Ronald Regan's Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act, George H. W. Bush's Operation Restore Hope, George W. Bush's President Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Barak

Obama's Power Africa, and Donald Trump's Prosper Africa. These initiatives were mainly designed to fortify American engagement in the African region.

The debate on the Africa-centric development agenda of the US can only be completed with an understanding of the role of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in promoting and supporting the ideas of development and prosperity in Africa through various humanitarian operations. The USAID's functions are diverse and multilevel across the continent, and these functions concentrate on the critical regional aspects of social prosperity by advocating human well-being across borders (Almqvist, 2009). In this way, it is appropriate to maintain that the American multileveled development agenda for Africa is primarily designed to offer strategic alternatives to the Chinese and Russian developmental models. The American vision primarily promotes sustainable economic progress, good governance, human rights, and regional security and stability in Africa. By developing collaborations in these areas, Washington aims to formulate strong and resilient partnerships with the African governments while aligning them with the US core values and interests. Thus, the realist-driven principles of international power politics explain a strong association of economic and strategic interests of the major powers with the international system where the United States is no exception. Akin to varying pressures of the international system on the US and Washington's increasing humanitarian and economic interests in the continent, the strategic dimension of this cooperative engagement cannot be marginalised.

Supporting the African governments in the domain of terrorism has been identified as one of the strongest dimensions of US relations

with the states of the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and North Africa. In addition to providing essential intelligence support and capacity-building training under the international counterterrorism campaigns, the African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions enabled the United States to remain active in regional strategic affairs. The strategic collaboration under the Africa Command (AFRICOM) and growing cooperative communication between the two-sided navies are also a significant feature of US-Africa relations and their persistent evolution (Nyang, 2005). In response to the growing American-African interconnectedness, Chinese and Russian collaborative models for African nations have become key challenges for the US, and they have adequate counterbalancing potential to Washington's role in the continent. Therefore, the central theme of this paper revolves around Washington's mission of creating strong partnerships with the members of the AU based on shared values and common interests. The paper focuses on the African direction of the American international development agenda and its contribution to fortifying mutual efforts for social prosperity and well-being. This paper seeks to account for various arguments concerning the consistency of US development plans for Africa and their increasing regional legitimacy and validity.

## **2. US Interests in Africa**

A conceptual survey of American geopolitical interests in the African continent suggests that Washington's continent-specific legislative measures were a response to changing global power dynamics, varying domestic political factors, and developmental problems of African nations. The persistently shifting contexts of global power politics were the leading factors in dragging Washington's attention towards the continent, and they shaped the

economic and strategic engagements between both continents. The continent's geostrategic location and geo-economic potential remained the main concentration of America-Africa-specific legislative measures. The legislative debates of American governments have always acknowledged the resource-rich African lands and their wealth of oil and natural gas, which initially signifies the interest in securing stable energy lines (*Africa's Natural Resources for Africans?*, n.d.). Moreover, the abundance of rare minerals such as cobalt, zirconium, platinum-group metals (PGM), lithium, gold and diamonds augmented the value of African lands for the United States. The financial and technical support of the US has helped the resource-rich nations to improve their mining industries by overcoming the problems of insufficient infrastructure and inadequate logistic systems. The advancement in the mining industry has led African governments to address the challenges of inconsistent delays and extended costs of their leading productions. With the emergence of unavoidable pressures of international power politics, the American leading decision makers decided to expand their focus on African nations beyond the conventional cooperative patterns. The geostrategic importance of the African continent in international power politics convinced Washington to take certain strategic measures in the maritime domain. The international maritime routes of the Suez Canal, the Gulf of Aden, and the Gulf of Guinea have always remained critical for international trade and energy supplies (Columbo, 2023). The US strategic thinkers intended to secure these important trading routes from the threats of piracy and terrorism, and in both domains, the US sponsored various programs for African nations. In this regard, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP), the Partnership for Regional East Africa Counterterrorism

*Attiq-ur-Rehman*

(PREACT), and the Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) are important developments. Additionally, Combined Task Force 151 (CTF-151), African Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership (AMLEP), and Africa Partnership Station (APS) were signed between the United States and Africa to address the issue of piracy (Kalu & Kieh, 2013).

The international efforts to address the African challenge of piracy also received American support on different platforms such as Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). Thus, the US government sponsored the anti-piracy and counterterrorism efforts for different humanitarian and economic programs for African societies. These development efforts during the Cold War era were associated with the broader American strategy of Soviet containment and its quest for keeping the African nations safe from the expansionist models of Soviet-supported communist forces. Four-decades-long Cold War competition of the United States with the Soviet Union introduced a global anti-communist US campaign which directed the American Cold War thinkers towards the African continent where political instabilities and the presence of inter-state and intra-state clashes were the main regional vulnerabilities for foreign interventions (Gasbarri, 2020). While supporting their stable political features inherited in different independence movements, Washington viewed the newly independent African nations as potential allies and valuable partners in its international Soviet-countering policies. This objective resulted in the establishment of formal diplomatic communication and political coordination between Washington and several African capitals. Persistent growth of two-sided diplomatic cooperation further made the newly independent African nations the recipients of American support in their international positioning and admission to intergovernmental

frameworks of the international community, such as the United Nations. It is pertinent to mention that the Biden administration supports the proposal for Africa's bid to have a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (Butty, 2022). This proposal revived the history of the Cold War when Washington was committed to upholding the African government in its broader geopolitical priorities. The cooperation during the Cold War started with President Truman's inaugural address when he introduced the Point Four Program for the developing regions and included Africa in its major aid packages in 1949. Moreover, the Angola and Congo crises augmented the US trading collaborations and strategic partnerships in Africa. The legacy of these cooperative developments continued to influence US-African collaborative contacts, and they multiplied them with several new initiatives (*The US Strategy for Africa–GIS Reports*, 2023). In this way, the persistent growth of two-sided cooperative features left long-term positive impacts on regional development and made Washington an essential extra-regional player.

Therefore, the African continent's significance in the mainstream priorities of US foreign policy contained multifaceted economic and strategic interests linked with the continent's abundance of natural resources, strategic locations, and growing values in the international trading patterns of great powers. Above all, the need to develop a robust political alignment with the continent was realised by the American policymakers to counter the emerging influences of counterbalancing forces in the region where Russia and China are the important actors, as the analysis of Warsaw Institute advocated ('Russia and China in Africa,' 2023). The quest for keeping the continent politically, strategically, and economically closed to the US led the mainstream American



authorities to adopt various tools of its cultural diplomacy for the promotion of stability, growth, and development across Africa parallel to countering the potential challenges of great power politics.

### **3. Conceptual Understanding**

The history of US-Africa relations concisely accounts for various other developmental efforts through different humanitarian relief programs (Chin, 2024). The contribution to the development sector is mainly associated with American trans-continental trading intents and the pursuit of crafting vast opportunities for its leading business communities. It has formalised the two-sided business connections under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to provide sub-Saharan nations with the benefits of duty-free entry to American markets (*African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)*, n.d.). In other words, it led the US business community to explore new destinations for American products and services parallel to boosting US-Africa trading ties based on the signings of long-term commitments between American and African state authorities. In this way, the conceptual understanding of the US-sponsored development agenda in Africa and its spread across the continent is fundamentally rooted in cultural diplomacy, which is active towards different African nations. The main objective of Africa-centric cultural diplomacy is building goodwill, increasing mutual understanding, and addressing the negative stereotypes of the American role in the world and its active engagement in the African continent. Through emphasising different aspects of cultural diplomacy and soft power promotion, Washington's mainstream foreign policy framework, focused on democracy and human rights promotion. These values strongly integrated Washington with the regional political affairs of Africa,

where several issues originate from the political and societal domains (Divon & Derman, 2017). Furthermore, the scope of regional stability is also one of the leading priorities in America, and it has convinced the United States to counter certain actors causing regional instabilities and inter-state conflicts between African nations. American policymakers widely believe that the African transnational problems have global repercussions in the form of different non-traditional security threats, including the threats of terrorism and extremism. Moreover, the issues of large-scale migration, high-level poverty, unregulated population growth, and the spread of pandemics are also the main focusing points of US's Africa-centric diplomacy. These regional problems led the United States to introduce a broad spectrum of state-sponsored efforts envisioned to promote sustainable development, durable economic progress, and political stability across the continent. This scenario resulted in different aid programs and their functions through various funding agencies such as the USAID (Sharp & Wiseman, 2012).

Joseph Nye's soft power theory offers adequate supporting arguments to understand American cultural diplomacy and the wider use of its humanitarian aid packages to achieve the desired goals of its foreign policy (Ohnesorge, 2019). Nye explains countries' abilities to shape the desired behaviours of others with the support of cultural and political values (Jr, 2009). The African region is an appropriate case for comprehending the concept of soft power by evaluating the role of US humanitarian aid and financial assistance packages for the targeted societies. The Africa-centric American foreign policy carries the development agenda through its advocacy for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law (Lancaster, 2008). A brief layer of cultural exchange programs and

student scholarships have also emerged between the United States and Africa, creating a combined collaborative program to focus on the future generation under the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) (*President's Young African Leaders Initiative*, n.d.). The Obama administration introduced the YALI to shape the productive and positive behaviour of the next generations by providing them with creative opportunities and supporting them on positive lines (*Homepage*, n.d.). Thus, focusing on introducing different cooperative initiatives has led Washington to develop positive and productive bilateral and multilateral relationships with the key African players at political, economic, and social levels. Besides YALI, the US government has several supporting programs to promote American culture, values, and ideas in Africa. Thus, creating American Spaces centres and the media services of Voice of America became the gravitational points of US cultural diplomacy and soft power projection in Africa.

The wider applications of soft power tools have enabled US policymakers to strengthen American global engagement without adopting coercive means. In this regard, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) 2003 and the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) are important measures to carry out the US humanitarian commitments in Africa. The mentioned programs provide a glimpse of Washington's development plans, which generally covered the urgent needs of Africa during the pandemic, food shortage, disaster relief, and refugee crisis (House, 2022). In this way, the US-sponsored aid programs for Africa primarily aim to support regional stability through several financial packages that could counter the conflict-prone regional environment. These economic operations have focused on various marginalised areas of cooperation to support the greater values of peace and security in the African continent. The US government has a brief network

of different funding agencies to cover diverse areas comprehensively through different grant schemes, technical assistance programs, and capacity-building platforms.

#### **4. Major Developments in the US-Africa Relations**

The primary objective of American cooperative engagement in Africa exhibits a wider range of regional involvement rooted in serious humanitarian concerns, profound geopolitical interests, and high determination to empower the ideas of economic growth and social prosperity in the continent. The continent initially received large-scale US financial support in the health and business sectors. These aid packages were designed to contribute prominently to the continent's economic progress and its persistent growth against the overwhelming influences of great power politics. They were also aimed at addressing the emerging positions of counterbalancing forces in Africa, where the untapped regional resources are fascinating Russian and Chinese influences (*OPINION-Lost Ground: How China and Russia Are Outflanking the US in Africa*, n.d.). Therefore, American policymakers are active in shaping a distinctive African policy aiming to create a balance between conventional areas of cooperation and the challenges of the contemporary international system where a non-traditional security environment compels Washington to remain focused on Africa. This has already shaped Washington's specific behaviour towards the continent, consisting of different developmental programs for addressing the issues of poverty, health, and job creation under a broad framework of bilateral economic cooperation. The American foreign relations with the African nations have led the US to uphold the vision of greater cooperation, and it has convinced the two-sided formal state authorities to stand against the global

*Attiq-ur-Rehman*

problems of terrorism, extremism, and insurgency, which have created various levels of political instabilities across Africa. The two African chapters of Operation Enduring Freedom in the Trans Sahara and Horn of Africa are the important aspects to a two-sided shared vision of counterterrorism, which could be further measured through evaluating the Security Governance Initiative (SGI) (*FACT SHEET: Security Governance Initiative | Whitehouse.Gov*, n.d.). The SGI was launched during the US-Africa Summit in 2014 when President Obama introduced a multi-year plan to fund the partner countries in the security sector governance while empowering their national capabilities to address the threats of the new world. The six African partners (Kenya, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Tunisia, and Nigeria) agreed on the shared vision of security priorities through improving security sector management (*Africa and the Middle East*, n.d.). The main objective of SGI is to support the partner governments in improving their policies and institutional arrangement processes for the common people. These improvements attempted to ensure the delivery of security and justice to African citizens parallel to working in capacity-building, good governance, and sustainable reforms.

The vision of preventing the growth of ferocious societal trends and the pursuit of eliminating the rise of different fanatical ideological trends has led the United States to support African societies on the global platforms of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE). Washington's CVE plans were originally focused on launching different development programs in the affected areas to root out and counter the causes of extremism and the spread of fanatical ideologies (*The State Department's Role in Countering Violent Extremism | Wilson Center*, n.d.). The CVE-specific programs usually emphasise upgrading governance systems, crafting new business platforms and trading opportunities, and

sponsoring education and community resilience. The subsequent developments to the counterterror efforts structured by the Bush administration under its global war against terrorism continued to improve the US-Africa relations under the Obama government. Obama administration launched the Power Africa plan to address the problem of electricity in the sub-Saharan region, where nearly two out of three people do not have access to electricity, and their leaders are seeking support in the energy sector (*FACT SHEET*, 2015). In this way, more than 200 public and private partnerships have been established to extend the investments in the energy sector with the support of the Power Africa project. This government-led assistance project is planned to double the electricity access in the focused areas while providing 30,000 megawatts of capacity, parallel to achieving the target of 60 million connections by 2030 (Tech, 2023). Akin to Obama's Power Africa plan, the Prosper Africa initiative of the Trump regime gained momentous progress when the two-sided governments agreed to expand their conventional trading areas by exploring new business platforms (*Can Trump's Prosper Africa Make America Greater than China and Other Partners in Africa? / Brookings*, n.d.). It sought to facilitate two-sided business communities to increase their investment in different sectors and attempted to diversify US-Africa relations. It improved the trading environment between the two continents and enabled their respective governments to achieve the desired outcomes of their economic relations. The Biden administration supported African nations during the global health emergency to continue the mission of African peace, prosperity, and development. It increased the medical supplies and essential technical assistance during the Covid-19 crisis. Additionally, climate change has emerged as an

*Attiq-ur-Rehman*

important aspect of US-Africa relations, and American policymakers have always supported and appreciated developments in the areas of renewable energy and resource preservation.

### **5. The USAID and African Development**

The debate on the American global development agenda and its African directions will be incomplete without mentioning the role of the USAID, a leading international development agency supported by the United States. This Organization is a catalyst for promoting American national security and economic prosperity and representing American generosity among AU members. The prime functions of USAID are linked with the broader American agenda of international development and humanitarian support for the partner nations (Jimenezla, 2023). In Africa, USAID's functions are multidimensional, and they have evolved since the Organization's inception in 1961, based on the Foreign Assistance Act of Congress. This state-sponsored agency works closely with civil society organisations and global partners to carry out its functions tailored to the varying requirements of the states located in different regions. Health is one of the primary concentrating areas of USAID's operations in Africa, and this funding agency always remained instrumental in empowering the regional governments in their diverse efforts for combating the cross-border spread of infectious diseases. The funding of the health sector covers a wide range of areas parallel to improving the conventional health systems of the regional governments (*Southern Africa—USAID Mobilizing Investment Project* · DAI, n.d.).

The agency's health operations are mainly in the sub-Saharan region, where the delivery of essential health services is the prime demand of most states. Moreover, the support of democratic

institutions, the exploration of the untapped trading potential to create and advance a conducive business environment, and the transformation of the regional state of affairs into mutually collaborative frameworks generally engaged USAID in the region. During 2021, the agency provided \$8.5 billion in assistance to 47 African countries, including 8 regional programs (*Bureau for Africa | Organization*, 2024). The funding matters and their appropriate applications in the targeted areas are run by 8 different Washington-based offices of the agency's Bureau for Africa. The funding of USAID generally follows the state-sponsored program in different countries because the agency aims to focus on the potential areas of need for countries witnessing massive human suffering under different conflicts and natural calamities. On a reciprocal basis, several African institutions and intergovernmental setups are collaborating with the agency and its functions under the funded programs. The African Development Bank Group is important in this regard due to its transparent and multidimensional functions, which President Obama has also appreciated. The bank is collaborating with the agency under different funding programs like the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA), African Legal Support Facility (ALSF), and Partial Risk Guarantee (PRG) (*Power Africa Initiative | African Development Bank Group*, n.d.).

USAID's operations attempt to address the problems of African youth while keeping in view the overwhelming impacts of terrorism, extremism, transnational criminal groups, and ferocious ethnopolitical and ethnocultural divisions on African societies. The Youth Map Africa at the regional level, Yes Youth Can in Kenya, Mali Out-of-School Youth Project in Mali, Rwanda Youth Project: Information Technologies Empower Youth in Rwanda, and Entertainment Education to Promote Livelihoods in Somalia



*Attiq-ur-Rehman*

provide a glimpse of USAID's youth-centric engagements (*Global Highlights*, 2012). The collaboration of this funding agency with other international development organisations is also important to comprehend the US state-sponsored efforts to uphold the vision of peace, development, and stability in the region. In April 2023, USAID signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) to work on the food safety and sustainable food mechanisms of the region (*USAID Signs Partnership with the Global Food Safety Initiative / Press Release*, 2023). The state-funded operations of the agency support various regional inter-governmental setups as well, such as the East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The advocacy for the functions of these regional multilateral frameworks has led the United States to directly address the issues of participating nations in regional cooperative efforts (*East Africa Regional*, 2024). The collaboration of USAID with the State Department established a bilateral state-owned funding organisation, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), with the Congress's approval in 2004. It delivers necessary financial grants to the state government that are persistent in adopting effective economic policies while having substantial trading potential in diverse areas (*About MCC*, n.d.).

The USAID Africa Trade and Investment activity envisioned raising the trading and investment opportunities across the region to foster business-oriented relations at the inter-state level interaction of states. This activity is a leading supporting factor in the Prosper Africa plan of the US government and its diverse areas related to the job market, exporting capabilities of the nations, and mobilising private-sector driven solutions, parallel to advancing a business-oriented regional environment in Africa (*Africa Trade*

*and Investment Activity / Prosper Africa*, 2024). The agency's Africa Trade and Investment (ATI) activity is primarily designed to carry its operations from 2021 to 2026 in the sub-Saharan and North African regions with the support of \$ 464 million based on a partner-centric approach (*Africa—USAID Africa Trade and Investment Activity · DAI*, n.d.). Akin to USAID, there are various other state-sponsored programs for the African region, like the US African Development Foundation (USADF), established in 1980 to target the marginalised population in the areas of the Sahel, Great Lakes, and the Horn of Africa. With an investment of \$117 million, it focused on around 1000 African governmental, semi-governmental, and private business activities to facilitate around 7 million people living in different countries (*Mission / USADF*, n.d.). Based on these operations, it can be maintained that the US government allocates sufficient funding to the African nations through different donor agencies like the USAID, and these agencies play a commendable role in strengthening Washington's cooperative ties with several African capitals.

## **6. Future Directions**

The increasing American investment in the African continent envisions exploring new markets and potential exporting destinations for US goods and services where a developed and prosperous Africa plays a central role. It offers an increased demand for various consumer products, technological advancements, and infrastructural developments to benefit American business communities. Apart from the economy, the political domain has become an important aspect of US-African relations, and the promotion of democratic governance and respect for human rights are significant points (Duignan et al., 1987). The

leading State officials believe that stable democratic governments and effective rule of law could ensure long-term stability across the continent. In contrast, advocacy for human rights and reducing people's suffering under different conflicts increases Washington's moral standing in the world and its exceptional concentration on African societies (Divon & Derman, 2017). The central theme of these efforts is the promotion of the American soft image in the world, particularly in African nations. The American efforts to allocate massive financial assistance packages to African nations face certain challenges of great power politics, and the rise of counterbalancing forces is a serious threat capable of undermining American standing in the African continent. In other words, the great power politics presents various challenges to Washington's soft power promotion programs in Africa. The expanding influences of Russia and China could be a potential challenge for Washington, and these counterbalancing forces persistently underestimate American efforts to maintain and strengthen its soft power in the region. The large-scale investment of Chinese projects in Africa has started overtaking Washington's soft power projection, and the increasing appreciation of Chinese-sponsored investment plans makes it harder for Washington to compete with the Chinese economic influence. Additionally, Russia's larger financial assistance programs and its governmental-level trading agreements in the region augment the challenges of great power politics for the US (Military et al., 2019).

Therefore, the future of US-Africa relations heavily depends on the positions of external powers in the region because the combination of American bilateral and multilateral engagements facilitates Washington in safeguarding its core national interests linked with its trans-continental connections. The quest for securing strategic interests, parallel to increasing geopolitical influences in Africa,

has created a challenging scenario in which the Russian and the Chinese involvement poses serious threats to the US regional position. Apart from African inclusion in the Chinese global trade networking plans under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China is introducing several cooperative frameworks for African nations like The Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), whereas Russia is increasing agreements in the economic and strategic domains that serve Russian interests of increasing Moscow's presence in the region (*Russia's Growing Influence in Africa Calls for More Balanced Partnerships*, n.d.). It provides the regional states with alternative business approaches and the African governments with trading partnership mechanisms. In this way, the combination of Russian and Chinese influence is a potential challenge for the American development agenda in Africa, which is intended to hamper the foundations of cooperative connections between the United States and the African governments.

## **7. Conclusion**

The US-sponsored development agenda in Africa primarily focuses on low-income nations. US assistance covers many areas, including disaster relief, poverty alleviation, technical support on international issues, socioeconomic development, and promotion of shared interests. Africa's diverse economic resources, growing population, and increasing connections with the outside world present valuable opportunities for major powers. The United States can take a leading role due to its historically developed ties with African nations. US involvement in the region is essential to African regional politics. US policy could be more active in enhancing sustainable development, supporting stability, and countering emerging pressures from other major powers.

*Attiq-ur-Rehman*

In the economic domain, the US government could offer alternative models of investments and trade partnerships. Providing financial loans and economic assistance on better terms could help state authorities effectively manage counterbalancing forces in the region. Studies have shown potential scenarios of diminishing US influence in the region. This calls for the US to depart from its traditional Cold War thinking. The Chinese and Russian powers have effectively countered the US in international power politics. The contemporary scenario demands that American authorities address the challenges of the changing world with an improved approach. A pragmatic and rational approach will be effective in stabilising US standing in the African region. Adapting such an approach could enable the US government to sustain its position among African nations while preventing the rise of anti-American or counter-US forces in Africa.

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Attiq-ur-Rehman

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