

The Importance of Sino-Arab Relations in Light of Contemporary Changes

MOHAMMED MOHAMMED HEZAM GAREZ

Department of Management Science and Engineering, Faculty of Economics and Management, Guizhou Normal University

E-mail: mohammedgarez1@hotmail.com, Guiyang550000, China

Abstract

Sino-Arab relations have significant growth opportunities. Undoubtedly, the economic and social ties between China and Arab countries have strengthened as joint arrangements between the Arab countries, which confirm the importance of decisive participation between the two parties and the exchange of views on various regional and global issues. The improvement of Sino-Arab relations depends strongly on Arab capabilities by setting a comprehensive Arab strategy to achieve the desired goals. Given the current global reality, the Chinese dragon is ready to be a great power with a unique global function. We find that Chinese-Arab cooperation achieves a fundamental advantage for both sides, as Arab countries achieve significant advantages from their economic, political, and social relations with China, which benefits Arab interests at the regional and international levels. On the other hand, China seeks to increase its regional and global influence, guaranteeing relations between them.

Keywords: China, Arab, Relations, Strategic, Cooperation, Contemporary

Introduction

Chinese participation in the region is essential. It is heading towards a stage that will lead to the advancement and development that the Chinese authorities have called for in various fields. Thus, if Chinese and Middle Eastern relations grow, this will affect global issues and reach multipolarity. It is worth noting that the United States of America does

not need to exercise its authority over the Arab region and the entire world. Instead, we find that China has the strength that makes it compete with the United States. When discussing Arab-Chinese participation after 11 September and more recently, it has assumed unique importance due to the many improvements the region has witnessed. The most noticeable effects of political polarization, the spread of satellite media, the accelerating pattern of progress, and the globalization of the economy. The main reason for the delay in the progress of the Arab countries is the American intervention in Afghanistan and then Iraq, and the Arab-Israeli conflict, which confirms what is known as the Greater Middle East. The importance of Arab-Chinese relations lies in genuine Arab interest in a more global severe power to be reckoned with that would benefit the Arabs more. Given the current international situation, China's administration is poised to be a formidable power with a tremendous global influence.

Purpose of the study

The primary purpose of this study is to analyze the importance of the Sino-Arab relationship to highlight the most critical aspects of relations and their development between the two sides in light of what is happening in the world of rapid changes and developments by achieving these goals:

- Identifying the Internal Determinants of Arab-Chinese Relations.
- It is identifying the External determinants of Arab-Chinese Relations.

Significance of the study

The research importance comes because of the importance of the subject on both sides for the development of economic, political, and other aspects; China and the Arabs need each other in light of the regional and international changes that are taking place. The importance of research stems from what the Arab countries need from the Chinese experience in the sustainable and accelerated development of the country. So we must benefit from mutual experiences, as China also needs oil derivatives found in the Arab region, unlike China.

Problem statement

The main problem is that the region and the world are changing rapidly, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic, where countries' economies have changed and deteriorated. Since the Arab countries lack the solid economic and political experiences that China possesses, our Arab countries need to transfer such a meaningful experience.

Study methodology

This study relied on the descriptive approach to shed light on the importance of Sino-Arab relations in light of recent changes and to understand the internal and external determinants of Arab-Chinese relations. For this reason, preliminary data from its official sources were based as well as relying on secondary sources to enrich the research, which are books, letters, periodicals, court studies, reports, and research articles.

Literature Review

The strengthening of exchange, consultation, and cultural cooperation between them, and the interest in the diversity of media between the two parties and maximizing the mutual interests between them in the political and economic aspects, as well as the general features of the Chinese foreign policy and the determinants of Arab-Chinese relations, also, the study dealt with the internal and external determinants of Arab-Chinese ties and the Arab-Chinese cooperation within the framework of the Arab-Chinese forum through the establishment, results, and evaluation of the Arab-Chinese forum. In addition, the study dealt with Egyptian and Saudi Arabia relations towards China, whether in the

political, economic, or cultural spheres. This study has reached several conclusions, including that it is general to deepen further and strengthen communication and cooperation between Arab countries and China in light of the international situation that is developing and changing. This study concluded that the Arab-Chinese collaboration achieves a strategic interest for both parties. The Arab countries achieve strategic benefits from their close ties with China economically, politically, and culturally. This study also found that relations between Egypt and China are witnessing a strong trend from both parties to activate links. At the same time, Egypt is working on starting cooperation relations With China in all fields. This work resulted in positive steps in the area of strategic cooperation between Egypt and China. (Ibrahim, 2008)

The actual needs for the oil and petrochemicals market are likely to be the largest energy market in history; therefore, the study sought to help decision-makers in the Arab world achieve taking advantage of this new development to strengthen the structure of Chinese-Arab relations. The study also tried to follow up the Arab-Chinese ties in the energy sector, monitor China's activity in this region and nature and size, and the opportunities for cooperation in this sector. The study has contributed to developing an Arab strategy for cooperation with China in this sector. This study focused on the Saudi-Chinese relations in the oil field. (Karrar, 2004)

The analysis of dimensions for analyzing the type of Chinese relations with both the Soviet Union and the United States and policy of non-alignment, this study also concluded that China had become a country hostile to powers of both camps. Still, it has become a significant country with a superior human, economic and social base. The study also found the future of China and its relations with the entire world will undergo several successive

developments. There has been a shift in the Chinese policy tools and a change in the content of Chinese politics. (Haridi, 1964)

The political history of China and the United States of America and the extent of the similarity and differences between the two countries in many elements, as they are similar in love for the international isolation that China used to live in before European colonialism was known. It also turned to clarify the determinants stemming from the internal environment of foreign policy. The Chinese hindered a fundamental change in Chinese foreign policy towards the United States of America due to the difference in the international system. This study reached several products, the most important of which was a significant change in Chinese foreign policy towards the United States of America due to the difference in the international system. (Al Naqr, 2004)

The effects of changes in the global system on the Chinese foreign policy towards Sudan during this period and still rely on the two chapters. Only those mentioned in this study related to determinants of Chinese foreign policy and the making and dynamism of Chinese foreign policy; this study also dealt with aspects of transformation and the objectives of Chinese foreign policy in light of unipolarity. This study reached several conclusions, the most important of which is that Chinese foreign policy witnessed a transformation after the end of the Cold war than before in terms of content, the causing devices, and tools for their implementation. In terms of content, it became more pragmatic and open to the world. Regarding the causing, devices became limited to official bodies, especially the president, but it went beyond that to institutional and informal agencies in terms of their implementation tools. Hence, they varied between political and cultural and military, and economical. (Hassan, 2011)

The Arab-Chinese relations have always been characterized by teamwork and mutual understanding and free of sediments and hatred. The author emphasizes that the era in which we live in the age of the central Asian groups requires encouraging Asian participation in Arab economic projects, enhancing Arab-Asian cooperation in the cultural and media field. And the need to unify Asian-Arab positions in joint international, regional organizations to be employed in the interest of common issues between the two parties. It also shows that Arabs aspire in the twenty-first century to help China introduce modern technologies to their country, gain more experience, and benefit from China's experiences in the past years. The study also confirmed that these relations came as a natural result of a series of efforts and decisions made by the two parties. (Al- Jassour,2001)

With collaboration, China and the group of Arab countries can present an example of pioneering human relations. The twenty-first century will be a century of peace and harmony in which humanity does not suffer from hatred and wars witnessed throughout the twentieth century and past years. And the study also sheds light on the establishment of the Arab-Chinese Forum as it is the most crucial field for Arab-Chinese cooperation. (Al-Saket, 1999)

A flexible approach towards Arab issues characterizes Chinese policy is due to the American presence in the Arab region; some Chinese circles believe that a solution to problems in the area depends mainly on the American administration. Therefore it does

not mediate or take scientific initiatives adapted by echoing what we know of stable principled positions, most of which revolve around the five principles of peaceful coexistence. And this is evident in its position on the Middle East issue, as it did not appoint a special envoy for it in the Middle East except in 2002 and after demand urgency from the Arab side. Its justification for that is that it cannot be Finding a solution to the Middle East issue without the participation and support of the United States. The study also shows how the rising Chinese power could pose a more significant threat to the United States of America than the former Soviet Union. (Shalaby, 2006)

What are the Internal Determinants of Arab-Chinese Relations?

What is meant by determinants are factors that constitute the limits of the Chinese role in the international system and the extent of the effectiveness and impact of these factors on Arab-Chinese relations, whether in staffing and primary cadres or political stability economic development. It is also linked to external factors, such as China's regional relations perception by its neighbors, its regional role, and its network of foreign relations, which is reflected positively in Arab countries. These determinants can be followed up at the three internal, regional, and international levels. They are the same determinants that are also determinants of Arab policies towards China with different degrees and objectives, as the Arabs are not one country. Therefore, their goals are multiplied, and each country is unique in drawing its external relations and the presence of other priorities in the ties of Arab countries. Abroad is mainly represented in ties with the West, where there are links between most Arab countries and the West, especially the United States of America. Therefore, these countries are often subject to Western pressure to make Arab relations with China limited, negatively and positively determining the essential characteristic of ties. The internal determinants are divided into several determinants: the geographical factor, the cultural factor, and the political factor in determining China's foreign policy towards many Arab countries. We are dealing with a set of internal factors that play an influential role in Chinese foreign policy. The study divides them into three Determinants:

Geographical and Demographic Determinant
Historical, Traditions, and Culture Determinant
Economic and Military Determinant¹

What are the External determinants of Arab-Chinese Relations?

The Chinese leadership has been keen on maximizing Chinese power in all fields that qualify it to reach great power status. The way to that is a modern and dynamic economic

building that contributes to achieving a qualitative leap in its financial capacity. The strategy of becoming a superpower cannot be achieved through military power alone. By building economic, scientific and technological strength, attain social stability, and gaining political prestige regionally and internationally. The Chinese leadership has been keen on maximizing Chinese power in all fields in a way that qualifies it to reach the status of great power. The way to that is a modern and dynamic economic building that contributes to achieving a qualitative leap in its financial capacity. The strategy of becoming a superpower cannot be achieved through military power alone. By building economic, scientific, and technological strength, attain social stability, and gaining political prestige regionally and internationally.²

Regional Determinants³

By history and geographical situation, China has been subjected to numerous regional wars and quarrels with its neighboring countries, including Japan, North Korea, Russia, and Vietnam. China has sought to improve and develop its relations with neighboring countries since the 1990s to achieve two goals. The first goal was to work to thwart the attempt to contain and isolate China and break the U.S. Penal Code, Where the The U.S. . The second goal is the necessity of preparing China for its vital framework to be a favorable environment for the realization of Chinese development at this stage. Although Chinese diplomacy has abandoned the era of "ideological commitment" that marked its performance during the Maoist era since the end of the Cultural Revolution, it has already enhanced its presence in the Asian region by following the good neighbor policy. China has set the goals of the regional good-neighborly policy in developing active, friendly relations with neighboring countries, maintaining regional peace and stability, and promoting regional economic cooperation. To implement this policy, China began a dialogue with neighboring countries on an equal footing on dealing with historical land taking into account that disputes that cannot be resolved now may be postponed for some time during the journey of building a common ground between them. At the same time, preserving these differences and not allowing them to affect the relations between these countries. China has become adhering to the principle of goodwill in treating its regional neighbors and considering them as partners in advancing cooperation between them in various fields. After efforts that lasted for many years, the South-North regional cooperation system was formed. In the north, forms of collaboration in the "Shanghai" organization have moved from a primitive phase to a fundamental stage of cooperation. In the areas of security and the economy and the promotion of peace and stability in the same region and the south, efforts are being made to upgrade the Southeast Asian cooperation mechanism and to continue cooperation on traditional and non-traditional security through

10 countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), China (countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea).⁴ In October 2003, China established a strategic partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) through its formal accession to the Treaty on Cooperation and Friendship of Southeast Asian Nations as the first large country outside the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The treaty's goals are to "advance the achievement of lasting peace, friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the various countries in that region, and to enhance their true strength and unity and intensify their relations. The policy of good neighborliness aims to achieve several security goals. The first goal and framework for other goals is to provide China with a more secure environment in its immediate geographical neighborhood."; This makes it more capable of increasing its influence to avoid the feeling of any Chinese security threats in neighboring countries. Several neighboring countries raise these threats for two reasons: the first is their border dispute with China, and the second is their relations with foreign powers hostile to China. The second security goal is to address border disputes through consultations and negotiations. Therefore, China seeks to secure borders and search for a peaceful settlement. The third goal is to prevent the neighboring countries from allying themselves with foreign powers hostile to China. Therefore, China is developing strategic relations and finding common ground with Asian countries to resist Western market penetration and human rights.⁵ China relies on developing and strengthening good-neighborly relations and dealing with problems and differences in dialogue and consultation with Asian countries. Asian regional and sub-regional cooperation mechanisms play an increasingly important role in promoting economic growth and stability in Asia in its southeastern part, one of the world's most dynamic regions.⁶ But it also faces some challenges in enhancing economic development, building political institutions, and maintaining security and stability. Therefore, China works with other Asian countries to address common challenges, and China believes that to achieve this goal, Asian countries in Southeast Asia should take some steps to increase cooperation, which is as follows:-

Promoting mutual policy confidence: By working as far as possible to set aside differences and working based on mutual respect and equality; and to resolve disputes and disagreements through a mechanism for strengthening and consultation and following thought of confidence, mutual benefit, equality and coordination, and working on devoting the mechanism of regional security, addressing security threats and maintaining peace and stability among Asian countries, especially in the southeast.

Deepening cooperation in all its fields through strengthening regional free trade arrangements, mechanisms to facilitate investment, deepening monetary and financial cooperation, providing interconnectedness between infrastructure networks across Asia,

collaboration in the areas of poverty reduction, human resource development, narrowing gaps in development, promoting joint development among Asian countries and adhering to the policy of openness. That ensures that regional cooperation does not remain non-exclusive by taking advantage of development practices in other regions.⁷

Addressing the challenges of terrorism: China is working to address the challenges of terrorism in all its forms and is supporting cooperation in the field of combating terrorism and preventing nuclear proliferation, combating transnational crimes, illegal migration, and drug trafficking, addressing climate change, and enhancing exchange and cooperation in protecting the environment and optimizing the use of water resources to promote a culture of environmental protection in Asia.

Increase cultural and popular exchanges: By implementing cultural exchanges of various forms, supporting dialogue between different civilizations, enhancing communication and cooperation between parliaments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and media in Asian countries, and helping youth exchanges increase mutual understanding among young people.⁸

International Limits⁹

China identifies various challenges presented by the international environment, one of which is the pressures pressed by the United States on Arab Petroleum. This fact has presented pressures on China in its access to Arab oil, reflecting the United States' control over the most critical determinants of Chinese development and progress, significantly impacting Sino-Arab relations. The determinants of American-Sino relations could identify as they overlap with the Sino-Arab ties, and overall, the American-Sino connections are controlled by a set of determinants. Some of the most prominent of them might be: a) Strategic requirement: the constant and mutual comprehension between the parties of the significance of the other party and the need to them even if they disagreed, this matter may explain the level of cooperation after each dispute in the relations of the two countries. b) Realistic thought dominates relationships: each party manages their relationship with the other party and is unwilling to compromise. The United States pressure China to control its rise so it will not cause damages to America's interests; on the other side, China refuses the idea of America dominating the world.

- c) The American-Sino is affected by the change in America's administrations: without the other being affected by China's leaders' changes. It is noted that most American administrations follow a strict policy towards China, criticizing the previous administration, and it soon changes its position.¹⁰
- d) The impact of the internal elements on the American-Sino relations: media, the American congress, and the human rights groups all play a role in pressuring the American

administrations to support them to pursue a strict policy towards China, and in general, the current Chinese policy depends on economic interests, which are increasing for regional and international security and stability, according to many Chinese strategists. The Chinese goods are affected by any procedures or policies that cause instability, which shows in the Chinese dealing with the United States of America. Despite the occurrence of multiple variation elements in China's relations with the United States on the security and commercial levels in 2005, China does not allow these disagreements to involve it in a conflict with the United States. It leaves the Chinese leaders to act based on the wisdom laid down by the Chinese leader "Deng Chaweng" for China to address any conflicts that affect its primary goal: economic and social development. However, the good diplomatic management and the soft skills of China's relationship with the United States does not mean that it is not aware of forces and currents in the United States that carefully monitor them and perceive them as a competition and a potential opponent.

In light of the Sino-American relations, China's view of the Middle East is based on the fact that China's policy towards the Middle East is subject to its general policies calling for building an environment of international stability and peace. Arabs have different views on this issue, just as China believes Arabs have an essential role. It seeks to build economic cooperation with them more than its inclination for political affiliation. China believes that the development and progress of the Chinese economy is the way to compel the world to listen to you. When dealing with economic-political relations between China and the United States, three critical factors should be taken into consideration: first consideration: the Taiwan issue and the increasing pressure from the United States. Second consideration: the issue of commercial restraints and the American custom tariffs on Chinese goods. Third consideration: the potential economic sanctions and reducing economic relations between China and the United States.¹¹

The United States always uses the Taiwan issue to pressure China and exerts pressure on the Chinese government by carrying out joint military exercises with Taiwan. The support of the United States for Taiwan's membership in the United Nations Organization has been the subject of explicit objection by China. This issue is now the basis of critical observations in the relations between China and the United States of America. In addition to the problem of Taiwan, the subject of the economic ties and commercial exchanges between China and the United States is an essential element as well, as the commercial talks between China and the United States are more than 220 billion dollars. In recent years, the United States has implemented customs and retail tariffs on Chinese goods, which has forced China to search for new markets and new consumers for cheap and unbeatable goods.

The low rate of the Chinese national currency and goods, which is cheap compared to European and American interests, has led to the objection of European and American production institutions, which has put China repeatedly face to face with the laws of the

World Trade Organization. As for China relations with the European Union, upon the end of the Cold War, China and the European Union has started looking to consolidate their positions in the international system in light of their attempt to make the post-Cold War world multilateral, as the dominant power over the global system politically, militarily, economically and culturally in the United States. Therefore, to China, the European Union is one of the significant forces that might play a role in reconstructing the international system in pursuit of multipolarity. Hence, having a positive relationship with the European Union achieves the Chinese policy's essential goals, facing the U.S. sovereignty and strengthening its economic policy.

Despite the differences in opinions regarding political issues, economic interests always supersede differences according to the pragmatic and realistic view of the interests. The nature of the relations between the two parties can be understood by knowing each party's perspective of the other and each party perceiving progress for the other. When the European integration process takes rapid leaps from the 1980s until reaching the current stage, we find that China is the fastest-growing country since 1978 with a rate of 8%. The continuous rise of China does not mean the absence of problems facing China but rather indicates that it is progressing despite the issues and trying to overcome them. Each view of the process on the other side was positive and won support for various reasons. Supporting the European integration policy and a stable Chinese policy cause reduces the American influence in Europe. It then pushes the United States to keep cooperating with it or create challenges for the Soviet Union. For their part, European countries believed that the rise of China would lead to more integration of China into the international arena and its transformation into a pole in light of Europe's search for a multi-polar world, as well as that this would make China closer to a market economy.

As for each other's vision of the other side, about China's vision of the European Union, it is noticed that in the 1970s, China viewed Western Europe as part of the united front against the Soviet domination, and then China supported NATO. It also welcomed leaders who adopted more strict policies towards the Soviet Union, like Margaret Thatcher since her Conservative Party's leadership.

Consequently, the Chinese view of Western Europe in the framework of the transformation in Chinese foreign policy shifted from focusing on ideological considerations to pragmatism and focusing on economic interests. In addition to that, the aids play an essential role in that context as it takes one direction from the European Union to China, especially from Germany and France. European countries are also among the most lending sources to China, including France, Britain, Germany, Italy, and Spain. As for the European Union perspective of China, the matter was not much different for the Western European countries, which viewed developing its relationship

with China as leverage on the Soviet Union as a part of the general Western strategy

to pressure the Soviet Union. At the beginning of the 1980s, Western Europe witnessed a debate regarding the Asian rise that included the Chinese surge and handling it. After the end of the Cold War, the dispute was settled towards pursuing relationships with that area and prioritizing it. The European views towards China were comprehensive, as it sought to strengthen relations in all fields. The endeavor to create a trans-regional framework for Euro-Asian cooperation, In this context, the European Union needs the support of China, which has the second-largest cash reserves in the world. Therefore, converting part of its reserves to the euro will serve the European Union, and China is a permanent member of the Security Council. Hence, cooperation with it on global issues is an important issue, and the European Union's desire to establish a multilateral international system is the same as China's desire.

The European Union ranks third in the volume of investments in China, where these investments play a role in European imports and exports to and from China. We find many European companies benefit from the advantages of investing in China, including especially employment. European investments also increase the volume of European exports to China through the machines and materials these companies enter into China and are used in the production process. Although the European Union commitment is China's only policy, the European Union considers Taiwan's economic, trade, and investment interests and the need for security and stability across the Taiwan Straits. Therefore, we find the European Union calling for a peaceful solution to the issue. This view does not contradict the perspective of China that seeks to achieve unity with Taiwan as part of the motherland through peaceful means with its recognition of Taiwan as an entity that has its own commercial and economic characteristics and has cultural and economic relations with the rest of the world. However, the dispute often renewed China's objection to the kind of relations between Taiwan and the European Union that rise to the level of deal-making.¹²

Result

Previous studies in this regard make it clear that it has not reached those results that strengthen Chinese-Arab cooperation in all fields and are not limited to only some of them. Hence, this research discussed the importance of relations in light of the changes required by the Chinese and Arab sides to open all the doors that would consolidate the relationship in line with the variables in the Arab, regional and international regions. Based on this study's findings, Sino-Arab relations offer many opportunities for strengthening ties in cultural, political, economic, and other fields. The two parties also exchange solidarity, work together, and cooperate, as there is no fundamental conflict of interests. Moreover, China enjoys a permanent membership in security.

Conclusion

The Sino-Arab relations view results from a blend of authentic, social, political, and shared interests. Suppose this relationship was to be affected contrarily or certainly, very much like the case for relations between nations by territorial and worldwide terms of events, their interior, provincial, and global interests, and the job that every one of them plays on the worldwide scene and the critical factors. They are both presented to Western forces and governments. Sino-Arab relations include numerous political, financial, social, logical, creative, and scholarly trades between non-legislative associations. It has also expanded to collaborate at the provincial multi-sidelong level coordination of exchange help in international gatherings. The mental factor contributed to improving relations between the various parties associated with China's situation and the development of its abilities and advancement. Despite the assistance, it appeared to be numerous Arab issues. Just as the shortfall of negative chronicled buildups in the relations between the different sides or local foundations in the ties of Arab countries with other significant worldwide forces.

Consequently, it is critical to fortify the connections between Arab nations and China on both the individual and aggregate levels in the current stage and connect their relations with interests that are not influenced by outer components, particularly monetary interests. China heads towards assuming a functioning and expanding part of the Arab territory to guarantee its energy security. Nonetheless, it does not imply that the American-Sino approaches will conflict. It shows the distinction where China is steady of Arab Internal Reform and emphatically protests any outer endeavors to implement change. China is the only significant country on the planet that upholds Arab solidarity. The Arabs take care of their issues without help from anyone else without meddling in their inward undertakings. China's situation is firmly identified with its public power feeling and its fruitful involvement with monetary change. Within the framework of a Chinese methodology to fortify relations with the alleged, extended neighboring nations, which incorporate the countries of Central Asia and the nations of the Middle East, taking into account indicators of the presence of a pluralism of the global framework, pluralism demonstrates the significance of China to the Arab nations. There is also a gathering for "Sino-Arab participation," which addresses extraordinary importance in Sino-Arab relations in the political, monetary, business, and venture fields, emphasizing the energy field, as the energy issue is a significant issue for China notwithstanding the Dialog Among Civilizations.

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