Firstname Lastname (ID Number)

**Policy Paper Proposal: Sample 4**

**African Diplomacy in Japan and China**

**Statement of the Problem**

In recent years, Africa has become increasingly important in the diplomacy strategy of major powers (Cornelissen, 2004). The economic and political presence in Africa of major powers including the US, China, India, and Japan is expanding (Dan, 2011). As the third largest economy, Japan has, since the end of the Cold War, gradually increased its emphasis on, and input into, Africa in a comprehensive way (Schraeder, 1999). As the second largest economy in the world, China, too, has a significant interest in Africa. However, China's role in Africa has attracted huge attention and concern in the world. Concerns regarding the so-called "Chinese colonialism in Africa" have always accompanied China’s developing influence in Africa (Bai & Li, 2008). Eisenman and Kurlantzick (2006), for example, have pointed to China’s relationship with Mugabe in Zimbabwe and have claimed that China has been complicit in the rigging of elections there. Eisenman and Kurlantzick have also noted that United Nations (UN) resolutions drafted by the United States against the Sudanese for ethnic cleansing in Darfur were “defanged” (p. 223) by China’s UN ambassador and claimed that “China’s unwillingness to put any conditions on its assistance to Africa could undermine years of international efforts to link aid to better governance” (p. 223).

Although Japan, too, invests a great deal of money in Africa, it seems to elicit far less concern, criticism, and condemnation from international onlookers (Eisenman & Kurlantzick, 2006) while it conducts economic activities and pursues its interests in African countries (Si, 2010). Adem (2001) characterizes Japan-Africa relations as follows:

On African issues, Japan has increasingly played a leading role with genuine initiative and independence over the past decade or so. As an ODA donor unsurpassed by any other country for the last ten consecutive years, Japan's assumption of the leadership role in this respect stands to logic. (p. 62)

There are several causes for such differing reactions to China’s and Japan’s activities, and perhaps Japan’s African diplomacy policy may be a significant factor (Bai & Li, 2008).

Although several analyses have been undertaken on Japan’s African diplomacy strategy, there has not been any study revealing in what way Japan’s diplomatic policy has resulted in less condemnation from international onlookers than that which China is facing. The present study attempts to fill this gap. The purpose of this study is, first of all, to explore the characteristics of Japan's African diplomacy strategy in the field of economics, politics, and public diplomacy.

This paper will also attempt to discover the reasons shaping Japan’s diplomatic policy, and examine what China can learn from the Japanese experience in implementing diplomacy in the process of pushing forward China-Africa cooperation.

**Research Questions**

1. What are the main characteristics of Japan's and China’s African diplomacy in the fields of economics, politics, and public diplomacy?
2. What are the factors shaping Japan's and China’s African diplomacy policy and how will such diplomacy develop in the future?

**Methodology**

A qualitative methodology will be used to review sources such as government statements, reports, and statistics to explore characteristics of Japan's African diplomacy, and compare Japan's economic and aid activities in Africa with those of China. I will examine the reasons shaping Japan's African diplomacy in domestic and international aspects. Finally, based on the above analysis, I will investigate what China can learn from Japan in pursuing its African diplomacy and the possible policy options for China in response to Japan's increasing influence in Africa.

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