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International relations in North Africa and the Maghreb

QUESTION

Discuss in not less than two pages China North Africa and the Maghreb

ANSWER

North Africa is a region encompassing the northern portion of the African continent. The Maghreb also known as the North West Africa, is a subregion of North Africa and is predominantly Muslim. For 20 years, a large majority of public attainment in the construction industry in Morocco, Libya, and Algeria has been won by Chinese groups. Critics state construction and engineering cooperation also constructed several buildings like the civil war in 2011 was exporting close to 10% of its petroleum production to China. Currently, only Algeria remains a supplier of hydrocarbons. The Algerian petroleum production is mostly weak and regularly put off by certain restrictions. The Chinese investment in Libya are now caught up in the instability of the country. The Maghreb countries are often presented as a promising market of close to millions of potential clients for Chinese enterprises likely to share their everyday consumer goods.

In the Maghreb, China is not in a favorable situation as in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Maghreb states are recipients of the investments carried out by the Arab-Persian Gulf monarchies. The Chinese capital is therefore not as important. The Maghreb countries do not enter into this framework of fealty or see China as a precious partner capable of helping them in their industrial modernization. China silenced certain attackers especially those focusing on the quality of their sold products. In Morocco, the presence of Chinese investors in the textile sector is always judged with suspicion. China's current international relations stem from its global policies of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Since 2013, China's main trading partner in the Maghreb has been Algeria. The Maghreb has historically had close relations with France, the former colonial power and the European Union (EU), even Algeria which had close political and military ties with the Soviet Union has maintained close interaction with France. China has slowly consolidated its presence in the Maghreb over the past two decades. The Maghreb is an attractive market for Chinese companies and investors. But Chinese economic activities there are limited in

comparison. China has demonstrated to the Maghreb countries that it follows a different philosophy than that of the West in region. The perception in these countries is that it does not seek to impose its own political, economic and cultural system on them.

China has made a notable entry in the Maghreb. It's influence remains minimal. It's soft power push has struggle to promote advantages of strong relations with China beyond economics. North Africa is another piece in China global strategy deserving a recognition. China is on the offensive in the Maghreb, of the Maghreb countries, Algeria has perhaps the closest ties to China, they do agree on ideology. Global trade also helps to explain why China is invested in North Africa. Chinese investment will not help though, some may argue otherwise, chinas transactional foreign policy approach has little to no regard for the well being of other countries. Fragile states in North Africa needs partners like United States and Europe that promotes strong, open and free institutions. China considers its relations with Maghreb as with the rest of the world a zero sum game in which the strong exploit the weak. China has increased its presence in North Africa in terms of trade and investment.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS

1. More than half of China's trade with these Maghreb states is carried out with Algeria
2. The rise of quarter of those exchanges is all the more significant as the states of the region have known varying degrees of major political upheaval affecting the economy.

POLITICAL RELATIONS

1. The political dimensions of North Africa ties is growing in salience, most notably in the context of Chinas newly assertive diplomacy.
2. China has rapidly become a leading trade and investment partner to North Africa giving it new political leverage in the region.

SECURITY RELATIONS

1. China regarded North Africa and the Maghreb important for maintaining her national security. (Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya etc)
2. It raised the capacity and preparedness of regional elites.

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