China and Economic Levers:
The Use of Positive Economic Tools to Further Chinese Foreign Policy Goals

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• Conventional wisdom: China is engaged in providing positive economic benefits to gain resources necessary to fuel its rapid economic growth.

• Does the pattern of Chinese positive economic actions 1990-2007 support this interpretation?

• Collect data from Keesing’s World News Archive, Lexis-Nexis (Latin America only).

• Analyze data for patterns; do they support the conventional wisdom?
• Look at regions separately.

• Predict number of positive economic events in a year.

• Predict taking into account:
  
  • Change in Chinese GDP.
  
  • Change in Chinese oil imports.
  
  • Overall trend through time.
• North America.

• As Chinese GDP grows, the number of positive economic events declines.
• Europe.

• Findings very similar to North America, but the relationship between change in GDP and the number of positive economic events is even stronger.
• Africa.

• Not very many positive economic events (a total of 7).

• But the number of events increases through time, particularly recently.
• Middle East.
• Asia.
• Middle East and Africa.
• Latin America.
• Asia is the region that has attracted the most economic attention from China.

• No particular emphasis by China on the top 20 oil producers and exporters.

• China’s economic attention towards both North America and Europe has declined through time.

• As China’s oil imports increase, economic attention to the Middle East declines a bit; this decline is matched by an increase in economic attention towards Africa.

• Chinese economic attention towards Latin America increases through time.