



## Research Article

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# Gio-Nigeria Economic Relations on the Development of the Nigerian Textile Sector, 2006–2017

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## Abstract

The purpose of the study is to investigate how the economic ties between China and Nigeria have affected the growth of Nigeria's textile sector between 2021 and 2023. The study collected data from stakeholders, including policymakers, business owners, and textile industry specialists, using qualitative research methods such as questionnaires, interviews, and documentary reviews. The study's conclusions will provide important light on how the relationship between China and Nigeria has affected the growth of Nigeria's textile sector and will also include useful suggestions for future legislation and company owners. The study found that, especially during the study period, Nigeria's textile sector has developed favorably as a result of the economic ties between China and Nigeria. The partnership has given manufacturers significant opportunities in Nigeria to have access to Chinese resources, money, and technology. New investments, more manufacturing capacity, and access to new markets have resulted from this. Furthermore, new, more effective production methods have been used due to the cooperation between the two nations, improving the productivity and caliber of the textiles produced. Despite the advantages, especially in terms of profit-sharing, intellectual property, and environmental sustainability. The report recommends that both nations should enact more robust policy incentives to promote investment in regional businesses, support the protection of intellectual property, and work to increase the textile industry's environmental sustainability to address these problems. Moreover, the report suggested, among other things, that the two nations work together more closely to exchange resources and knowledge. In its conclusion, the study showed that it has provided valuable opportunities for textile manufacturers to access capital, technology, and resources from China, while also introducing more efficient production methods. However, the economic relationship needs to be further strengthened in terms of policy incentives, intellectual property protection, and environmental sustainability to maximize the benefits of the relationship for both countries.

**Keywords:** China, Nigeria, Development, Textile, Impact, Industry

## 1. Introduction

Nigeria's decades-long pursuit of growth since gaining independence in 1960 has not yet resulted in the country's ultimate objective of economic buoyancy. It is evident that without the economic assistance of other nations, this cannot be accomplished. It was aptly noted by Aja (1998) that there is no proof of any country that is an economic island, self-sufficient enough to be in an autarky state. However, diplomatic ties between Nigeria and the People's Republic of China began with an invitation to attend Nigeria's 1960 independence ceremony. Nigeria returned the favour on October 8, 1960, voting to admit China to the United Nations Organisation (UNO). Nigeria and other African countries viewed China as a major global force once it was admitted to the UN Security Council in 1971, and as a result, they established diplomatic and economic relations with China (Asogwa, 2013).

Nigeria and China maintained diplomatic ties after they were established in February 1971, according to Kwanashie (2000). Over the years, China's relations with Nigeria have remained focused. This may indicate that China has long-term plans for both diplomacy and the economy. The unequal distribution of natural, economic, and technological resources has conferred a measure of independence on the "Rich" and "Poor" countries, as well as a form of comparative productive advantage in international trade and labor relations. According to Okolie & Chime (2013), referenced in Omenka (2014), interstate relations are inevitable because of man's innate propensity for social interrelationship.

## 2. Statement of the Problem

Over the past 10 years, Nigeria's relationship with China has developed from the restricted and sporadic communication that characterized the early post-independence period to a more intricate and extensive interaction because of China's growing influence in Nigeria. In 1972, the two nations signed a formal agreement on commerce, which was followed by agreements on economic, scientific, and technological cooperation. Nigeria exported raw agricultural materials to China under that deal. However, given the declining standard of living for many Nigerians, China's massive exports of comparatively inexpensive manufactured goods enabled them to buy the commodities. China primarily came to Nigeria in search of raw materials for its expanding industries. But with the ongoing military presence in the Nigerian economic system had adverse effects.

China and Nigeria resumed bilateral ties in 1999 when Nigeria reestablished constitutional democracy. Additionally, starting in 2001, both nations signed several memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and business agreements. Scholars and policymakers, particularly in the textile business, have been speculating a lot about these trends, leading to differing opinions about the nature of the relationships.

Ogunsanwo (2007), Nkwede (2015), Oyeranti et al (2010), and Udeala (2013) assert that Nigeria's economic ties with China are positive and robust and that China entered the country as a supplier of raw materials to close the gap in the Nigerian economy caused by the country's tumultuous relations with the West. According to these optimistic academics, the restored economic ties have resulted in the growing presence of Chinese people in many facets of Nigeria's economy, either through founding new, successful organizations or providing varying degrees of assistance to revive old, failing ones. The optimists also believe that both countries are now in a better position to access each other's products through commerce as a result of the improved economic ties. According to these academics, Chinese investment in Nigeria has regained momentum after democracy was restored, and it is no longer appropriate to regard it as a hindrance to the country's further economic expansion. As a result, the fresh start with China may be utilized to support transformation in a few of our economy's productive infrastructure sectors.

Despite the protagonist scholars' above positions, other pessimists contend otherwise (see Nwachukwu (2017), Chen, et al. (2016), Agubamah (2014), and Aremu (2015)).

They claim that although several agreements and memorandums of understanding have been signed for the growth of commerce and infrastructure, China and Nigeria's actual actions have not greatly reflected such. This group of academics also believes that China has not increased its investments in Nigeria's textile sector and that China is not ready to foster an environment that would encourage the export of Nigerian textile materials other than the unrestricted movement of Chinese goods. In light of this circumstance, neither nation is putting up a suitable plan to ensure expansion and continuity of trade ties. Additionally, the pessimist believes that aside from the unrestricted flow of Chinese goods, China has not increased its investments in the Nigerian textile industry and is not prepared to foster an environment that would encourage the export of Nigerian textile materials. In light of this circumstance, neither nation is putting up a suitable plan to ensure expansion and continuity of trade ties.

The pessimist also believes that Nigeria's unemployment rate has not decreased as a result of China's involvement in the country. The aforementioned scholars, however, are so focused on the advantages of China-Nigeria relations that they fail to address the crucial problem of objectively assessing the industrialization and marketing of the Nigerian textile industry. The study's main focus was informed by the consequences of these economic events that occurred throughout the study period, which called for additional investigation. Analyzing the effects of Nigeria-China economic relations on the growth of Nigeria's textile industry between 2006 and 2017 is the main goal of this study.

### 3. Nigerians' Perceptions on China's Economic Relations

Scholarly circles have attempted to characterize the nature of Nigeria's involvement with China in light of the controversy surrounding their relationship. Though not all specifically address Nigeria or her economic ties with China, they all address the topic of this study and analyze how Nigeria is affected by Chinese economic ties. The main components of the relations—trade, aid, and investments—are the foundation of academic arguments, and various people may view them differently depending on how each one impacts them personally. The majority of these perception gaps relate to employment, innovation, competitive effects, and technological proficiency. However, given the divergent opinions of academics, the arguments remain unresolved in this regard. Scholars' differing opinions might be categorized into three main categories. Some argue that the economic ties between China and Nigeria have had, or will continue to have, a good effect on the host nation's economy. The basic thesis of these experts is that there exists a potential for increased significance and aid in modernizing the industrial backwardness of Nigeria through the economic interactions between China and Nigeria. Conversely, pessimistic academics disagreed with the viewpoints and asserted that China-Nigeria economic ties constitute a threat and are imperialist, with the main goal being the development of China and the ongoing underdevelopment of Nigerians. Although the final group of academics contends that, the relationship is symbiotic, meaning that both parties benefit from it because they depend on one another to accomplish their objectives in the political, economic, and international spheres.

Nigeria is interacting with China, according to a different study by Alden (2007) and Bautigam (2009), in part because of the degree of competition China has increased in the global economy. Furthermore, China's attitude toward Nigeria makes Nigeria's pursuit of engagement practically inevitable. It is the responsibility of a country to determine its success (Chukwudi, Gberevbie, Abasilim, & Imhonopi, 2019) and international organizations such as the United Nations have strengthened the efforts of countries globally towards development (Onor, Okoye & Duruji, 2022). Aje and Chidozie (2020) have emphasised the importance of integration among nations in the pursuit of development. Leadership also plays a great role in every interaction of countries (Abasilim, Gberevbie, & Osibanjo, 2019). Nigerian government officials point out that despite China exploiting Nigeria to further its national interests, Nigeria is doing the same with China and will continue to do so, in part because of China's support in developing capacity and financing important projects in Nigeria. China is viewed by the Nigerian government as a substitute for the West for the development of technology. Given that China's government is more liberal with technology than the governments of the West, Alden and Bautigam's contributions seem promising.

China is not a destination as some may believe, but rather a process that would gradually bring Nigeria out of its industrial backwardness. Nigerians are therefore still

not present. The incapacity to look past their nose, nevertheless, is a weakness in this effort, as China is taking advantage of weak institutions to sell everything on the Nigerian market, regardless of quality. In a different study, Vines et al. (2010) asserted that, initially, China provided a limited aid package that included trade and education by forging diplomatic ties with Nigeria. The aid amount increased after Nigeria saw China as a potential replacement partner to help it fill its infrastructure gap. Chinese enterprises were able to establish themselves in Nigeria and finish the various projects that were requested thanks to infrastructure. China has easy access to Nigeria's oil sector since the country's president had given China credit for completing many of Nigeria's infrastructure's oil blocks.

The contributions of Vines et al. may have supported the more widespread theories that China is solely in Nigeria to supply oil and aid in its development. Therefore, Bello (2005) accurately noted in his study that China is well recognized for its practice of delivering aid with no political conditions—well, except one. This tolls the line of some of these scholars. Following the "one China policy" is Beijing's primary mandate in his research when he accurately noted that China is well recognized for its policy of providing aid with no strings attached—well, save one. Beijing's primary demand in its diplomatic dealings with African nations and Abuja is adherence to the "one China policy," and this stance has never presented any issues.

Indeed, Nigeria has profited greatly from Chinese loans that are unrelated to politics other than China's energy interests. This aspect of the relationship has contributed to the development of the resource-collateralized loan pattern that has emerged as one of Beijing's most defining features in its ties with African nations, including Nigeria, during the past ten years. For example, Nigeria got a loan in 2007 in exchange for an offer from the oil blocs. Olugboyega (2008), however, declares that "another benefit of the two countries' excellent relationship is the affordability of Chinese imports. It has been noted that Chinese imports can be up to 50% less expensive than locally made alternatives and up to 75% less expensive than "equivalents" from conventional sources. Considering Nigeria's high rate of poverty and low purchasing power, there is a chance to better the lives of the impoverished. Olugboyega's stance is an alluring one, given that many Nigerians are willing to purchase goods at lower prices without questioning their quality. Nevertheless, this approach is deficient in that it is one-sided, with no thought given to the long-term impact of this import on the economy and the general populace. Likewise, in a different study conducted by Emordi & Osiki (2009) and Ayoola (2013), they claim that "Stakeholder perspectives on the influence of Nigeria – China trade relations on the Nigerian economy 89% of those surveyed said that trade relations will benefit the Nigerian economy.

Nigeria has emerged as one of China's most significant telecom markets in recent years. Zhong Xing Telecommunication Equipment Company (ZTE), a state-owned company, and Huawei are the two biggest companies in the nation. Competitive pricing

is the main benefit of Chinese enterprises; according to Huawei executives, their prices are between 5% and 15% less than those of their main foreign competitors, Ericsson and Nokia. ZTE is reportedly priced between \$30 and 40% less than telecom firms in Europe. ZTE, which was first founded in 1985 as an electronics firm connected to the Chinese Aerospace Ministry, is currently the country's biggest listed provider of telecom equipment and its second-largest supplier of telecom gear, after Huawei. ZTE joined the Nigerian market in 1999 and now operates seven offices around the country (in Lagos, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Kaduna, Bauchi, Jos, and Maiduguri) in addition to a handset manufacturing in Abuja.

ZTE was awarded a contract by Nitel, Nigeria's primary telecommunications provider, in 2005 to extend the nation's CDMA wireless network over seven states in the northeast. Additionally, it inked a deal to supply Nitel with 13,000 CDMA terminals and devices. ZTE was given a \$400 million contract by the Nigerian government in December 2010 to construct a national security communications system system, with funding from the Exim Bank of China. The contributions of these scholars are quite noteworthy in light of the liberation of telecommunications and its equipment in Nigeria; however, there is a lack of information regarding the current status of the aforementioned signed contract to supply Nitel with 13,000 CDMA terminals and handsets, as well as a practical demonstration of the fact that many industries are producing new goods rather than assembling depots to gain easy access to the Nigerian market. Conversely, pessimistic researchers disagree with the previously expressed opinions of experts and argue that Nigeria-China economic cooperation does not benefit the host nation, taking the lead in this discussion.

On the other hand, Okoro et al. (2015) come to the following conclusion: China's increased economic diplomacy has allowed it to dominate Nigeria's politics and economy, leading to several negative economic effects. These include Nigeria's economy stagnating or declining for more than 27 years, increasing its imports, losing out on domestic business opportunities to China, and China increasing its direct investment in foreign aid (loans, grants, and technical assistance). Nigeria's trade balance with China was also positive. The viewpoint of Okoro et al. may be accurate since economic diplomacy seems to be the new global order, and Nigeria cannot claim to be in a position to adequately handle China's complex economy, so there is a persistent trade imbalance in China's favor. But according to Aja (2012), China has the second-biggest economy in the world and is expanding at the fastest rate, whereas Nigeria's economy is still having difficulties. As per his statement, it is impossible to overlook China's current position in the global economic system cannot be disregarded by a faltering economy like Nigeria, and it stands to reason that China cannot disregard Nigeria in terms of both economic and general strategic considerations in Africa in world system that is changing quickly. He emphasized that Nigeria is always a possible market worldwide and that China strategically needs Nigeria to solidify its recently established ties throughout Africa. Although China's economy is becoming more diverse and is expanding its ability

to export other kinds of produce, she laments that Nigeria's newfound connection with China would be influenced by Nigeria's fundamental economic dependency. In summary, he finds that Nigeria's economy is still unduly reliant on oil.

Additionally, contrary to scholarly perspectives that are both optimistic and pessimistic on Nigeria-China economic relations are the mutualists, who think that both countries gain from the partnership. However, observers of Nigeria's foreign affairs have grown acutely aware of the mutual need to change this close relationship into one that is beneficial to both parties and advances the development of a more balanced partnership. According to Omotere (2011), Nigeria and China have benefited from their foreign contacts. Once more, it proved that Nigeria and China had a win-win partnership. However, considering China's position as an emerging superpower in world affairs and its strong military, economic, and political foundation, Nigerian authorities have not yet fully optimized this connection.

Omotere's position serves as a hub for communication between the two opposing groups, which have different perspectives on their relationships, i.e., the urge to satisfy people's needs is the motivation behind all relationships. The nature of international relations is that China and Nigeria are dependent on one another for their continued existence as nations. Agubamah (2014), however, asserts that: All parties to an agreement must take action to cooperate. Nigeria and China have had a long-standing partnership that benefits both parties equally. Both nations get along well and show respect for one another on an equal basis. China and Nigeria are pursuing peace via separate foreign strategies due to their similar historical experiences. At the domestic and international level, both countries strongly support each other, as a way to promote global South-South cooperation. They work towards upholding the common interests of many developing countries throughout Asia and Africa. Nigeria is a commercial powerhouse where China can thrive.

It is clear from the literature assessment above that academics have made significant contributions to the field about the effects of China's economic relations on Nigerians. But what they lack is empiricism or luridness. Put another way, the study was unable to provide an example of how collaboration between or among certain nations has affected one or both of those nations' economies. The most crucial thing to remember is that none of the three distinct groups of professors' contributions had any scientific evidence to support their assertions.

#### **4. Nigeria's Textile Industry Expansion and the Economic Relations between Nigeria and China**

Since the bilateral diplomatic ties between China and all of Africa were established in Nigeria in particular, several academics have expressed worry over whether the connection will accelerate the development of the country's textile sector. According to Aja (2016), in her piece "Reviving the Nigerian Textile Industry," with more than 160

thriving textile mills and more than 500,000 direct and indirect jobs, Nigeria's textile market had grown to become the third largest in Africa by the 1980s. In actuality, the nation had roughly 180 textile mills by 1985, employing over a million Nigerians. The textile industry grew by 67% annually between 1985 and 1991, and as of that year, it employed almost 25% of all workers in the country's manufacturing sector. 60% of West Africa's textile production was accounted for by the nation. This energy was supported by an embargo on textile imports during and following the American Civil War, which drew interest from investors.

As a result, the sector experienced backward integration, with many textile mills being fully integrated and others even converting to spinning mills. The Nigerian textile sector had the highest level of technological sophistication in Sub-Saharan Africa during this time, according to data obtainable from the Nigeria Textile Manufacturers Association (NTMAN). However, the textile import prohibition was lifted in 1997. Cheap imports entering Nigeria from China and India destroyed the country's textile sector. In 1996, capacity utilization was over 60%; by 2002, it had declined to approximately 28%. In less than six years, more than fifty businesses had shut down, and over 80,000 workers had lost their employment. Thus, Akinrinade and Ogen's (2008) research, "Globalization and De-industrialization: South-South-Neo-Liberalism and Collapse of the Nigerian Textile Industry," it is impossible to overstate the critical role that a thriving textile industry plays in a country's efforts to achieve rapid socioeconomic growth. Yes, along with food and shelter, clothing is one of the three essentials of existence. Socioeconomically speaking, the demise of Nigeria's textile sector foreshadows dire consequences for the welfare of Nigerian society. Given that clothing is the second most important necessity in life, it is clear why the Nigerian textile industry has received such amazing attention in this examination.

Nevertheless, Muhammad (2011) argues in "Globalization Crisis and National Security: A Reflection on Nigeria's Textile Industry" that the situation that plagued Nigeria's textile economy, which had previously had a significant edge in textile production, has seen a steady worsening of its economic crises in the last three decades, with far-reaching and unfavorable effects. This had a significant negative impact on the textile industry, eliminated jobs, and left the country insecure. One important flaw in this contribution is that it did not specifically state whether globalization or China was to blame for the textile fiasco in Nigeria, which is a country that is experiencing an increasingly severe economic crisis. In addition, Muhammad's statement, as it is presented here, indicates that the difficulties facing Nigeria's textile industry have created a sense of fear throughout the country. Nigeria's textile problems are also a result of simulations, poor copyright laws, and government leniency over textile imports. Makinde et al. (2015) list several factors that contribute to the depreciation of the Nigerian textile industry, including trade liberalisation, Nigeria's policy on textile imports, the preference for imported textiles over domestic ones, which results in poor patronage, neglect of the agricultural sector, unstable power supplies, and a lack of



technical proficiency.

Additionally, Sanni (2012) in an article titled "Nigeria: The Crisis," these factors include the country's inability to produce basic textile materials and tools, its reliance on foreign specialists, the importation of textile materials, the high cost of energy, water, chemicals, and dyes, and the target market's affordability of the finished goods.

They go on to say that "the narrow and myopic economic policies that promote the oil and gas industry at the expense of other sectors of the economy are what caused the Nigerian textile industries to become dysfunctional." Over-reliance on imported goods and services, coupled with a lack of patriotism fostered by the ruling class and elite, dealt the last blow to Nigeria's textile industry's declining profitability. According to Afigbo and Okeke's study, "Weaving Tradition in Igbo Land: History and Mechanism of Igbo Textile Industry" (1985). They contend that a multitude of reasons, such as the economic downturn, globalization's consequences, outdated machinery, public perception of Nigerian-made textiles, and poor infrastructure, all had a part in the failure. In contrast, Nigeria has not been able to maintain its textile industry, like Egypt, Botswana, Ghana, and South Africa. Njoku (2004), Onas (2010), and Salisu (2010) concurred with other scholars' positions in their studies when they argued that the primary factors impeding the growth of the Nigerian textile industry are "technology and infrastructural inadequacies, globalization, smuggling of textile goods, inadequate financial support, lack of raw material, mass importation of foreign textiles among others."

In a piece titled "How Nigeria can benefit from textile manufacturing revival," Ademiluy (2018) makes the following argument: The textile, garment, and footwear industries long dominated Nigeria's manufacturing sector. Nigeria saw a boom in the 1960s and 1970s in the textile manufacturing industry, with a record high of over 140 businesses, including Kaduna Textiles, Kano Textiles United Nigeria Textiles, Aba Textiles, Texlon Nigeria Limited, and First Spinners Limited, which also account for more than 60% of the capacity of the West African textile industry. These companies contribute approximately 15% of the manufacturing sector earnings to the GDP of the Nigerian economy. However, the 1980s saw a shift in the industry's narrative. After oil was discovered and the oil boom that followed, agriculture was abandoned and the government became dependent on oil. The textile industry suffered as a result of the agriculture sector's neglect. Cotton production, the primary raw material used to make clothing, dramatically plummeted as its capacity for manufacturing fell by half.

Furthermore, the economic downturn made it unfeasible for firms to import advanced, contemporary machinery that would have sped up manufacturing. Comparably, the cost of obtaining raw materials was exorbitant for textile producers and fabric designers who could afford to import them, which had an impact on their business. This indicated that the raw resources available to the textile industry were sometimes scarce or nonexistent. Furthermore, the 1986 trade liberalization policies that followed the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) led to an influx of foreign

textiles and finished goods, which negatively impacted the industry's ability to manufacture items. By the 1990s, textile manufacturers were struggling to meet the demands of production due to the deterioration of infrastructure, particularly the unreliable supply of electricity. As a result, several textile factories had closed, leaving hundreds of workers jobless. The industry was only working at 28% of its potential by 1998. In contrast to what many academics believe, Ademiluy believes that after oil was discovered and the oil boom that followed, the government became dependent on oil and abandoned agriculture. Since no business can exist without resources to feed its factories, the textile industry suffered from the neglect of the agricultural sector.

However, Yisa et al. (2013) noted concisely that the Nigerian textile industry is perhaps the most imperiled sector of the economy, currently nearly dead and beyond comatose, in research titled "An Evaluation of Financial Health of Nigerian Textile Industry on Altman's Scale." Nigeria formerly had close to 140 textile companies; today, the country only has roughly 45, and of those, fewer than 20 are operational, with the operational ones operating below their installed capacity. They go on to say that the survival of the Nigerian economy has been seriously impacted by the rate of distress in the country's textile sector. Corporate failure results in a huge waste of financial resources. Stated differently, Eneji et al. (2012) conclude that Nigeria's textile industry is performing poorly and that the country's production of textiles—whether they be cotton textiles, synthetic fibers, or clothing—has been steadily declining annually. "The textiles industry had become a natural lead sector of the economy and one of the major sources of foreign exchange earnings and a large employer of labor," according to Aremu (2015) in an article titled "Reflections on Industry and Economy."

Unfortunately, Nigeria has turned into a dump for largely illegal fibers, including second-hand, dangerous textiles. The industrial industry's downturn has made the textile subsector a key pawn. Its share of the total manufacturing output has steadily and significantly decreased since 2000. At the moment, the industry contributes less than 1% of the overall manufactured value added that is used to determine GDP. By the 1990s, textile manufacturers were struggling to meet the demands of production due to the deterioration of infrastructure, particularly the unreliable supply of electricity. As a result, several textile factories had closed, leaving hundreds of workers jobless. The industry was only working at 28% of its potential by 1998. In contrast to what many academics believe, Ademiluy believes that after oil was discovered and the oil boom that followed, the government became dependent on oil and abandoned agriculture. Since no business can exist without resources to feed its factories, the textile industry suffered from the neglect of the agricultural sector. However, Yisa et al. (2013) noted concisely that the Nigerian textile industry is perhaps the most imperiled sector of the economy, currently nearly dead and beyond comatose, in research titled "An Evaluation of Financial Health of Nigerian Textile Industry on Altman's Scale." Nigeria formerly had close to 140 textile companies; today, the country only has roughly 45, and of those, fewer than 20 are operational, with the operational ones operating below their installed

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The above-mentioned image of Aremu is somewhat accurate; the textile sector did contribute to worldwide growth and employment, but it is a shadow of its former self. Nigerians now rely on China and Western nations for their textile needs due to the state of the country's textile sector. It does become clear, though, that a nonexistent sector might not require labor. As a result, the business is experiencing an increase in unemployment, much like every other industry in Nigeria. Ahmed (2014) concluded in a research titled "The State of Nigerian Textile Industries" that: in the 1920s, Nigerian textile industries engaged and trained their manufacturing workforce. Ahmed was writing more on Chinese economic linkages and the rise in unemployment in the country's textile sector. To prevent Nigerians from knowing the intricate and fundamental technological workings of the industry and how it operates to the benefit of the colonial overlords, only expatriates, or foreign experts, were typically permitted to staff the sector's sensitive divisions.

Ahmed (2014) went on to say that "similar circumstances continued even after the Nigerian nation existed as a free state for many decades." According to the researcher's investigation, certain Nigerian graduates from universities and polytechnics were not hired, or if they were, their freedoms were constrained and their interactions were

limited to a specific area of the company. A vacant position is frequently advertised for designers, who may be required to submit their work for evaluation to be considered for the posted position. Allegations have been made that submitted designs were just scanned and electronically stored for potential future utilization without the permission of the applicant. Ahmed's contribution is akin to a wake-up call on the ongoing economic sabotage that Nigerians endure at the hands of those who share a connection with them, such as Great Britain, their former colonial ruler. To what extent Chinese people were subjected to economic discrimination by the colonial master is unclear, though, as it confirms China's current status as Nigeria's economic colonial master.

According to Egbula and Zheng (2011), "China and Nigeria: A Powerful South-South Alliance" According to "West African Challenges," 30,000 local people are employed by Chinese businesses that operate in Nigeria. However, this is insignificant compared to the 350,000 manufacturing jobs that labor groups claim Chinese imports have destroyed. The native textile industry has been particularly hard impacted, unable to keep up with rising smuggling and low-cost imports. John (2014) asserts that Nigeria must exercise caution regarding China's potential use of the country as a warehouse for low-cost Chinese exports, particularly textiles, as this might exacerbate the already-existing trade imbalance in China's favour and cause additional job losses in Nigeria. Trade unions in Nigeria are reportedly accusing Chinese imports of causing the loss of 350,000 manufacturing jobs in the country, the majority of which are in the textile sector.

Wagner (2013) states that several Nigerians have expressed disapproval of the "slave-like" working conditions in Chinese-run industries located throughout the country. When a Chinese-owned factory caught fire in 2002 and 37 Nigerian workers perished inside, attention was initially drawn to these conditions. The trade unions in Nigeria have also expressed dissatisfaction over the increase in Chinese imports, claiming that over 350,000 manufacturing jobs had been lost, mostly in the textile industry. Considering that many Chinese products enter Nigeria through its porous borders, he claims that a large portion of the bilateral commerce is likewise "off the record". This makes Nigeria's already troubling level of corruption worse. According to the statements made by John, Egbula, Zheng, and Wagner, the textile industry has lost around 350,000 manufacturing jobs due to Chinese imports alone. Put another way, Wagner claims that inhumane treatment is a contributing factor to the industry's rising unemployment rate. Their statement, though, might come under fire for not being more precise about the time frame in which it happened. It would have been more scientific to evaluate this study if they had taken that action.

Furthermore, Alden (2007) noted that "African textile and clothing manufacturers, the backbone of employment for many economies, shed jobs by the tens of thousands when faced with cheaper Chinese-produced imports." For many observers, it was just a fresh take on an old tale in Africa: a foreign force stole its riches to enrich a few extraordinarily wealthy leaders at the expense of the rest of the continent, leaving

ordinary Africans with nothing but a barren legacy. According to Malone (2008), "China, in its desperate attempt, has found Africa as a new market and perfect destination to sell its cheap and shoddy products." This is because many countries on the continent have weak or nonexistent health and safety standards and procedures.

This singular development has led to the closure of many textile firms in the region and the industry experiencing a high unemployment rate in recent times." According to Taylor (2007), the "flooding" of Nigerian markets with low-cost Chinese goods has turned into a contentious political issue because, when paired with the importation of used European goods, it has hurt domestic industries, particularly the textile sector, which has resulted in the closure of 65 textile mills and the layoff of 150,000 textile workers over ten years. The writers concluded that prolonged exposure to Chinese imports causes local labor market wage declines, decreased labor force participation, and increased unemployment. In other words, the Chinese have been successful in raising unemployment, especially in Nigeria.

Alternatively, Taylor (2007) states in his conclusion that "China has long faced criticism for hiring its labor, a move that has led to a rise in the Chinese population in Nigeria. Chinese businesses use their employees to operate. They import laborers from China to work in well-established businesses, overseeing and managing the few local employees who are engaged. In these industries and firms that have replaced local businesses, Chinese workers predominate the labor market, even if some Chinese businesses do hire local laborers. "Chinese companies are known for their preference to hire employees from outside their own country... local content is meaningless to Chinese-owned businesses." Taylor's opinion is accurate because it is documented that the majority of Chinese citizens in Nigeria do not possess a visa to work in the country. The uneven character of this work, however, is absent because it doesn't address how Nigerians will profit from having Chinese businesses that solely employ foreign workers to complete tasks that natives of Nigeria are expected to complete.

As you can see from the above, a lot of academics and pundits have studied China-Nigeria economic ties and the decline in unemployment in the textile sector, but not enough has been done to highlight how these linkages have addressed the issue of unemployment in the Nigerian textile sector, with just a small number of these scholarly contributions being continued through 2017. We therefore hope to use our findings to close this gap in the literature.

#### *4.1 China-Nigeria Economic Relations and the Development of Textile Material Export Market Channels*

Akinrinade and Olukoya's 2008 study is titled *Globalisation and De-Industrialization: South-South Neo-Liberalism and the Collapse of the Nigerian Textile Industry*. The paper examined how Nigeria's textile industry was impacted by globalisation, utilising China's devastating export competitiveness as an example.

The research method used in the study was qualitative. According to the report, there has been a remarkable increase in Chinese textile trade with Nigeria. Consequently, China has been pursuing a policy of de-industrialization of the Nigerian state about the Nigerian textile industry. Furthermore, although Chinese investments in infrastructure development may be essential to Nigeria's socioeconomic progress, the imbalanced trade relationship has made Nigeria a repository hub of commerce between them. Nigeria's textile industry has suffered greatly, and the growth of indigenous businesses in the country has been hindered by its use as a landfill for Chinese textile goods that are of lower quality. To curb the flow of textiles and other items into Nigeria, the report suggested, among other things, that the Nigerian government implement reciprocal actions against China. The suggestion was made that Nigeria's foreign relations, having progressed from cultural ties to intense economic penetration of the Nigerian economy, should become acutely aware of the reciprocal need to transform this intense relationship into a mutually constructive one that is towards the promotion of a more symmetrical relationship that promotes economic development. The Growth of Textile Material Export Market Channels and the Economic Relations between China and Nigeria

A study on the economic relations between Nigeria and China was conducted by Udeala (2013) as part of the South-South Cooperation. Dependency theory and qualitative research methodology were used in this study. Some of the study's conclusions include the fact that the South-South relationship's pattern is still asymmetrical and that disparities truly explain the stark differences between the two countries' levels of development and the results of their bilateral trade.

Globalization and De-Industrialization: South-South Neo-Liberalism and the Collapse of the Nigerian Textile Industry is the title of a 2008 paper by Akinrinade and Olukoya. The study looked at how globalization affected Nigeria's textile business, using China's exterminatory export competitiveness as an example. The research method used in the study was qualitative. According to the report, there has been a remarkable increase in Chinese textile trade with Nigeria. Consequently, China has been pursuing a policy of de-industrialization of the Nigerian state about the Nigerian textile industry. Furthermore, even though Chinese investments in the development of infrastructure may be essential to Nigeria's socioeconomic progress, the unbalanced trade relations that have made Nigeria a warehouse for inferior and subpar textile products have severely damaged the country's textile sector and stunted the growth of indigenous businesses in Nigeria. The research suggested, among other things, that the Nigerian government implement reciprocal measures against China to stop the influx of products, including textiles, into Nigeria.

Comparably, Udeala (2013) conducted research on the economic ties between China and Nigeria as part of the South-South Cooperation. Dependency theory and the qualitative research method were used in the study. The study's conclusions include, among other things, that the South-South relationship's observable pattern is still

asymmetrical and that disparities genuinely explain the stark differences between the two nations' levels of development and the outcomes of their bilateral trade; as a result, China appears to be gaining the upper hand in relations with Nigeria. It was advised that Nigeria's international relations should become acutely aware of the reciprocal need to transform this intense relationship into a mutually constructive one that is towards the promotion of mutual understanding as the bilateral relations have advanced from cultural linkages to intense economic penetration of the Nigerian economy.

#### *4.2 Nigerian Industry Unemployment Reduction and China-Nigeria Economic Relations*

A study titled "Impact of Foreign Trade and Investment on Nigeria's Textile Industry: The Case of China" was conducted in 2012 by Eneji, Iwanyanwu, Drenkat, and Shi Li. It used a hybrid methodology that combined qualitative and quantitative techniques, gathering data through surveys and documentaries. Dependency theory was used as the study's theoretical foundation. According to the report, Nigeria and most African governments only export raw materials, meaning they continue to be politically and economically vulnerable in their interactions with other nations. Therefore, the study suggests that Nigeria should diversify its local production of some currently imported goods (textile items) to reduce its reliance on imports and increase private investment in Nigeria's textile sector which may place her in competition globally.

Ayoola (2013) conducted a study on the impact of trade relations between Nigeria and China on the country's domestic economy. Descriptive research design served as the study's foundation. Data were gathered from primary and secondary sources, and quantitative data analysis techniques were used. Dependency theory was used by the study as its analytic framework. The study's conclusions include the following: Nigeria stands to benefit from China's manufacturing know-how and growth model, although there is a trade imbalance favoring China. To address the imbalance and increase employment opportunities for Nigerians, the report suggested that the government of Nigeria support large-scale direct investment and the establishment of manufacturing facilities in Nigeria by Chinese companies, as opposed to trading relations.

#### *4.3 Conceptual Structure*

Developed nations realized that building a stable base via economic efficiency and technological growth was more important for attaining true power than possessing sophisticated weaponry and sizable military installations. Rana (2015) noted that, as a result, nation-states realized in the post-Cold War era that attaining true power required more than just using force; rather, it required safe economic and technical development. The reason for the economic linkages between China and Nigeria is that there is no evidence of an economic island nation today—all nations rely on one another to exist. Therefore, in our research, we make effective use of complex interdependence

theory as an analytical tool. Keohane and Nye (1977) introduced the complex interdependence theory in international relations as a critique of political realism.

It contends that states' economies are intrinsically linked to one another and that Richard Cooper's contributions popularized the idea of economic interdependence.

The fact that the concept of "Complex Interdependence" combines two opposing viewpoints—power politics and economic liberalism—is one of its most important features. It weighs the advantages and disadvantages of an interdependent relationship. It is impossible to discount the prospect of worldwide armed confrontations in the age of "Complex Interdependence," despite growing ecological and economic interdependence (Keohane & Nye, 1977). As a result, we use complex interdependence theory as a useful analytical tool in our research. Keohane and Nye (1977) introduced the complex interdependence theory in international relations as a critique of political realism. It argues that the notion of economic interdependence was made popular by Richard Cooper's contributions and that states' economies are inextricably linked to one another.

The fact that the concept of "Complex Interdependence" combines two opposing viewpoints—power politics and economic liberalism—is one of its most important features. It weighs the advantages and disadvantages of an interdependent relationship. It is impossible to discount the prospect of worldwide armed confrontations in the age of "Complex Interdependence," despite growing ecological and economic interdependence (Keohane & Nye, 1977). But under "Complex Interdependence," as opposed to traditional power politics, this might not be a zero-sum game. Even in cases where there are significant net benefits, rivalry is a part of the politics of economic and ecological interdependence. Theorists acknowledged that while the use of military force and power balance is declining but still plays a significant role, the multiplicity and complexity of transnational links and interdependencies between nations and civilizations were growing. Keohane and Nye (1997) employed the notion of interdependence to analyze the function of power in politics and relations between international players, while also distinguishing between interdependence and dependence.

Based on the investigation, Keohane and Nye (1977) identified three primary traits of complex interdependence in their book "Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition":

- Multiple Channels: the utilization of several avenues for communication across societies in transstate, transnational, and transgovernmental contexts.
- Lack of Hierarchy Among topics: There is no hierarchy of topics with shifting agendas or connections between concerns that are given priority.
- Mild Role of Military Force: This results in a decrease in the application of force and the military in interactions between sovereign states.

Accordingly, complex interdependence is predicated on particular traits that examine the implicit and explicit presumptions of conventional international politics;



these traits include the state's superiority and a hierarchy of problems involving military force and power, which is the most significant advantage in international relations and conventionally characterizes political realism in Political Science. States should be more willing to work together if they perceive a decline in the use of military force as a tool for enforcing policy and a rise in economic and other forms of interdependence, according to Nye and Keohane (1977). The work of theorists began to emerge in the 1970s, opposing political realist theory in the field of international politics and establishing the foundation for modern perspectives that can be classified as liberal, neo-liberal, or liberal institutionalism.

Traditional critiques of liberalism and political realism are often characterized in tandem since they both minimise the social aspect of international society and the social nature of relations between nations. The importance of this concept for understanding the development of the Nigerian textile industry and the economic relations between China and Nigeria cannot be overstated or underestimated. States should be more willing to work together if they perceive a decline in the use of military force as a tool for enforcing policy and a rise in economic and other forms of interdependence, according to Nye and Keohane (1977).

The work of theorists began to emerge in the 1970s, opposing political realist theory in the field of international politics and establishing the foundation for modern perspectives that can be classified as liberal, neo-liberal, or liberal institutionalism. Traditional critiques of liberalism and political realism are often characterized in tandem since they both minimise the social aspect of international society and the social nature of relations between nations. The importance of this concept for understanding the development of the Nigerian textile industry and the economic relations between China and Nigeria cannot be overstated or underestimated. The theory would assist us in refuting popular opinion and the incorrect application of dependence theory to the study of international relations.

Furthermore, the theory applies to explaining the modern world, in which no nation can exist as an island unto itself because no nation is endowed with all the resources necessary for self-sufficiency by nature; therefore, nations must interact with one another to survive. This theory's primary contribution is to draw attention to how interdependent nations are—to the point that no nation can make decisions fully on behalf of another. However, this does not change the fact that there will always be winners and losers in relationships. As a result, the theory acknowledges and illustrates the existence of unequal benefits from economic interactions between two or more participating countries.

#### *4.4 Utilizing the Theory*

The economic relations between Nigeria and China, which were purportedly founded on symbiotic relationships, can be understood in the context of complex interdependence

theory. As we have observed, these relations arise from the fact that neither nation fully controls the means of subsistence. Thus, according to Aja (1998), the reality of the global economic system is still a mix of affluent and poor countries, as well as dependent and interdependent relationships. Nigeria and China must therefore become mutually dependent in some way to secure resources that are unevenly distributed by nature. The theory is relevant as an analytical tool for this study since it would highlight the prominent issues in economic relations. According to the complex interdependent hypothesis, entangled interactions and collaboration between or among nations through a variety of channels, including governmental institutions, agencies, and multinational and national enterprises, characterize today's international society. These have strengthened cross-border economic, political, social, and cultural ties between states, strengthening interstate relations. The globe has been methodically reconstructed by this phase of international interaction, which has broken down boundaries in several domains, including politics, commerce, communication, and culture. The nature of the economic ties between Nigeria and China, which have been fostered not just by the respective governments but also by many businesses and organizations, reflects this eminently.

The study's primary application of this theory is that, given that China benefits from favorable economic relations relative to Nigeria, the latter must address the imbalance through renegotiation, the implementation of new policy frameworks, and the enhancement of its productive potential. Thus, this theory would aid in our understanding of the following:

- No nation is unproductive;
- No nation can effectively create practically all of the commodities and services required by man;
- It is more cost effective and efficient for multiple nations to create various goods and commodities that they can all produce quickly and with little input; and
- No nation is economically completely autonomous or dependent on another;

China does think that investing in Nigeria will increase its political and economic hegemony internationally, while Nigeria's succeeding political leadership feels that Chinese investment will boost the country's productive sector. However, because the economy is still stagnant, not much has been observed in this direction. Economic relations between these two nations have once again resulted in a one-sided gain as trade terms continue to favor China. Nigeria's manufacturing and industrial sectors have not yet developed as a result of the cheap and low-quality Chinese goods that are dumped into the country's market, with far-reaching effects on industrial decline, unemployment in the textile industry, and economic growth. In light of this, it is determined that the theory of complex interdependence is appropriate for analyzing the economic ties between China and Nigeria between 2006 and 2017.

It is evident from the body of research on the growth of the Nigerian textile

industry and the economic links between Nigeria and China that experts have only looked at the advantages of these relationships. Economic relations between these two nations have once again resulted in a one-sided gain as trade terms continue to favor China. Nigeria's manufacturing and industrial sectors have not yet developed as a result of the cheap and low-quality Chinese goods that are dumped into the country's market, with far-reaching effects on industrial decline, unemployment in the textile industry, and economic growth. In light of this, it is determined that the theory of complex interdependence is appropriate for analyzing the economic ties between China and Nigeria between 2006 and 2017. The literature that is currently available on the economic relations between Nigeria and China, as well as the growth of the Nigerian textile industry, indicates that scholars have primarily concentrated on the advantages of these relations rather than addressing the fundamental questions of determining the empirical policy of de-industrialization that result from these relationships and other important issues. Furthermore, the studied literature demonstrated that trade relations have made Nigeria a dumping ground, but it did not specify the degree to which Chinese textile material exports have impacted the industry's functionality during the study period. Additionally, the literature was unable to demonstrate how the relationships had lowered the unemployment rate in Nigeria's textile sector. Moreover, the literature failed to accurately depict the chronology of the time.

#### 4.5 Techniques

In this study, the non-experimental design was used. It was the nature study that led to the adoption of this design. The study's foundation was secondary data, for which non-statistical research methods like non-experimental research can only be used to prove reliability and validity. Consequently, by applying content analysis methods. China and Nigeria were covered in the study. The majority of the data used in this study came from secondary sources. This includes important journal articles, books, periodicals, and online resources for the topic. These documents' contents were carefully studied, examined, and analyzed to collect pertinent data for our investigation. Both content analysis and narrative analysis were used to analyze this study.

### 5. Results

Nigerian Textile Industry Growth and the Economic Relations between Nigeria and China To support their internal and economic structures, governments look for partners and favorable investment climates on the international scene. This is done to maintain the integrity of their territories and advance national wealth. It engages in cooperation and bilateral connections to foster friendship and advance goals that benefit both parties to establish a favorable economic, political, social, and cultural environment for the survival of its people and state (Zoaka, 2016). Therefore, Orji and Ofori (2014) argue that

the increased visibility of Chinese investment in Nigeria has garnered public attention and scrutiny, prompting inquiries about whether cooperation with the Asian behemoth is worthwhile to Nigeria. The present study's conclusions align with the argument made by Kaplinsky (2008), who suggests that China's swift development and increasing global influence pose a significant threat to the conventional understanding of industrialization as a fundamental element of development strategy. Furthermore, difficulties are conveyed through a mix of direct consequences (manifesting in bilateral relations between nations) and indirect consequences (mirrored in rivalry in markets of third countries).

These effects primarily hinder SSA's industrial expansion under the current frameworks, as demonstrated by the country's recent experience with apparel exports to the US under AGOA. Nigeria can no longer claim to be a center for textile production because all but 25 of its textile mills have closed, and the majority of them now operate at less than 40% of capacity. Nigeria has spent more than \$2 billion a year on imported textiles as a result of the industry's downturn, which primarily began in 2003. Nigeria's textile industry grew by 67% annually between 1985 and 1991, employing over 25% of the country's manufacturing workforce. Sadly, however, this once-loved national cash cow is currently in danger of collapsing due to a multitude of problems. The majority of industry participants blame various factors for the sector's fluctuations in performance, including the entry of less expensive fabrics from China and India, unfavorable economic policies, public perception, ineffective marketing tactics, smuggling of textile goods, limited financing options, energy issues, and other technological and infrastructural issues. The country's 1995 admission to the World Trade Organization (WTO) is another significant issue linked to the declining sector. This participation has harmed the sale of locally manufactured textiles since it was unable to withstand foreign competition (Temitope, 2017). According to Sanni (2012), these factors include the lack of domestic production of fundamental textile materials and tools, reliance on foreign specialists, importation of textile materials, high costs for energy, water, chemicals, and dyes, and target users' affordability of the finished goods. Other factors contributing to Nigeria's textile issues include government laxity over textile imports, insufficient legislation safeguarding copyright, and simulations.

Furthermore, Aliyu et al. (2013) noted that the Nigerian textile industry's prospects for growth were identified as being highly capital-intensive, technologically sophisticated, and infrastructure-dependent (particularly about the necessity of dependable sources of water and electricity). The challenges faced by textile companies, however, range from inadequate protection—exemplified by the existence of illicit goods in our markets—to the high cost of foreign exchange, a lack of institutional capacity to stop smuggling through effective border and part of surveillance, rising money market funding costs, and a minimum wage structure that was enacted and increased labor costs. Poor quality cotton produced locally causes us to buy higher-quality cotton at a higher cost from neighboring nations like Cameroon and Chad, and

several taxing schemes stifle investment efforts. The textile industry has been severely affected by imports, which has caused it to regress. The industry is not in a suitable shape right now. The challenges of competitiveness have resulted in the closure of numerous textile businesses (Ruan and Zhang, 2014).

Muhammad (2017) shares the opinion that inexpensive textile imports from China are primarily to blame for the textile industry's steady downturn in Nigeria. China has emerged as the world's top exporter of clothes and manufactured textiles since the mid-1990s. The drop in Nigeria's textile manufacturing sector is linked to the country's rising imports of Chinese textiles.

Muhammad et al. (2017) claim that as Nigeria's textile sector grew more intricately linked to the smuggling of low-cost Chinese goods into its markets, as well as more thoroughly integrated into the global market, the mass production and export capacities of the local industry rapidly fell. The resultant factors were low installed and actual efficiency, high manufacturing costs and selling prices, and a steadily declining output, capacity utilization, and labour strength.

The industry's ability to compete is still being weakened by these detrimental conditions. Right now, the industry is on the verge of collapse. For many years, the textile industry has been declining (Osobu, 2014).

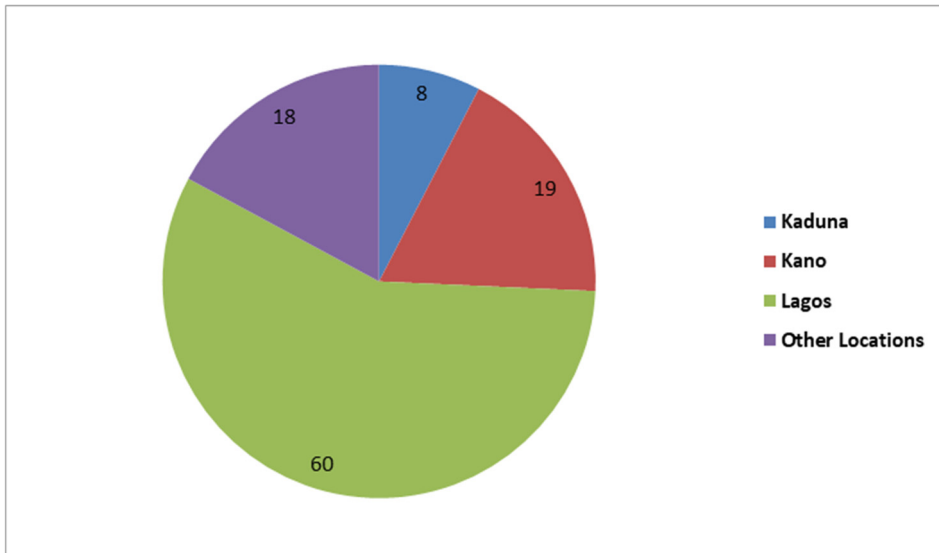
**Table 1:** Growth and Decline of the Nigerian Textile Industry

Years Estimated	Number of Textile Industries in Nigeria
1992 -1995	124
1996 – 1999	112
2000 – 2003	60
2004 – 2017	45
2008 – 2011	40
2011 – 2015	33

**Source:** Ahmed, 2014.

Based on the following table, Nigeria's commercial ties with China have caused the demise of roughly ninety-one textile industries. Nigeria had 124 industries total for textiles between 1992 and 1995. This number then dropped to 112 between 1996 and 1999, then to 60 between 2000 and 2003, then to 45 between 2004 and 2007, then to 40 between 2008 and 2011, and finally to 33 between 2012 and 2015. Based on data from the table, Nigeria's textile industries lost almost ninety-one percent of their output between 1992 and 2015 as a result of pressure from Chinese imports.

Manufacturing in Africa was in decline, whereas China and other growing Asian economies were experiencing increases in industrial production. This combination foisted the structural rigidity that has become the key feature of African economies (Orya, 2015).



**Figure 1:** Sectoral Spread of Location and Numbers of Closed Textile Industry in Nigeria  
**Source:** Ayinde, et al (2016), modified by Author

According to the sector-wise distribution of locations and closed textile industries in Nigeria, Kaduna state has eight closed textile industries, Kano has nineteen, Lagos has sixty closed textile industries, and other states have eighteen closed textile industries. It is crucial to note that Nigeria is currently dealing with a new aspect of the textile sector closure situation. Figure 1's pictorial representation makes it plain how many textile projects in Nigeria have failed, with Lagos having the highest number at 60, Kano coming in second at 19, others at 18, and Kaduna at the bottom with 8. By forcing Nigeria into the World Trade Organization, or WTO, when the nation's industrial foundation was still developing, the government committed a grave error. The WTO eliminated all textile and apparel limits among its member nations when it approved the Agreements on Textile and Clothing in 1995. China ended up being the primary gainer from the policy. As of then, the value of the world's textile market exceeded \$400 billion.

China Customs, however, states that the country's exports of clothing and textiles alone were \$206.5 billion in 2010. Among those that suffered were Nigerian textiles, mostly as a result of China's inexpensive exports. Moreover, only around 20% of Nigeria's textile output was sold on the domestic market; the remaining 80% was imported. Unfortunately, this business, which brings in more than \$1.3 billion annually for the country, has been neglected for a long time (Nze, 2012).

It is clear from the presentations above that Nigeria's textile industry has not grown as a result of commercial ties with China; rather, many of the textile industries that were in existence before 2006 have since closed.

### *5.1 Nigeria-China Economic Relations and the Development of Export Markets for Textile Materials from Nigeria*

The growing interconnection of the global economy has been one of the most noticeable phenomena in recent years. Globalization has been fueled by several factors, such as the global quest for markets and technological advancements in production, communication, and transportation. These advancements have made it possible for foreign businesspeople and investors to locate offices and factories across several nations to benefit from varying production costs. Thus a garment may be designed in New York, manufactured in Australia using fabric that was spread and cut in Hong Kong, put together in China, and then sold in Germany. The manufacturing of textiles and clothing has increased significantly in less-developed countries (LDCs) including China, Mexico, and Indonesia in recent years due to these and other factors. Over the previous three decades, industrialized countries have lost over half of their apparel industry's entire productive capacity to least developed countries (LDCs), according to the U.S. International Trade Commission (Mittelhauser, 2005). China, which is the world's top exporter of apparel and ranks second in terms of textiles, is especially significant in this worldwide issue. It was anticipated in the 1980s that industrial economies would not be able to support China's ongoing increase in exports of apparel and textiles Whalley (1992). According to Vines et al. (2009), Chinese companies will soon have easier access to Nigerian markets and more affordable ways, which will ultimately result in an unparalleled flood of Made-in-China goods into the nation. China's textile and apparel exports surged eightfold in the fourteen years between 1980 and 1994.

However, due to sharp rises in local costs, China's exports of apparel and textiles are nearing their peak and are starting to transition from labor- and labor-intensive goods to more capital- and technology-intensive ones (Garnaut, 1996). Therefore, Mohan et al. (2014) and Zeleza (2014) noted that the growing domination of Chinese-made items in local marketplaces is evidence of the economic impact of globalization in Africa, specifically in Nigeria. The significant changes in the global political economy of the twenty-first century include the sharp expansion of ties between China and Africa. It has been met with confusion, dismay, and delight. Furthermore, according to Vines et al. (2009), the Nigerian textile industry faces challenges from abusive transfer pricing, erratic investment flows, the transfer of technologies and activities that pollute the environment, and excessive influence over economic matters. These issues may hurt local producers' capacity for innovation and industrial development. While Nigerian exports to China primarily consist of crude oil, Chinese exports are primarily made up of manufactured items including machinery, communications equipment, industrial equipment, textiles, etc. Numerous indigenous Nigerian businesses have closed their doors as a result of being unable to maintain their competitiveness in the face of an influx of low-cost Chinese items that have negatively impacted the country's market (Obiorah et al., 2008). Opaluwa et al. (2010), however, note that the textile industry is

becoming more and more reliant on the outside world for the import of non-labor input. This has been the unavoidable result of a faulty incentive structure that slowed the expansion of regional resource-based sectors while accelerating the rise of import-intensive consumer products and light assembly industries, which contribute very little value added beneath high protective walls. During the time, the percentage of manufacturing output that consisted of food and textile products decreased from 51% in 1973/74 to 36% in 1977/78, whilst the percentage of durable goods with little value added increased from 7% to 19%. In the durable goods subsector alone, the proportion of low-value transport equipment increased from approximately 0.1 percent to 11% over 1971–1977–1978. In the end, this led to the 1970s manufacturing sector being more dependent on imports. As a result, the productivity of Nigerian industry is weakened. Nigerian textile exports to the West African Sub-region and even Europe have been significantly impacted by globalization and economic liberalization because the sector cannot compete favorably with low-cost goods coming from Southeast Asia (Chiahemen, 2006).

According to Crusoe (2013), in the early 2000s, cheap imitations of high-quality wax-resist textiles, known as Ankara in Nigeria, were being produced and exported from China to West Africa. Some of these products were even given Nigerian-made labels before being sold in Nigeria. Nigeria and China's trade volume has increased as a result of China's textile export policies (Chima, 2013). Nigeria does not rank among the top 10 exporters of textiles worldwide; as a result, they solely purchase textiles from China or acquire those that China exports. This graph displays the value of the top exporters globally in 2016 broken down by nation. With a value of over 106 billion US dollars, China was the largest exporter of textiles worldwide. China, however, is the world's biggest producer and exporter of textiles. The Chinese textile sector has grown significantly over the past 20 years, becoming one of the key drivers of the national economy. Among the most popular exports from China are textile articles, textile yarns, apparel accessories, and clothes. With textile exports worth just over 110 billion US dollars in 2014, China has a 35.6% market share in the world. Reduced commercial barriers, easily accessible material sources, cheap labor costs, and a huge labor pool are just a few of the competitive advantages the country offers the garment manufacturing business. China produced 90 billion metres of textile in 2014 alone, and 6.5 million metric tonnes of cotton in 2014–2015, in terms of raw materials. Visit <https://www.statista.cmm> to obtain statistics.

Oti (2016) claims that China's textile industry has a greater impact, employing over 10 million people through more than 100,000 firms. The industry's worth of garment exports is projected to have been around \$153.219 billion as of 2013, accounting for roughly 47% of the nation's GDP. China is the world's largest producer, exporter, and consumer of clothing, accounting for 38% of the global garment market. Because domestic industrial investment is ongoing, the Chinese textile sector maintains its competitiveness.



Since importation is the traders' only source of income, they are unable to stop it at the same time. Even if imports increase competition in the market, they also replenish the resources that aren't readily available for domestic manufacturing. According to Lall and Albaladejo (2004), China's success in the global textile trade has advanced the textile sector. China is currently one of the top exporters of textiles. For this reason, Mbeki (2004) stated that "selfish intentions do not compel the Chinese foreign trade policies." Therefore, considering the variety of trading partners, China may not always have a beneficial economic impact on the economies of those trading partners.

The foundation of China-African ties is economic investment and marketing techniques, particularly in the manufacturing sector (which is labor-intensive and export-oriented). Nigeria imports most industrial items from China, whereas its key commodity exports to China are mostly agricultural products. It appears that over time, there have been some significant changes to the composition of trade among these commodity categories. Nevertheless, the development of the two countries' political and commercial ties has resulted in a significant increase in Chinese imports, largely driven by the need to maintain economic growth and meet the demands of the market (Nkwede, 2015). Nigeria's apparel and textile industries are in peril due to cheap, low-quality Chinese textiles and an influx of second-hand clothing that is smuggled in. Due to the circumstances, numerous textile factories have closed, resulting in widespread unemployment and the incapacity of the few remaining sectors to compete favorably based on pricing (Adetoun, 2009). Nigeria is the second-ranked exporter in Africa, after South Africa (2.3), according to China's top trading partners in the continent.

Unfortunately, Nigeria is not included in the table of nations that China imports the most goods from Africa, despite being one of the key trading partners. It demonstrates China's willingness to export textiles and other items to Nigeria but reluctance to purchase from Nigeria.

However, it was aptly stated by Meyer et al. (1977), Friedland et al. (1991), Djelic et al. (2004), and Kraatz et al. (2008) that Chinese products are viewed as competitive in the market because they are significantly more affordable for the average person than those produced locally, which displaces innovation. Since importation is the traders' only source of income, they are unable to stop it at the same time. Even if imports increase competition in the market, they also replenish the resources that aren't readily available for domestic manufacturing. According to Lall and Albaladejo (2004), China's success in the global textile trade has advanced the textile sector. China is currently one of the top exporters of textiles. For this reason, Mbeki (2004) stated that "selfish intentions do not compel the Chinese foreign trade policies." Therefore, considering the variety of trading partners, China may not always have a beneficial economic impact on the economies of those trading partners. The foundation of China-African ties is economic investment and marketing techniques, particularly in the manufacturing sector (which is labor-intensive and export-oriented). Nigeria imports most industrial items from China, whereas its key commodity exports to China are mostly agricultural products. It appears that over time,

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## *5.2 Nigeria-China Economic Relations and Employment Reduction in Nigeria's Textile Sector*

The ups and downs of Nigeria's textile sector are indicative of the nation's economic performance. When the sector peaked in the 1980s, there were 175 ginning and textile enterprises, employing around 320,000 people. By 2015, however, just 34 ginning and textile facilities remained in operation, and even those were only operating at subpar levels, employing roughly 20,000 people. There are just two operational textile mills in Kaduna town, the former center of the textile industry, both of which are running at a reduced capacity and employing less than 1,500 people (Ayinde, et al., 2016). According to Efe (2012), the textile industry used to be the largest employer of labor in Nigeria. At the same time, the business brought in \$8.95 billion annually, or an average of 25% of the GDP of the sector, which went toward paying for at least 10% of corporate income taxes. With a \$4 billion fixed investment, Nigeria ranked second only to South Africa in Sub-Saharan Africa. It also accounted for 63% of West Africa's textile manufacturing capacity and 60% of the country's textile market. Over 800,000 people were employed by 175 fully operational textile mills in the subsector during that same time frame. According to Efe (2012), at one point in time, Nigeria had \$4 billion in textile fixed investment, second only to South Africa in Sub-. Records show that the industry's capacity utilization shrank to 20.14 percent in 2010 from 50.75 percent in 2003, and many of the textile industries that are still in existence are on the verge of going extinct. In addition, there were roughly 25 textile and apparel factories in 2008, down from 175 in the middle of the 1990s.

Muhammad (2011) notes, however, that the closing of three textile plants earlier resulted in the loss of employment for roughly 2,500 textile workers. With the collapse of First Spinners Limited, Reliance Textile Industry, International Textile Industry in Isolo, and its processing plant in Ikorodu, the total jumped to thirty-eight. The demise of some

of the traditional large industries as a result of manufacturing closures, layoffs, resignations, and dismissals accounted for the majority of employment losses. Due to the shutdown of two significant plants in Kaduna and Lagos, the losses reached their peak in 2007 with a total of 5,515 losses. 2,644 jobs were lost in 2004. Losses increased to 3,496 workers in 2006 and 4,990 in 2005. There were about 30,000 indirect job losses, including those of traders, suppliers, cotton growers, and other temporary employees. The Nation Online, ng.net. Operating below-installed capacity are the current factories, which have since been reducing employment due to their incapacity to handle the high cost of production ([www.thenationonlineng.net](http://www.thenationonlineng.net)).

The demise of some of the traditional large industries as a result of manufacturing closures, layoffs, resignations, and dismissals accounted for the majority of employment losses. Due to the shutdown of two significant plants in Kaduna and Lagos, the losses reached their peak in 2007 with a total of 5,515 losses. 2,644 jobs were lost in 2004. Losses increased to 3,496 workers in 2006 and 4,990 in 2005. There were about 30,000 indirect job losses, including those of traders, suppliers, cotton growers, and other temporary employees. The Nation Online, ng.net. Operating below-installed capacity are the current factories, which have since been reducing employment due to their incapacity to handle the high cost of production ([www.thenationonlineng.net](http://www.thenationonlineng.net)). According to Bugaje et al. (2008), 90% of the textile sector in Nigeria had closed by 2008. This is a fitting statement given the number of shuttered textile enterprises in 2008. It is believed that fewer than 20% of capacity is being used, with 10 enterprises employing only 18,000 of the 250,000 workers that were previously employed. The China factor has primarily resulted in the loss of livelihood for almost 2 million Nigerians whose occupations were associated with the textile industry, including traders, contractors, cotton farmers, and the dependents of textile workers.

Furthermore, according to Aremu (2015), between 1995 and 2002, roughly 160,000 textile workers lost their jobs, bringing the total workforce down to about 90,000. This number had dropped to a pitiful 35,000 employees in 2005. Out of the approximately 200 textile units that existed in Nigeria in the past, there were less than 40 in 2010. Recent experiences with rising textile imports from China and rising imports from other nations in response to restrictions placed on Chinese imports in 2007 make it abundantly evident that local manufacturers find it difficult to compete with low-cost producers from South and East Asia. As a result, local businesses close their doors, which causes a large loss of jobs (Innocents and Ellen, 2015). According to Busse et al. (2014), the outcomes of Sino-African trade show that imports from China, especially those that are not resources, have a detrimental effect on the economic development of Africa. Based on past experiences, a deceleration in economic growth indicates that the economy is facing financial challenges as a result of businesses striving to increase profits. Because of the widespread dumping of low-cost Chinese goods into domestic markets, the board typically decides to fire employees when businesses are not making enough money to stay in business. The number of functional textile industries has

significantly decreased, and employment in the textile industry has been reducing for decades.

Without a doubt, this circumstance led to a large loss of jobs and a rise in the number of unemployed people (Osobu, 2014). Employment in the textile sector is declining. Eight collapsed textile companies in Kaduna state meant the loss of 18,750 jobs. Kano lost 16,700 as a result of its 19 closed textile factories. Lagos state was next, closing 60 textile factories and losing 66,250 jobs in the process. Lastly, 18 textile industries closed in other areas, losing 19,300 jobs overall. The table displays the number of jobs lost in the Nigerian textile industry, with Lagos state reporting the largest loss of employment. During this time, 105 textile industries collapsed, leading to the loss of 121,000 textile jobs. From the preceding, it is clear that Nigeria's textile industry is currently experiencing unemployment due to an industrial collapse brought on directly by China's competitiveness.

Moreover, Chiahemen (2006) notes that the Nigerian Textile and Clothing Workers Union estimates that over the past five years, 1.5 million jobs have been lost indirectly due to Chinese competition and that most warehouses have been converted into churches because there are no longer any manufactured goods to store. This represents a direct loss of 350,000 jobs due to Chinese competition. Based on a preliminary examination of the fundamental employment performance metrics of the textile industry, up to 60,000 people were engaged in Nigeria's textile sector in 1970. It had 125,000 employees in 1975. It had 168,000 employees in 1980. It had the largest employment (250,000) in 1985. It had 175,233 employees in 1990. It had 139,300 employees in 1995. It had 83,000 workers in 2000. It had 35,000 workers in 2005. It employed 21,000 people in 2010; by 2015, that number had dropped to just 5,000. The table paints an accurate picture of the total number of jobs lost in the sector.

In summary, the National Bureau of Statistics report from 2018 states that Nigeria's unemployment rate rose from 16.20 percent in the second quarter of 2017 to 18.80 percent in the third. Nigeria's unemployment rate hit a record low of 5.10 percent in the fourth quarter of 2010 and an all-time high of 19.70 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009. The rate averaged 10.63 percent from 2006 to 2017. Furthermore, Egbula & Zheng (2011) correctly state that "There is a concerning discrepancy between the number of jobs that Chinese companies offer in Nigeria and the jobs that those companies lose." In some of these businesses, just a small percentage of Nigerians are reemployed. Labor is a significant issue when it comes to employment with Chinese businesses. The labor conditions have been a barrier for the few Nigerians engaged by Chinese enterprises. Labor organizations have voiced concerns about the unfavorable working conditions and low pay in Chinese enterprises.

From the previous presentations, it is clear that Nigeria's commercial relations with China have not led to a decrease in the country's textile industry's unemployment rate; on the contrary, Nigeria's unemployment rate is rising due to Chinese involvement in Nigeria, the majority of the country's significant textile industries that were in existence

before 2006 have vanished, and the first significant action taken by any business facing financial difficulties is to fire employees.

## 6. Summary

This study examined the growth of Nigeria's textile sector and the economic ties between China and Nigeria from 2006 to 2017. However, the focus is mostly on the reasons behind the demise and current state of decline of Nigeria's textile industries, which had employed a large number of Nigerian families. A review, evaluation, and analysis of selected literature was necessary to fully understand the study's findings. After reviewing the literature, it was determined that several factors were at play, including unstable exchange rates, an increase in smuggling, the importation of used clothing, inadequate and inconsistent infrastructure, a sharp increase in production costs, high customs tariffs on raw materials, increases in taxes and levies by different levels of government, an influx of foreign textiles, fabrics, and garments, high funding costs, and unstable government policies inhibit the development of Nigeria's textile sector. In the meanwhile, the study's results generally corroborate the hypothesized research. It was found that:

- The textile industry in Nigeria de-industrialized rather than expanded as a result of the commercial ties between China and Nigeria.
- Chinese textiles and materials connected to them were introduced into the Nigerian market rather than Nigerian textiles through market channels established by the economic ties between China and Nigeria.
- The Nigerian-Chinese relationship did not lower the sector's unemployment rate. Instead, the industry's unemployment rate is startling, and it's getting worse in other Nigerian industries as well. Before China entered the Nigerian economy, textiles were considered the country's "black gold."

The study's main subjects are the growth of Nigeria's textile sector from 2006 to 2017 and the economic relations between Nigeria and China. After analyzing the data gathered for this study, it is clear that the benefits of interdependent economic links are dependent on your ability to control your related partner rather than being granted to every country in the world that desires them. These support the view held by certain international affairs specialists that power is earned and not bestowed by worthy nations worldwide. The results of this study served as the foundation for an empirical conclusion that the economic ties between Nigeria and China have not contributed to the sector's expansion but rather have dangerously deindustrialized the country's textile industry. The influx of Chinese textile materials into the Nigerian market is a result of the country's economic links with China, and Chinese investment in the country's textile sector has increased unemployment in the industry. As a result, although the connection between the two sovereign governments is meant to be mutually reliant, we refer to it as a new strategy for economic exploitation and manipulation of the Nigerian economy

and Africa as a whole.

The following suggestions were given by this study.

- The Nigerian government needs to support domestic manufacturing by providing local textile enterprises with a 90% power cost rebate instead of a 25% duty to the Federal Government of Nigeria.
- Appropriately prohibiting the import of textiles into the nation The Nigerian textile prohibition was unsuccessful because a restriction is a tactic, not an end in itself.
- The Nigerian Senate ought to enact textile protection legislation to foster the country's textile industry's expansion and eventual ability to compete globally. Similar actions were taken by China, the UK, and numerous other nations to safeguard their textile industries.
- To support the textile businesses, the government should promote the mechanized cultivation of cotton plants as a raw resource for fabric manufacturing. This could draw attention to the development of indigenous technologies to support indigenous firms as well as the transformation of raw materials to completed items.
- To prevent a further increase in the import of Chinese textiles, the Nigerian government ought to adopt anti-dumping measures against its ally, China. Local textile manufacturers are being forced out of business by an excessive influx of Chinese textiles into the Nigerian market. A precautionary measure against China would ensure the development of the textile sector in Nigeria.

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