How China influence Cambodia from the past to the present for the case of politics, diplomacy, military and economic relations perspective

Bora Ly

Faculty of Business and Economics, Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia (PUC)

30 May 2018

Online at https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/88060/
MPRA Paper No. 88060, posted 22 July 2018 01:52 UTC
How China influence Cambodia from the past to present for the case of political, diplomacy, military and economic relations perspective

Ly Bora

MPA, Nanyang Technological University

ABSTRACT

The geopolitical, political, economic and cultural aspects of Cambodia and relations between Cambodia and China have made bilateral relations between Cambodia and China the basis of Beijing's foreign policy. This article shows and demonstrates the past and present political and economic relations between the two countries that have entered into diplomatic relations after Cambodia recognized the legitimacy of the PRC in 1958. While developing good relations with China, King Norodom Sihanouk helped soften the depression of China in 1960s, he battled at UN for surrendering of Republic of China (Taiwan). Investment in Cambodia accounted for three times from 1997 to 1998 and expanded by 40% in 1999, making China the big investment by foreigners in Cambodia. China has turned into Cambodia's biggest benefactor for the 2009 spending plan with $ 257 million (US $ 214 million). On the economic front, the volume of exchange amongst Cambodia and China achieved 732 million dollars in 2006. China's unique role in political, economic and military assistance can once again become a dictatorship. Thus, Cambodia does not depend solely on Beijing administration. Cambodia should thrive further the progress of democracy and accountability to attract foreign direct investment from other countries, notably United States, European Union and other Asian countries.
POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC PERSPECTIVE

Date back to the 13th century, while Chinese emissary Zhou Daguan—also known by his Khmer language name Chiv Ta Koan—visited the Kingdom of Angkor for one year, from 1296 to 1297 (Harris & Chandler, 2007).

In the modern phase under the direction of His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk and Mao TseTung, both of Cambodia and China diplomatic relations since 19 July 1958. To further deepen relations, new partnerships between China and Cambodia have made great efforts to strengthen and enhance bilateral relationship and collaboration, which has developed into an extensive strategic cooperation in 2010. Because its inception, Cambodia has strongly advocated the Belt Strategy and the International Cooperation Roadmap (Pressocm.gov.kh, 2017).

According to Cambodian-Chinese Trade and Tourism Promotion Conference in 2017, Prime Minister Hun Sen mentioned about the trade between Cambodia and China has grown quickly, an accounted for 26% of the most recent 10 years. Bilateral trade reached $4.8 billion, exported to China worth $830 million and imported worth $3.9 billion in 2016. It is the largest investors in Cambodia. Overall, China's investment capital is $5.1 billion, mainly in production, construction, textiles and energy. Cambodia has received both grants and loans accounts for 4.2 billion USD as of February 2017 from Official Development Assistance (ODA) as part of developing assistance which focusing on physical infrastructure, agriculture products, health and education. The two countries carry out to enlarge the collaboration on some comprehensive sectors as well as fortifying economic growth through the Belt and Road Initiative Strategy. As a major aspect of this new collaboration structure to advance availability, particularly individuals and individuals,
Cambodia has chosen to construct a Cambodian-Chinese cultural town in Beijing, which will be worked sooner rather than later (Pressocm.gov.kh, 2017). Cambodia have opened an exchanging business center in different areas of China to boost common trade of Cambodian and Chinese as well as advancement for the advantage of brokers and financial specialists. These social and business focuses likewise display Cambodian items, books and other related reports on exchange, tourism, culture and interest in Cambodia. In addition, through the Council, to take full advantage of the comparative advantages of each country and promote investment in industrial development of the two countries and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) on behalf of the PRC has a letter of intent on collaboration signed NBC Industrial Investment Operations on October 15, 2015 in Beijing.

**MILITARY PERSPECTIVE**

With good relations with the king Norodom Sihanouk-ruled Cambodian emperors, China supported the development of the Khmer Rouge guerrillas in Cambodia wilds. From that point forward, China's speculation of Cambodia has been portrayed by a genuine reality. Beijing does not care about those who occupy Cambodia as long as it agrees to help China maintain its key player in the territory. Subsequently the Khmer Rouge took control of Cambodia in 1975; many experts have sent to help Cambodia changing their course due to power influence by China in the country.

Vietnam had been taught a lesson by China in 1979 to push for the intrusion and control of their nation and the Khmer Rouge gained power, even though most Chinese or Sino-Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge were murdered because they were members or people with a good education
(Gottesman 2003 Jeldres, 2003). According to Brown and Zasloff (1998), China launched an invasion of high value 12 miles to destroy infrastructure, but did not make Vietnam withdrew from Cambodia or China-Vietnam conflict resolution through negotiations. Khmer Rouge immobile managed parts of Cambodia-Thai border where the government dominated most of the nationwide after introducing administration of Cambodia by Vietnam. Additionally, China and Thailand, persistently provided rifles to Khmer protection group. China has once again announced that Vietnam must haul out before negotiations begin for a specific goal to address the meeting between the coalitions of the ternary led by King Norodom Sihanouk and Hun Sen (Brown and Zasloff, 1998).

In July 1997, Hun Sen had seizure of power to oust the Norodom Ranaridh and removed the formal relations office of Taiwan because he claimed that Taiwan has firmly supported the forces of typography FUNCINPEC (Marks, 2000). Clearance of the Taiwan office by Hun Sen was opened the door for the initiation of Chinese diplomacy. Afterward in the mid of August, Hun Sen and Ung Huot visited King Norodom Sihanouk at Beijing, the recognition of Cambodia administration began by China accordingly. In the meantime, China conveyed 116 army freight vehicles and 70 vans esteemed at $2.8 million to Cambodia administration (Marks, 2000 & Jeldres, 2003).

China has given military help to Cambodia, for example, military troop hovels, vehicles, hospital's facility, school, emergency vehicle and has given military, police getting ready, and de-mining since the late 1990s. Preliminary training was sent to give 100 Cambodian police officers from China on August 21, 1997, a two-week training course in the investigation and physical security system (Marks, 2000). Welcome to China in 1999 by Chinese Defense Minister Chi
Haotian, Defense Secretary Tea Banh and Sisowath Sirith met with Hu Jintao, Vice President of PRC and chairperson of the unit of the People's Liberation Army Fu Quanyou and was considered the senior authority of China's strong and dynamic foreign policy.

According to Prashanth Parameswaran (2018), Tea Banh, Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Cambodia, confirmed that the Republic of China will be equipped with another military leader. Report cards come as both countries must help their federations in 2018 if they honor their special relationships for 60 years and Cambodia has taken decisions in the near future. The military working environment, but also the railway and the readiness for the Cambodian king are supported in the Chinese military form. The composition particularly have military equipment including rocket structures and tanks, has for quite a while been enduring by explanations of rights violation and shadowy and even unlawful activities (Prashanth Parameswaran 2018).

**ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE**

Economic relations were announced in September 1955, when King Norodom Sihanouk gained independence and instituted a neutral policy of economic support from the United States, France, and China (Jones, 1955). Cambodia's economy has been and continues to be an important topic that has been eroded twice by the end of the decade. In 1975, at the onset of the Khmer Rouge invaded Phnom Penh, collapse of the Soviet Union and end of the colonial era in 1989, which was important for Cambodia in the military conflict of 1960-1990 (Forbes, 2000).

The economy began to grow again in 1991, when it opened to foreign investment (Sloan, 2004). The influence of construction continued and sparked the impact of contraction and incredible forward light on the Chinese economy in the mid of 1995 (Jones, 1955). Mr. Wang Jun, executive
of CITIC, met with Prime Minister Hun Sen in 1999 to explain the area of taxation free area near Sihanoukville (Marks, 2000).

They are obliged to respect the generous offer, for example, to offer clothing to the Cambodian National Basketball Team. To complete China's work in Cambodia, Chinese-Chinese culture is at a high level, from agents to prime ministers. Such support improves both the financial situation and the political situation of the Cambodians and provides more technology through China, which can use money-related instruments that affect the nation. Part of this relationship is an open door to travel and general arrangements, and China's proximity and aptitude is viewed as a career choice for creative employees (Forbes, 2000).

China has also built a strong political tie with Cambodia when it has developed practical and practical tactics in the region. In 2006, the exchange trades accounted for $ 732 million (Lum, 2007). Through finance and politic, Cambodia has received donations and assistance from China, which can increase foreign direct investment in Cambodia (Cambodia 2006).

**CHALLENGING AND PROSPECTING PERSPECTIVE**

Many Cambodians have carefully warned China's support for Pol Pot, saying that they hated the manipulation between neighboring authorities and the lucrative companies and estimates from China that helped the Cambodian economy (Jeldres, 2003).

The global group will turn out to be more awkward while China sustains to lengthen toward the military association with Cambodia (Cambodia, 2006). So far, more and more strong global
financial experts have identified legal issues and are heavily involved in China. Cambodia can be considered China's partner as if China's understanding with the West, especially with the United States or Japan is weak, financial experts can quickly break its partners and China (Cambodia, 2006).

Additionally, the lack of change is a connection for Cambodia. The exchange between Cambodia and China amounted to $732 million a year, while Cambodia did not make huge economic changes with China and about 60% of the market was exported from China, a one spectator showed (Lum, 2007).

The relationship has also expanded to safety in recent years. Since the signing of the co-operation agreement in 2008, in terms of law enforcement, Yunnan provided technical and technical assistance to the National Drug Control Authority in Cambodia in the battle against pill smuggling and chaos on the outskirt, military relations have developed, and Beijing is as of now the biggest military aid supplier in Cambodia (Prashanth, 2013). In May 2012, $17 million consented in soldiers help as well as built a soldiers training hub by both sides in the nation (Xinhua, 2012). Military helicopter patrols and six weeks younger training program have been provided to Cambodian armed forces to clear the mine and routinely signed regular loans for military hardware and training courses by Beijing (Xinhua, 2012).

Culture and interpersonal relationships are strengthening. Bilateral visits are increasingly taking place in both the state and provincial levels. According to statistics from the Ministry of Tourism, 635,000 Chinese tourists visited Cambodia in the first seven months of 2017, 42.7 percent more than in the same period last year. According to Kong Sopheak, Director of Statistics and Planning
Department of the Ministry of Tourism, the close relationship between Cambodia and China, which attracts attractive tourist attractions and direct flights between the two countries, is a key factor in attracting more tourists and business people to Cambodia. Chinese tourists will reach one million in 2017 (Xinhua, 2017).

Despite the rise of Beijing in Cambodia, many restrictions on the relationship that both sides can challenges.

First, it has maintained other relationships to ensure that it does not fall into the Beijing camp while Phnom Penh is clearly blocked by an invisible cord attached to China's aid. For example, US relations in Cambodia were very warm at night, and co-operation continued to be in the fight against terrorism in the preparation of smaller activities and the support of the Sub-Mekong Initiative. Adjusting the differences is a long-term approach for the Khmer leaders, and Hun Sen does not have to give up training because he remembers that China has special interests in Cambodian history and still does not believe in Beijing (Prashanth, 2013).

Second, the Chinese influence in Cambodia is valuable inland. In examining corruption, human rights violations and corruption, the ecosystem of China-backed efforts is progressing gradually, causing problems for Cambodian leaders. Investment project by Erdos Hongjun is the case has been the consideration of common human rights agents and also Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State of US, which removed about four thousand families living close to Boeung Kak Lake (Phnom Penh Post, 2012). In another situation, the Chinese real estate development company Tianjin Union Development Group has reviewed to transform Bopha Shan National Park into a game (Jakarta Globe, 2012). If China's challenge to promote China's achievements in Cambodia
is strong in the coming years, it could lead to tensions in bilateral relations or cooperative perspectives.

Third, the condemnation of the ruling Cambodian People's Party, which won local elections last year, is likely to end its power over power by winning the upcoming election (Asahi Shimbun, 2012). While China has been a prominent place in Cambodia since the 1990s, it was no small part of the regime's sustainability, nor even the unstoppable prime minister.

According to Prashanth, P. (2013), after years of genocide and civil war, some claim that Cambodians are now accepting political democracy and stability but history has sent many cases including in Myanmar that changes take place in different forms. There will be more control over China's crackdown on Cambodia and reduce the satisfaction of other countries in their foreign policy in more democratic environment.

**CONCLUSION:**

The choice of Cambodia lineup is not uncommon, if you look at it from an almost standpoint. The country is not only culturally connected with China, it is also closer to the United States than it is. With the help of China, Cambodia is building roads, bridges and dams; this is undoubtedly positive for the country. There is no additional condition for the increase of China's assistance, however, this can ease the pressure on Western countries and can lead to an increase in human rights violations by the government. Obviously, China has exercised the four means of power to improve relations with Cambodia, which are diplomacy, information, economy and the army.
To achieve strategic economic objectives, Cambodia must seek foreign policy, which means strengthening cooperation with all countries. Countries must continue to see the value of joining the regional unit. Therefore, if Cambodia is not very cautious, we can fall into the trap of superpower competitions.

REFERENCES


