Upstart

How China Became a Great Power

*Appendix: China’s Peacekeeping Operations Missions*

Oriana Skylar Mastro

**Chinese PKO Missions**[[1]](#endnote-1)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **UN Mission and Location** | **Year/s** | **Chinese Peacekeeping Involvement** | **Chinese Economic Interests** |
| Observer Mission in Sierra Leona (UNOMSIL) | 1998-1999 | Military observers |  |
| Mission in Sierra Leona (UNAMSIL) | 1999-2005 | Military observers |  |
| Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) | 2000-2008 | Military observers | Significant Ethiopian construction contracts, including hydroelectric and other power generation |
| Operation in Burundi (ONUB) | 2004-2007 | Military observers |  |
| Organisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) | 1999-2010 | Combat unit — 218 troops  Military observers | Construction contracts, including to China Railway Engineering and Sinohydro, in the hundreds of millions of USD |
| Mission in Sudan (MIS) | 2005-2011 | Military observers | Significant investment by Sinohydro, China Three Gorges, as well the China National Petroleum Corporation |
| Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (UNOCI) | 2004-2017 | Military observers |  |
| Mission in Liberia (UMIL) | 2003-2018 | Engineer unit — 275 troops  Transport unit — 240 troops  Medical unit — 43 troops | Major infrastructure projects, including roads, airports, and oil storage[[2]](#endnote-2)  China-Union Investment Bong Mines company invested 2.6 billion USD in oil and gas drilling |
| Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) | 2007-2020 | Engineer unit — 315 troops  Helicopter unit — 140 troops | Same as Sudan above |
| Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) | 2004-2017 | Police unit — 143 troops | Haiti is one of the few remaining countries with diplomatic ties to the ROC on Taiwan instead of the PRC — China has continuously courted these nations to whittle away at Taiwanese sovereign legitimacy |
| Integrated Mission in Timor Leste (UNMIT) | 2006-2012 | Police unit — 21 troops | China was the first country to recognize Timor Leste’s sovereignty  Allows China to expand influence in Southeast Asia, restrict and encircle Taiwan  Chinese companies have significant oil contracts, including two heavy oil power plants[[3]](#endnote-3) |
| Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) | 1991-present | Military observers | China’s CITIC Construction agreed in 2018 to build a 6 billion USD phosphate production facility, for fertilizers[[4]](#endnote-4) |
| Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) | 2010-present | Engineer unit — 175 troops  Medical unit — 43 troops | Around 5 billion USD investment by China Molybdenum Company in Congolese cobalt and rare earth mineral sector[[5]](#endnote-5)  Important for high tech supply chains, electric vehicle batteries |
| Interim Security Force for Abyei — Sudan (UNISFA) | 2011-present | Military observers | Sudan used to be China’s 6th largest oil source — when South Sudan split, it took 80% of oil reserves |
| Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) | 2011-present | Engineer unit — 275 troops  Transport unit — 100 troops  Medical unit — 60 troops  Infantry battalion — 700 troops | China National Petroleum Corporation has significant investments in South Sudanese oil sector  Also helps protect from conflict spillover into neighboring Belt and Road states which also host significant Chinese investment, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia[[6]](#endnote-6) |
| Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) | 2013-present | Engineer unit — 155 troops  Medical unit — 70 troops  Force protection unit — 170 troops | Significant infrastructure projects including 8 billion USD railway as well as schools, clinics, and bridges  Many previous Chinese investment projects have been destroyed by insurgents[[7]](#endnote-7) |
| Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) | 1964-present | Police unit – 6 troops[[8]](#endnote-8)observers | 2021 announcement of Chinese and Cyprus strategic partnership and joint partners in BRI[[9]](#endnote-9) |
| Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) | 1999-present | Police unit — 18 troops | Attempted bidding on certain power plants and road infrastructure projects — mostly unsuccessful/nonexistent[[10]](#endnote-10) |
| Interim Force in Lebanon (UNFIL) | 1978-present | Engineer unit — 475 troops  Medical unit — 60 troops | Lebanon has a $146 million trade deficit with China[[11]](#endnote-11)  China has also committed 2 billion USD to reconstruction efforts and loans offered for power generation[[12]](#endnote-12) |

1. Bates Gill and Chin-hao Huang, “China’s Expanding Peacekeeping Role: Its Significance and the Policy Implication,” *SIPRI,* February 2009, <https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/files/misc/SIPRIPB0902.pdf>; “China’s Armed Forces: 30 Years of UN Peacekeeping Operations,” *The State Council Information Office of the People’s Republic of China*, September 2020, <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/18/c_139376725.htm>; “China Global Investment Tracker,” *American Enterprise Institute,* 2021, <https://www.aei.org/china-global-investment-tracker/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Ren Yisheng, “The Outcome of China-Liberia Cooperation is Widely Recognized,” *Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the Republic of Liberia,* November 17, 2021, <http://lr.china-embassy.org/eng//sghdhzxxx/202111/t20211117_10449434.htm>. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Andra Soriano, “Is Chinese influence in Timor-Leste cause for concern?” *Australian National University,* March 5, 2019, <https://nsc.crawford.anu.edu.au/department-news/14169/chinese-influence-timor-leste-cause-concern>. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Michael Tanchum and Nerea Alvarez-Ariztegui, “China’s chance to bridge the Algeria-Morocco divide,” *East Asia Forum,* March 12, 2021, <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2021/03/12/chinas-chance-to-bridge-the-algeria-morocco-divide/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Jevans Nyabige, “Why China is making a big play for Congolese cobalt — and other critical minerals,” *South China Morning Post,* August 15, 2021, <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3145065/why-china-making-big-play-congolese-cobalt-and-other-critical>. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Thomas Dyrenforth, “Beijing’s Blue Helmets: What to Make of China’s Role in UN Peacekeeping in Africa,” *Modern War Institute at West Point,* August 19, 2021, <https://mwi.usma.edu/beijings-blue-helmets-what-to-make-of-chinas-role-in-un-peacekeeping-in-africa/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Peter Fabricus, “Mali gives China a reality check,” *Institute for Security Studies,* October 16, 2020, <https://issafrica.org/iss-today/mali-gives-china-a-reality-check>. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. “Troop and Policy Contributors,” *United Nations Peacekeeping*, https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Mordechai Chaziza, “Cyprus: The Next Stop of China’s BRI,” *The Diplomat,* December 22, 2021, <https://thediplomat.com/2021/12/cyprus-the-next-stop-of-chinas-belt-and-road-initiative/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. “Mapping China’s Rise in the Western Balkans: Kosovo,” *Council on Foreign Relations,* <https://ecfr.eu/special/china-balkans/kosovo/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. “China/Lebanon,” *Observatory of Economic Complexity, https://oec.world/en/profile/bilateral-country/chn/partner/lbn#:~:text=In%20December%202021%20the%20top,%2C%20and%20Telephones%20(%24168k).* [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. Mohamed Zreik, “Chinese Geo-strategic Expansion in the Levant: A Case Study of Lebanon,” *Atalyar,* November 25, 2021, <https://atalayar.com/en/content/chinese-geo-strategic-expansion-levant-case-study-lebanon>. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)