

# CURRENT AFRICAN ISSUES

## CHINA, INDIA, RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES

The Scramble for African Oil  
and the Militarization of the Continent

DANIEL VOLMAN

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Since the end of the Cold War, Africa's status in the international geopolitical order has risen dramatically. The continent was once treated as a convenient battlefield in the global rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. Now, the continent's increasing importance as a source of energy supplies and other raw materials, has radically altered the picture. This has led to the growing economic and military involvement of China, India, and other emerging industrial powers in Africa and to the re-emergence of Russia as an economic and military power on the continent. In response the United States has dramatically increased its military presence in Africa and created a new military command – the Africa Command or Africom – to protect what it has defined as its “strategic national interests” in Africa. This has ignited what has come to be known as the “new scramble for Africa” and is transforming the security architecture of Africa.

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