Chinese Investment in Africa: Good or Bad?
Maps show Correlation with GDP, Corruption, & the Human Development Index

Overview
Accusations have been flying that Chinese investment in Africa disregards human rights, supports corrupt regimes, and may further stunt human development on the continent. This project examined the key observations that we can make about China’s $75 billion of direct investments in Africa from 2005-2010.

Analysis
The maps present investment data as yellow bubbles overlaid on the following indicators:
- **Human Development Indicator**: China’s actions are accused of hindering human development (life expectancy, education, and income) in Africa, which is home to the poorest countries in the world.
- **Corruption Index**: Corruption data is based upon such factors as frequency and/or size of bribes in the public and political sectors.
- **GDP**: Many credit China with bringing needed money and (sometimes) jobs to a continent that often suffers for lack of investment.

Conclusions
Will human rights and development be helped or hurt due to China’s greater intervention in Africa? The jury is still out. The correlation between these factors was not clear in this study. Therefore, the final poster design is intended to present the questions that are being asked, and the data that the questions are based upon, and to let viewers draw their own conclusions. The poster is designed to raise awareness of the issue and to encourage people to think critically about the future of international aid and investment given the changing nature of the sector as China becomes a bigger player.

Argument: China’s Investment is Good for Africa
“China has boosted employment in Africa and made basic goods like shoes and radios more affordable.”
“China’s money has paid for countless new schools and hospitals.”
“China is Africa’s biggest trading partner and buys more than one-third of its oil from the continent.”

Argument: Chinese Investment is Bad for Africa
“Hundreds of textile factories across Nigeria collapsed in recent years because they could not compete with cheap Chinese garments.”
“When cases end up in court, witnesses are intimidated.”
“China is seen as hoarding African resources.”

All quotes are from The Economist, April 20th 2011, “The Chinese in Africa: Trying to pull together.”