# INDIA AND AFRICA: BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Asif Siddiqui Africa Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow African Students Association Conference University of Alberta, Feb. 10, 2012

#### OVERVIEW

- Past
  - Distant Past until Indian Independence
  - From Nehru to the End of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Present
  - -Indian-African Relations in the 21st Century
  - -India vs. China in Africa
- Future
  - India and Africa Going Forward

## DISTANT PAST UNTIL INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

- Contacts between India and Africa might predate recorded history
- European colonialism led to more Indians in Africa
- India provided a model to challenge the West on its own terms

## FROM NEHRU TO THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY

- Nehru and Africa
  - Non-Aligned Movement
  - 1962 War between China and India

- Indian Diaspora in Africa
  - Often the middlemen in European colonial economies
  - Still some suspicion today, but ...
  - Mutual self-interest for India and Africa to work together

## INDIAN-AFRICAN RELATIONS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

- Focus Africa Program Lines of Credit (LOC) totalling over USD 750 m (2002-2007)
- India-Africa Partnership Project Triple A Technologies
- Indian government LOC to NEPAD / LOC to Team 9 / Pan-Africa e-Network (with AU)
- India Africa Forum Summits in 2008 and 2011

#### INDIA VS. CHINA IN AFRICA

- India lagged behind China in trade during first decade of 21st century
- If projections hold, gap disappears this year
- Indian merchants have experience with market economy
- New Delhi deals with trading blocs / China prefers bilateral agreements

#### INDIA AND AFRICA GOING FORWARD

- India's economic growth expected to average between 8-10% per year over next two decades (Goldman Sachs)
- Expected to be only major economy growing above 3% per year by 2050
- History, diaspora and economic growth helping India carve out unique position in Africa

### THE FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT

- We gotta were shades!
- Questions?