

Angola and Global Powers

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CONTEXTS

Strategic missteps and
miscalculations

1. Domestic options

- War
- “Centralisms”

2. External choices

- Regional conflicts
- Alliances with the “socialist world”

SOME TRUISMS

1. Foreign relations reflect domestic conditions

- Democracies interact best
with other democracies

- Market economies interact best with market economies

- Nondemocratic regimes
interact best with
nondemocratic regimes

- Planned economies interact better with planned economies

2. Domestic conditions
determine external
perceptions

- War, corruption, poverty, mismanagement, structural violence: generally discouraged in the international community

- Peace, development,
transparency: generally
encouraged in the international
community

U.S.

- Misaligned strategic interests;

- Poor perception of Angola:
i.e., thieves and beggars.

E.U.

- Favorite destination for
Angolan elites and their loot

- Few common strategic interests

China

- Not Angola's preferred long-term strategic partnership

- Underwriter of post-war
“reconstruction” projects

Russia

- Former benefactor

attempting to reassert global

influence

- Angola does not rank high in Russian strategic calculations

FINAL THOUGHTS

1. Domestic factors are the foundation for international relations

2. Successful international relations reflect successful internal relations

3. Angola's internal relations
since independence –
generally not successful

Thank You!!