Chinese Traders in Dakar, Senegal: Clarifying Patterns and Issues of Globalization

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Stereotype: Chinese Migrant
Belief About Migration: The Move to a Stronger Economy
Why migrate to Dakar?
“Barça ba mbarza” (Barcelona or “Paradise”)
Who, What, Where, When?

• Zhejiang Province
  – Epicenter of capitalist development in China

• 2000-2005: ~200 households

• small-scale merchants of Chinese imports
Chinatown: 
“Les Allées du Centenaire”
Commodity Outlet for Chinese Goods
Responses to Chinese traders

Momar Ndao, leader of ASCOSEN (Consumer Protection Association) getting arrested at a protest
Government Ambivalence

- Door open for capital-intensive investments
- Blind eye to regulate informal economy
Conclusions

• “Redefines” → clarifies patterns of globalization
  – Labor vs. trader migration
Shaping the African City, An Important Node of Globalization

- “Northern” versus “Southern” forces
- Reshaping built environment (e.g. “Chinatown”)
- Informal economy and conflicts within
Morality of Globalization

• What are the ethics of selling “cheap” goods?

• What are the ethics of encouraging a “consumer culture” in a developing economy?

• What are the ethics of selling cheap goods and encouraging a consumer culture when one is poor?
The End and Thank You Very Much!