United States’ relationship with Africa did not attract a significant attention from policy makers and academicians for many years. Despite the enormous natural resources it has, Africa remained at a receiving end of the relationship rather than a supplier to the United States. And for many years Africa has been considered as a continent which has little to offer to the United States. The lack of strategic interest had created a gap in scholarly work on U.S. - African relations as well (Copson 2007; Gordon, et al 1998).

Chapter Two will provide a literature review on U.S. foreign policy towards the Middle East and the role of oil in shaping U.S. foreign policy. This review will present insight into what we should expect from U.S. foreign policy towards African oil states.