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The work concerns a research problem that has not yet been scientifically studied in Polish scientific literature, therefore it is an added value. In the work, the main emphasis was placed on the determinants of political and economic activity of Japan in selected African countries, taking into account the context of Japanese-Chinese rivalry on the African continent in both these dimensions. The work was properly started with theoretical issues concerning the issues of political and economic cooperation. An important element here was the emphasis on geopolitics in international relations. Subsequently, the factors shaping the social and economic situation of Africa were approximated, and in the next chapter, the specific conditions of Japanese activity on the African continent. In the remaining chapters, the author referred to the evolution of Japanese foreign and economic policy in the discussed period. Finally, he devoted his analysis in the paper to the importance of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. Summing up, the work is an extensive panorama of Japan's relations with selected African countries, taking into account the rivalry with the People's Republic of China.