Cultural and Political Implications of Yvonne Owuor’s *The Dragonfly Sea*

**Zainab Dossaji**

**Political Implications**
- Criticises the inhumane actions of the United States after 9/11 regarding detention tactics
- Draws attention to the neo-colonization of Africa.
- China’s “One Belt, One Road” initiative which draws inspiration from Silk Road trade routes.
- The initiative focuses on developing infrastructure and investments into Asia and Africa as well as promoting cultural exchange and integration.

**About the Author**
- Born in Nairobi, Kenya in 1968
- Studied English at Kenyatta University
- MPhil, Creative Writing from the University of Queensland, Australia.
- Screenwriter, author of short stories and two novels
- Wrote *The Dragonfly Sea* in 2019
- She was inspired to write the book because “Very little reference is made to the past, when I think that the past is what is informing this new relationship. So I wanted to write about this idea of return, that some of the answers we seek might actually be found in the past” - PW interview

**Cultural Implications**
- Reveals the rich multiculturalism within East Africa
  - The Indian ocean connects Chinese, Arabian, Indian, and East African trade routes
- “The Kenyan writer Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor’s second novel spans several lives, two continents, one body of water and at least six languages, but what holds it together is not a person, place or tongue. Rather it’s a certain oceanic feeling a sensation of oneness with the universe that gives form to a sprawling, at times unwieldy, epic.”
  - Book review by Shaj Mathew, New York Times