

EDITOR'S NOTE

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African nations are taking on more prominent roles in global affairs, with the continent becoming a pivotal strategic arena for evolving global interactions. Indeed, certain leaders and governments are engaged in political projects that demonstrate the need to overcome the constraints of “old” and “new” Western neo-colonialism. Perhaps one of the most emblematic examples of the continent’s relevance was the African Union (AU)’s inclusion as a permanent member at the G20 summit held in New Delhi, India, in September 2023. It’s fair to say that the organization exhibited signs of strain as a forum for meaningful dialogue, offering primarily rhetorical backing for developing nations.

However, since the 2008 financial crisis, the G20 has regained its prominence as an important space for global discussion, largely due to the rising influence of emerging economies, thereby diminishing the dominance of the G7. The most recent international changes therefore reveal the symptoms of a fracture in the international economic order upheld by the “elite club”. It is possible to say that a new international divide is emerging and producing significant realignments evident within the renewed international organizations.

The African Union’s entry into the G20, advocated by important states that make up the geopolitical South, was formalized under the Brazilian presidency. Joining the G20 will provide Africa with an important platform for communicating and coordinating macro-financial policies with the world’s major economies. It also presents a new opportunity to forge qualitatively different relationships with nations whose influence on the continent has waned, such as France and the USA. It will thus be up to the African Union to articulate awareness of the economic and political importance of its states. New poles of power are striving for collaborative development, and African countries have acquired enhanced positions in the international arena as a result.

The entry of the African Union as a permanent member is a major challenge for the organization. The AU will need to engage in discussions and position itself not only on African matters but also on global issues. It must define coordinated global political responses to contemporary economic challenges. To achieve this goal, establishing a unified African agenda will ensure that the continent fulfills its role as one of the primary axes of international power. Resources will be readily available to support this endeavor.

The BJAS' 16th issue features nine articles and a review by Africanists from Brazil, Cameroon, Gambia, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Uruguay. In the article "Resurgence of military coups in Africa: can the African Union and regional organizations defend and consolidate democracy?" Joshua O. Bolarinwa investigates the implementation of the African Union's methodology regarding the utilization of the Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCG) mechanism, along with other metrics. Luqman Saka explores Franco-African relations and the evolution of French military involvement in post-colonial Africa in "*Françafrique*: Examining Franco-African Relations and French Military Presence in Post-Colonial Africa". In "The future of Japan-Africa cooperation: TICAD", Habib Badawi highlights the importance of Japanese-African relations in comprehending Japan's strategy in Africa, underscoring the distinctions from the Western approach. Tatiana Raquel Reis Silva and Leandro Chaves Batista, in the paper "Atlantism under maintenance: a review of the partnership between Brazil and Cape Verde during the Dilma Rousseff governments (2011-2016)", seek to analyze the main cooperation and diplomatic initiatives between Brazil and African countries, focusing particularly on the Cape Verde archipelago.

In the article "Government, State, and National Wars in Africa", Nathaly Silva Xavier Schütz and Hernán Olmedo González discuss the extent to which the existence of national wars in African states, from the end of the Second World War until 2015, has been conditioned by levels of government entrenchment and levels of "statehood". In Jean-Marie Kasonga Mbombo's paper, "Skimming the East African Community regional force in the Kivu: another test case of 'African solutions to African problems'" based on the Community's Treaty and Protocols, the author assesses the regional willingness to transform itself into an intervention force.

Felipe André Angst and Hermenegildo Alberto Machoi, authors of the article "The problematics of resettlements: a literature review", examine

the challenges associated with involuntary resettlement resulting from development projects, explore the economic, social, and environmental effects on affected communities, and seek viable solutions. In “The colonial invention of Mozambique: from African Empires to overseas colony and province,” José Alejandro Sebastian Barrios Diaz delves into Mozambique’s historical evolution, tracing its formation from the colonization period. The study identifies significant historical milestones in the shaping of Portuguese colonization efforts, spanning up to the first half of the 20th century. Finally, in the article “Bu/Mbengkas Rice Cooperative Society Limited and Laimbwe’s economy (Cameroon), 1973-2014”, Therence Kefih Kai and Henry Kam Kah examine the Bu/Mbengkas Rice Cooperative Society Limited (BMRCS Ltd) in relation to the living sustainability of Bu and Mbengkas, the Laimbwe-speaking people of Menchum and Boyo Divisions in northwest Cameroon. According to the authors, the cooperative society has led to socio-economic changes, especially in Bu, but not in Mbengkas. This issue also features a review of Isaías Barreñada’s “*Breve Historia del Sahara Occidental*” by Adriano Alberto Smolarek.

The BJAS publishes a bilingual electronic version in both Portuguese and English. Thus, we welcome contributions from colleagues in Brazil and abroad, aiming to establish connections that foster the expansion of knowledge and the development of a Southern perspective regarding the African continent and its relationships with other nations.

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