

EDITOR'S NOTE

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The current global situation, in which Africa acquires relevance, presents a set of overlapping and multilayered tensions, whose epicenter we are crossing. The ongoing crisis is quite peculiar, mainly due to the various simultaneous events that converge in direction of conflicts and war. On the other hand, the political, ideological and economical wear of the West, uncovered a variety of projects and political regimes in the African continent, as well as economic growth, that made Africa's spot in the global economy rise. The changes of systemic character in the position of the African continent, as a geopolitical and geoeconomic space, stem from the establishing of a new political pattern of international interactions, with the development of African partnerships in a framework of South-South and South-East Cooperation, alongside the erosion of the West's political and economical monopoly that lasted five centuries. Africa moves, in this sense, towards the defense of the international order's adaptation to the realities of the 21st century.

The impacts of climate change are particularly pronounced in the continent, which presents the highest rate of population growth in the world, and that will equal its population to that of Asia at the end of the century. However, there's an expectation that more than half of the world population growth by 2050 will happen in this continent. This fact will unlock new market and labor possibilities alongside the resources that have long lured international interest, conducting towards humanitarian and developmental challenges. Therefore, Africa increasingly figures in the discussion regarding important countries and organizations due to its growing importance in global issues.

Nowadays, this extremely young population has constituted the base of growing intra-African and Europe-aimed migratory fluxes, generating international tensions. Simultaneously, the search for strategic natural resources in the continent grows, as well as the inevitable multiplication of interactions with old and ascending great powers. Inside such framework, the leaders

are forced to find alternative political forms, becoming more assertive in the state and diplomacy strengthening. Would they be sustainable? At the same time, regional rivalries are aggravated, which is typical to the nation-state maturing process, as in Europe of previous centuries. The striking surprise in this situation is that such process forces the extracontinental great powers to adapt to the new African dynamic and priorities.

But one must consider that great powers aim to create influence zones or seek to promote a new power distribution. In many cases, African political elites are frequently pressured by political and socio-economical problems, as well as by domestic conflicts, to search for external support. What reveals itself as original is the qualitative change of international interactions. The African interests surrounding autonomy e development have been, in this sense, conditioned by the global logic of rivalry or cooperation between the main great powers.

Considering the context of international tensions and realignments that mark the current systemic crisis, many African countries have been acting directly in the construction of a multipolar world. The multipolarity is still unstable, and these levels of instability directly affect the possibility of resuming national projects that aim to develop the so called global semi-periphery. However, the movement surrounding political awareness of the new international reality in progressive.

In its 18th issue, the BJAS presents 7 articles and 1 review, written by scholars of various nationalities. Besides Brazilians, this issue counts with the contribution of scholars from South Africa, China, Lebanon, Kenia, Mozambique and Nigeria. Habib Badawi, in *"Russia's strategic pivot to Africa: geopolitical implications in a multipolar world"* examines the strategic pivot of Russia to Africa, analyzing the motivations, approaches and implications of the renewed engagement of Moscow with the African continent. In *"Egyptian Foreign Policy under Al-Sisi government: paths to diversification of partnerships"*, Charles Pereira Pennafort and Mateus José da Silva Santos analyze the main characteristics that revolve around Egypt's process of global and regional repositioning during the last decade. Almeida Zacarias Machava and Tomás Bernardo Chirindza discuss how the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Agreement has the potential to overcome challenges and contribute to the process of African integration within the framework of the African Economic Community in the article entitled *"The COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Agreement in the context of the implementation of the African Economic Community (AEC)"*.

The evaluation of the conflict causes in Cabo Delgado Province, in northern Mozambique, is the subject of the article *"Mozambique: violent extre-*

mism and terrorism in Cabo Delgado Province”, by Ercilio Neves Brandão Langa. Next, Naftaly Mose, Omonike Ige-Gbadeyan and John Thomi, in the article “*Technological spillovers from Foreign Direct Investment in Kenya*” analyze the role of spillovers of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in technological innovation in Kenya. The Chinese contribution to railway modernization in Nigeria and its impact on infrastructure development and economic advancement is the focus of the discussion in “*Socio-economic impact of the modernized Nigerian railway system by the Chinese*”, Olaoluwanike Comfort Ogunrinu and Lemuel Ekedegwa Odeh. Finally, Jacinta Chiamaka Nwaka, Lilian Chidiebere Onyeiwu and Marcel Alkali examine the rationale behind the exclusion of women from the Niger Delta Amnesty Program (NDAP), which was planned, sponsored and implemented locally, and created expectations of transformation on the social bases in the article “*Too poor for peace: women in the Niger Delta Amnesty Program in Nigeria*”. The BJAS presents, as well, the review of the work “*25 Anos de Cooperação em Defesa na CPLP*”, by Kamilla Raquel Rizzi and Luís Manuel Brás Bernadino (Lisbon: Mercado de Letras Editores, 2023), written by Nathaly Xavier Schutz and Irina Lima Martínez.

The BJAS publishes a bilingual electronic version (Portuguese and English). Thus, we welcome contributions from colleagues in Brazil and abroad, with whom we seek to establish connections to deepen knowledge and build a Southern perspective on the African continent and its relations.

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