

EDITOR'S NOTE

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With this issue, the Brazilian Journal of African Studies completes six successful years of existence, dedicated to academic and intellectual cooperation in the perspective of South-South Cooperation, giving voice to Africa and Africanists from all over the world. To this end, it features articles written by academics from Brazil, Nigeria, Mozambique, Cuba and China. The last two countries are among those with the greatest knowledge about the African continent. In this second year of the Covid-19 pandemic, the journal constituted a link of integration among scholars from various countries, in which the Brazilian Centre of African Studies (CEBRAFRICA, in Portuguese) produced an important study on the effects of the current health crisis in Africa.

The present 12th issue brings an important dossier on Nigeria, with articles by Nigerian and Brazilian academics, which explore the history and politics of this important African nation. Firstly, the intense international activity that the country conducted against *Apartheid* South Africa is addressed, which greatly contributed to the isolation of the racist regime. Next, Nigeria's active Nation Branding diplomacy is analyzed, which is not only an African, but also a global reference. Regarding the historical dimension, there is an article on the complex relationship of the Auchi Kingdom with the British colonialists. The following one deals with the role of the Anioma community with the separatists of Biafra.

Finally, the dossier closes with an interesting article on the autobiography of Olaudah Equiano, a native of the Kingdom of Benin (now part of Nigeria), who lived in the eighteenth century and was sold into slavery. Later, free and residing in London, he became a notable activist in the fight against slavery. What this set of studies shows is the extreme complexity of the country's history and political life, enriching an academic vision free of ethnocentrism.

In the General Articles section, there is an important analysis on African Studies in the People's Republic of China (from 1950 to 2020), which contributes greatly to the knowledge of that country's vision on Africa, something very useful as a counterpoint to contemporary Euro-North American narratives on China-Africa Relations. Next, there is a study on Brazil-Africa Relations, between the diplomatic and commercial dimensions, exploring its dialectical component. Another relevant theme is the reflection on the impact of the so-called Arab Spring on Algeria and Sudan, two important African nations, with effects on the entire continent.

In the field of critical political analysis, there is an important reflection on the management of political impasses as a form of endorsement of clientelistic practices on the African continent, in counterpoint to certain idealistic visions. Another relevant contribution is the analysis of the role of universities in the formation of black consciousness in South Africa, an issue that continues to be the object of narrative disputes, due to the problematic "unfinished transition" and its socio-political situation. Finally, an extremely topical article addresses the challenges of building e-government in Africa under the post-Covid "New Normal". There are few analyses on this situation in developing countries.

This issue is dedicated to the British academic Ian Taylor, one of the most renowned Africanists, who passed away prematurely in March 2021. Since the beginning of the BJAS publication, he was an enthusiast of the project, volunteering to collaborate, and soon afterwards becoming part of the Editorial Board. He was a humanist, with a very focused look at the reality of the countries of the South.

The BJAS publishes a bilingual electronic version (Portuguese and English). Thus, we expect the contribution of colleagues from Brazil and abroad, with whom we intend to establish links for the deepening of knowledge and the construction of a vision of the South about the African continent and its relations with them.

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