

## EDITOR'S NOTE

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A great part of the Brazilian history and population is directly attached to Africa. The two shores of the South Atlantic Ocean were, for centuries, integral parts of the Portuguese Maritime Empire, besides existing great environmental, human and cultural similarity between both of them. In this period, paradoxically, the Portuguese colonization Africanized Brazil with the intense flow of slaves. Nonetheless, during one century of European colonial domination in Africa (1860-1960), Brazil was prevented of keeping relations with the continent, and the country's knowledge about it diminished.

It was necessary from African countries the achievement of their emancipation, and, from Brazil, living its industrialization, the beginning of the Independent Foreign Policy, in 1961, in order to foster a new rapprochement. The reestablishment of relations happened through progresses and setbacks, with changes in 1964, 1970 and 1990, until it started to consolidate itself from 2003. However, the economic and diplomatic actions, besides the technical cooperation, were not followed by the necessary pace of advance in academic knowledge about the continent.

The establishment of the Centre of Studies Afro-Asians in Rio de Janeiro, in the early 1960's, as well as its Journal, were both initiatives created by governmental encouragement and by Brazilian political movements. But the focus were centered in cultural and anthropologic aspects, especially when referring to Afro-Brazilians, and received support (and influence) from North-American foundations. In São Paulo, Bahia, Brasília, and other states, great universities created their own centers of African studies, and academics converged their research projects about the theme. The Black Movement (in Portuguese "Movimento Negro") also gave its support to the process.

Thus, the Brazilian Journal of African Studies (BJAS) arises with the proposal of making itself part of the efforts of the other Africanist academic institutions, and to complement them. The focus is, especially (but not exclusively), the Post-Colonial Africa. The Brazilian Centre for African Studies (CEBRAFRICA), which edits the journal and is an integrant of the Brazilian Centre for Strategy and International Relations (NERINT), has its institutional origin in the Brazil-South Africa Studies Centre (CESUL). The later was a program established in 2005 through an association between the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) and the Alexandre de Gusmão Foundation (FUNAG), a public foundation linked to the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is important to highlight that CEBRAFRICA (as well as BJAS) is a strictly academic and independent institution, part of a public Brazilian university, without any governmental or foreign foundations bonds.

Due to the growing interest of researcher-Professors, undergraduate students and post-undergraduate students in International Relations and related areas (many of them being Africans) in multiple themes and African regions, in March 2012 CESUL was expanded in order to cover the geographic set of the African continent, becoming CEBRAFRICA, while the South African Serie (*Série Sul-Africana*, in Portuguese) was turned into African Serie (*Série Africana*, in Portuguese), with nine published books until the present date. The original objective was maintained: to do academic researches, to support the elaboration of theses, dissertation and graduation final papers; to gather research groups in African themes; to held seminars; to promote the exchange of professors and students and to establish research network and joint projects with African and Africanist institutions; to publish works produced in Brazil or translated; and, now, to use BJAS as a work tool between Africanists.

Our research efforts are geared towards the understanding of the African continent and its relations with Brazil, encompassing the fields of International Relations, Integration Organizations, Security and Defense, Political Systems, History, Geography, Economic Development, Social Structures and its transformation and Schools of Thoughts. Partners of CEBRAFRICA are renowned Brazilian and foreign institutions, result of diverse missions and field researches performed in Africa and in great Africanist centers in Europe, Asia and America.

On its launching number, we present 11 articles of international and national Africanists, and a review of a recent published book about the relations between Brazil and Africa. Ian Taylor analyzes in "*Meet the new boss - same as the old boss*": *South Africa's transition as embourgeoisement*, the end of the apartheid's regime from the political and socio-economic forces

which encouraged ANC's elites to a social equity policy, without, however, restructure the South African economic policy. The article of Henry Kam Kah, *The Séléka insurgency and insecurity in the Central African Republic, 2012-2014*, analyzes in the historical roots of the Séléka insurgency, the conditions to the power take-over in the Central African Republic, as well as the consequent instability lived in the country. Osakue Steverson Omoera and Clement A. Ogah discuss Boko Haram's performance by the analysis of the Nigerian communication means in the text *Boko Haram as a-gent pro-vo-ca-teur of destabilization and destruction in Nigeria: the media's check*.

The oil-producing regions in sub-Saharan Africa and their strategic role are the object of study of Yoslán González in the article *The Gulf of Guinea: the future African Persian Gulf?*, whereas Paulo Visentini analyzes the impact of the Revolutions in the International Relations and in the World System as constitutive and renovator elements, focusing the African revolutions in the article *Revolutions And International Relations: the African case*. Upon completing 40 years (2015) of Independence of the Portuguese colonies, Beatriz Bissio proposes a reflection about the end of the Portuguese Empire in Africa in her text *The End Of The Last Great Colonial Empire: memories of a historical report*, and Kamilla Rizzi analyzes the *Brazil-PALOP Relations: 40 Years of cooperation for development in the South Atlantic (1974/75-2015)*.

In the sequence, Joaquim Assis approaches the NGOs' performance in Angola in the article *Social and Political Practices of the NGOs in Angola. Methodology and Power Relations. The case of the NGOs ADRA and Global Vision*. Igor Castellano da Silva in his *Regional Foreign Policy of Namibia: the agency of a secondary power* discusses the foreign policy of Namibia to Southern Africa, focusing on the period of 1990-2010. The problems of security in the African continent, especially in Southern Africa, are discussed in the article *The Security Integration in Southern Africa: SADC and OPDS* by Nathaly Xavier Schutz. There is, still, the analysis of Mamadou Alpha Diallo, in *The Regional Integration in West Africa (1960-2015): balance and perspectives*. Finally, it is presented the work of Paulo Visentini, entitled *Relação Brasil-África: prestígio, cooperação ou negócios? (The Brazil-Africa Relation: prestige, cooperation or business?)*, in English), published by Editor Alta Books (2016), in a review produced by Nathaly Xavier Schutz.

RBEA publishes an electronic and bilingual (Portuguese and English) version and an English printed one. Therefore, we expect the contribution of fellows from Brazil and from abroad, with whom we intend to establish ties to deepen the knowledge and the construction of a South's vision over the African continent and the relations with them.

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