

## EDITOR 'S NOTE

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The Brazilian Journal of African Studies (BJAS), in its fourth year of publication, addresses political, social, economic and security issues in the main corners of Africa. These issues are difficult to analyze, requiring a study of the recent challenges of peace and democracy faced by African states, as well as historical political and security events that still shake Africa's internal and external policies.

From this, the Journal seeks to bring a range of perspectives on current African issues and occurrences, with this year's protagonists, among others, being the regional leadership of Nigeria in the Gulf of Guinea – apart from its troubled search for a broad and non-corrupt democracy –, South Africa as a regional power, emerging for security cooperation – projecting beyond the continent – despite the analysis of security and regional defense issues in Southern Africa – Angola – and the African Horn – in South Sudan, and the insertion of the continent in international diplomacy, when observing its relation with, for example, the Zopacas.

With regard to the Nigerian protagonism, this edition explores the implications of the country's internal politics in a recent historical process to the present, through the areas of national formation and identity, while the Nigerian nation faces its own scourges of corruption, media control, judicial impunity and fragmented national memory. To this end, Nigeria's domestic policy has been shown to overcome ills, although it is still fragile in many respects to state corruption and class immunity. However, positive elements of Nigerian society, such as the active participation in the democratic process of 2019 and the initial development of a more critical and impartial media, reveal the growing construction of Nigeria as a strong actor who, in its foreign policy, has a certain Afrocentric feature in the relationship of international politics, which has propelled it as a leader in West Africa.

Regarding the South African role, this new edition of BJAS brings the security cooperation that the country has been developing in the geopolitical scope of the South Atlantic with the American states, especially Brazil, with which it also has an aeronautical partnership in the development of artillery air-air. Like Nigeria, South Africa also has a Pan-African spirit in its foreign policy, which has been built since Nelson Mandela and – as is more deeply explored in the Journal – the controversial figure of Thabo Mbeki. In this sense, the South African foreign leadership is evident in this seventh issue.

In its six-year tradition, BJAS always brings to the fore the security issues that still concern African inter-state relations. With exceptional work by trained military experts in the area, there are articles of impeccable quality in peacebuilding after the long Angolan civil war, in addition to the current situation in the United Nations peacekeeping mission in South Sudan, a Human Security issue. Returning to Nigeria's leading role in African history, primary sources are compiled in an article on the Nigerian civil war of the 1960s, which demonstrates both the security aspect and the human cost of the conflict. In addition, from an Argentinean view, an excellent analysis of the relation of the African continent with, not only Argentina, but also the Zopacas as a whole.

The BJAS publishes a bilingual electronic and printed 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 on the African continent and relations with them.

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