

## EDITOR'S PREFACE

I am delighted to present the first issue of *Politeja. The Journal of the Faculty of International and Political Studies of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków* entirely devoted to African Studies. Although this is the first time when the whole issue discusses African topics, it is worth noting that the publication of this 'African' issue is related to certain traditions of the Cracovian African Studies – in the past focused mostly on linguistics and ethnology (just to mention such names as: Roman Stopa, Tadeusz Lewicki, Andrzej Waligórski, or Andrzej Zaborski), and today continued with much wider disciplinary scope by the Jagiellonian Research Center for African Studies, established in 2014. It proves the growing interest in African issues showed by scholars and students of this Faculty.

The Contributors to this volume – members of the Jagiellonian Research Center for African Studies, as well as researchers representing other Polish and Central European universities discussed various aspects of the widely understood African Studies. The range of themes and subjects comprises such disciplines as political science, international relations, security studies, cultural studies, history, development studies, economics, and law. This diversity perfectly complements the variety of research perspectives present at the Faculty of International and Political Studies of the Jagiellonian University.

The volume opens with the article of Petr Skalník who reviews the state of affairs of East-Central European African Studies, highlighting the benefits of the non-colonial approach represented by the Africanists from this region.

In the following articles diverse aspects of historical, political, developmental, economic and social issues are discussed. Arkadiusz Żukowski presents the story behind South African engagement in World War II. Robert Kłosowicz paints a picture of the current situation in the Central African Republic after the last rebellion, while Krzysztof Trzciński focuses on interethnic power-sharing models in Nigeria. Wiesław Lizak analyzes the peace operations as a form of activity of the African Union and its pre-

decessor, the Organization of the African Unity. Andrzej Polus introduces the readers to the panorama of Polish-Sub-Saharan African relations after 1989. István Tarósy and Zoltán Vörös bring together developmental and economic contexts of mutual Sino-African relations, taking as an example the case of Tanzania and Sudan. The article of Katarzyna Kołodziejczyk is also dedicated to the development issues, trying to answer the question whether the Economic Partnership Agreements can be a tool for the development of Sub-Saharan African countries. Joanna Bar analyzes the current waves of Islamic terrorism in Kenya in the context of regional security, while Ewa Szczepankiewicz-Rudzka depicts the rapid decline of post-Gaddafi Libya. In their article Renata Czekalska and Agnieszka Kuczkiewicz-Fraś focus on the place occupied by the people of African descent in India, paying special attention to those that played an important role in Indian history. Kateřina Rudincová and Joanna Mormul analyze in their articles Ethiopia's relations with its neighbors: Somaliland and Djibouti, respectively. Łukasz Jakubiak conducts a comparative analysis of two West African systems of government: the semi-presidential model of Senegal and the presidentialism of Ivory Coast. Klaudia Wilk-Mhagama discusses the role of faith-based organizations in meeting the challenges of development in Tanzania, while Monika Różalska explains the role of chiefs in Ghanaian development strategies and local governance. Krzysztof Tlalka, in turn, tries to assess a decade of the African Peace and Security Architecture, established within the framework of the African Union. Hubert Dudkiewicz explains the importance of African contribution to the penalization of war crimes of sexual nature, using as an example the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Marta Antosz depicts the situation of the Somali diaspora in the United States, while Piotr Szafruga reflects upon the necessity of a state in the case of Somali economy. Finally, in the last article in the volume, Olga Kwiatkowska analyzes the impact of the crisis in Mali on the political situation of the Sahel.

The number of articles included in this issue, as well as the wide variety of topics confirms a growing research interest in Africa among Polish and Central European scholars. As an editor of the volume I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Contributors. Thanks to their efforts and expertise this issue gained a truly interdisciplinary approach, justifying the need of an academic and intellectual dialogue concerning Africa's past and present.

*Robert Kłosowicz*