



Univerzita Hradec Králové
Filozofická fakulta

Czech Association for African Studies



This issue is dedicated to the 80th birthday of Vladimír Klíma



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Editor's Note

This issue is the first in volume 4 of our journal. It is an important issue as it addresses topics, which have been crucial for modern African studies for a while. The explanation of the African variant of militant Islamism has thus far never been satisfactory. Akubor in this issue offers a plausible explanation by linking it to the *almajirai* system of education and the latter's demise under both colonialism and post-colonialism. Korhonen and Šváblová tackle the often proposed but rarely undertaken problem of comparing African post-colonialism and European post-communism. These two articles are revised versions of papers presented at the Paris ECAS conference in 2015. We hope to publish more papers from the panel on post-colonialism and post-communism in the next issue of *Modern Africa*. Latif presents her research findings on Kenyan political fragility from the viewpoint of revenue redistribution in this country of multi-ethnic composition and deep economic divisions. Finally, we are happy to publish Řezáčová's meticulous research of South African modernity challenges based on the case of the former "homeland" of Venda.

It is perhaps unusual to comment on reviews but we appreciate the number and quality of our recent reviews of important publications. Two volumes from the Routledge series directed by Daniel Bach are a novelty worth reviewing because they analyse the position of Africa in global international relations and signal a compelling need to improve its status. The other books reviewed in this issue also relate to our broad vision of African studies transcending the limitations of a hegemonic metropolitan discourse. One of Fiala's monographic volumes on political parties in individual African countries, reviewed in this issue, is evidence of this approach. So is the edited volume of Vilhanová-Pawliková and Seyni in the field of history. The political philosopher Kasanda reviews a book about the duality of structures in Africa with the help of the dynamic ontology of *-ntu* that might otherwise have escaped the attention of Africanist researchers.

We owe a correction to data in the previous issue. The book of Viera Pawliková-Vilhanová, *The Production of History and Culture in Africa Revisited: Problems, Methods, Sources* (2013), reviewed in *Modern Africa* vol. 3, issue 2, was published in Bratislava by the Slovak Academic

Press, and has not only 119 pages but also a bibliography on the pages vii-xxxii.

On behalf of the editorial board, I wish all readers of this issue the pleasure of gaining new insights for the sake of an improved understanding of modern Africa.

Petr Skalník