



Óbuda University Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences
Africa Research Institute
Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies



Dear Readers,
Dear Fellow Scholars,

We warmly welcome readers of this issue of the Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies (JCEEAS) with selected papers of the international conference on “The Visegrad Countries and Africa: History and Contemporaneity” – organized by The Jagiellonian Research Center for African Studies of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, the Africa Research Institute of the Óbuda University in Budapest, Hungary, and the Centre for Military Studies of the Stellenbosch University in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

This issue of JCEEAS covers topics related to the connections between two geographically distant areas of the Visegrad (V4) countries – Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia – and Africa. Since the V4 countries did not participate in colonization either, a weaker relationship between these European countries and the African continent could be assumed. However, our issue proves just the opposite. Its eight articles cover around one and a half centuries in time, and highlight topics from the entire African continent.

The written versions of the two keynote speeches of the conference frame the other half a dozen papers, the first of which sets the tone by enlightening the formation, history and development of the relationship between South African and Hungarian horse breeding while also examining the effects of this special bond.

The historical section deals with the military roles and historical narratives of the Hungarians during the Anglo-Boer War and the First World War in German East Africa. This early period is followed by Cold War-era chapters, one focusing on South Africa’s role and position in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, while the next chapter talks about the special relations of Hungary and Namibia which is an interesting example of the particularly strong ties among Central European countries and other socialist countries in Africa. The third historical chapter shares an insight of the Angolan – Hungarian relationship during the last two decades of Socialism in Hungary and the period after the launch of the Hungarian government’s “Southern Opening” initiative.

Reaching in time until today with this last chapter, the next study analyses the situation of Polish development and humanitarian aid in Kenya. Closing the issue, the second keynote paper zooms out and offers the big picture, an overall view of the two regions in connection with security, resilience and cultural diplomacy.

Eight papers with rarely mentioned topics that have been shaping the Visegrad countries as well as the African states for around 150 years, we truly hope that they all provide a great reading experience, new ideas and approaches for all of you!

We wish you all a great reading experience and plenty of fresh ideas and new approaches offered by these papers!

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