



# Newsletter

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## Roundtable on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Oliver Reginald Tambo

October 27, 2017 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Oliver Reginald Tambo, the man who led the [African National Congress](#) (ANC) of South Africa for almost a quarter of a century, from 1967 to 1991.

On February 27, 2018, at the initiative of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Embassy of the South African Republic in the Russian Federation, the Institute held a round table meeting dedicated to the Anniversary. Ambassadors and employees of diplomatic missions from 14 countries of the world, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the media took part in its work. In the hall there were veterans of cooperation with the ANC, including three gentlemen of the Order "Companions of Oliver Tambo", who personally knew O. Tambo, the main researchers of the Institute for African Studies: Dr.Sc. A. Yu. Urnov and Dr.Sc., Professor V.G. Shubin, as well as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation V.N. Kazimirov. Political, military and diplomatic activities of O. Tambo opened the way to negotiations and the holding of the first general democratic elections in April 1994. Special attention was paid to the nature of relations between Russia and South African Republic at the present time: existing problems and prospects, as well as the great role of the Institute for African Studies in the course of bringing our peoples and countries closer together.



## Cooperation Agreement

On January 9, 2018, the [Cooperation Agreement](#) was signed between the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and [Winthrop University's Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology](#) (Rock Hill, USA)



### The book presentation of Professor Vasilyev

On January 30, 2018, the annual book fair in Cairo hosted the presentation of the book in Arabic "From Lenin to Putin: Russia in the Near and Middle East" by the renowned orientalist scholar, honorary president of the Institute for African Studies, Academician A.M. Vasilyev. The book was published by the Cairo publishing house "Novosti Rossii". About 200 copies were issued in an exclusive gift wrap. The translator of the Arabic edition is the well-known Egyptian scholar, professor of the University of Ain Shams Muhammad Nasr al-Gibali. The book also appeared in Russian and English at "Tsentrpoligraf" and "Routledge" in 2018.

### The ceremony of the second degree awarding L.A. Kartashova "Order of the Great Cross" of the Republic of Madagascar

February 6, 2018 in the Embassy of the Madagascar Republic in Moscow, the ceremony of awarding a high second degree "Order of the Great Cross" to the Russian scientist, a brilliant connoisseur of the Malagasy language and culture of the people of this country, L. A. Kartashova took place. The awarding Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Madagascar Edward A. Maxim Duvu stressed that the Order of the first degree is awarded only to the president of the country. By the way this is the fourth Malagasy award of L.A. Kartashova. She is the first and so far the only Academician of Madagascar in the Russian Academy of Sciences. In Madagascar she is highly valued as a deep connoisseur of the Malagasy language, literature, culture and history of Madagascar. Her interest, and then her enthusiasm for the culture of Madagascar, began in 1957, when she - then a student of the French branch of the Moscow State Pedagogical Institute - was an interpreter at the Malagasy delegation who came to the Soviet Union for the VI World Festival of Youth and Students.



### Report of corresponding member, Dr.Sc., Professor D.M. Bondarenko

February 28, 2018 a report was held within the framework of the scientific seminar of the Centre for History and Cultural Anthropology "Society and Culture". Professor Bondarenko spoke about the intricacies of the expedition, the history of the non-linear way of the first Old Believer community emergence in Africa, the connection and support of the Moscow metropolis of the Ugandan communities, the religious choice of parishioners and the significance of the complex of the ancient rituals as a confirmation of the truth of faith. The expedition was supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (grant No. 17-01-00148). Field research was the first stage of the three-year scientific project "Orthodox and Old Believers in Uganda: Socio-Cultural Processes in African Christian Communities." Within the framework of the project, a team of scientists led by Professor D.M. Bondarenko focuses on studying the phenomenon of Ugandan Orthodoxy and

Old Believers in the socio-cultural aspect.

## Exhibition "Incendiary Africa: traditional motifs in fashion and design of South Africa"

March 6, 2018 in the All-Russian Museum of Decorative and Applied Art opened an exhibition, which included traditional costumes of residents of all South African provinces. All costumes are used today in real life. The exhibition was opened by the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of South African Republic in Russian Ms. Nomasonto Maria Sibanda-Tusi. Finally one of its organizers, Mr. Sanjay Singh (Director of Heritage and Museum Services), visited the Institute for African Studies, examined the objects of African Art and crafts exhibited in the offices and halls of the Institute and met with the deputy director of the Institute, Corresponding Member, Professor Bondarenko. The conversation was held about the parties' interest in cooperation and replenishment of the funds of the future museum of the African peoples' cultures in the Institute with new artifacts from South Africa.



## The 100th Anniversary of our former Director Professor Solodovnikov

On March 14, 2018 the Institute hosted a solemn meeting of the Academic Council dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the former director of our Institute, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Professor V.G. Solodovnikov. He has also occupied diplomatic posts, representing the USSR in African countries, for a long time.

The whole staff of the Institute, headed by the Director, Professor Abramova, was honoring the

present jubilee. Warm congratulations were addressed to him from the Director of the Africa Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Russia A.V. Kemarsky.

## Round table "Prospects for the development of the Mediterranean region from the point of view of Russia"

14 марта 2018 г. в Институте Африки РАН (ИАФР РАН) состоялся круглый стол на тему "Перспективы развития Средиземноморского региона с точки зрения России", организованный совместно Институтом Африки РАН и [Фондом Конрада Аденауэра \(ФРГ\)](#). On March 14, 2018 at the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IA RAS) the round table



"Prospects for the Development of the Mediterranean region from the point of view of Russia" took place. It was organized jointly by the Institute for African Studies RAS and the [Konrad Adenauer Foundation](#) (FRG). A range of academic fellows of the Institute and experts of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation took part in the event. Among them were the Director of the Institute, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Irina O. Abramova; Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Alexey M. Vasiliev; Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Leonid L. Fituni; Head of the Regional Program of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation "Political Dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean" in Tunisia Dr. K. Altılgan, Head of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Russia K. Crawford; Head of the [Center for Studies of Russian-African Relations and African Foreign Policy](#) Evgeny N. Korendyasov; Head of the [Center for North African and the Horn of Africa Studies](#) Alexander A. Tkachenko, other leading researchers of the Institute's profile centers. In the presented reports and during the discussion the round table participants exchanged their views upon a wide range of issues related to the assessment of the situation in the region of the Southern Mediterranean in the current century. The main attention was paid to the reasons that led to mass protests in the countries of the region, the consequences of the Arab Spring, measures aimed at overcoming the systemic crisis and modernization reforms.

## Publications of the Institute

### 1. "One Hundred Years of Russian Politics in the Near and Middle East"

Publishing house "Tsentrpoligraf" published a book by the Honorary President of the Institute for African Studies RAS, Academician Alexey M. Vasilyev "From Lenin to Putin: Russia in the Near and Middle East."

The book covers 100 years of our relations with the region: from messianic romanticism to strict pragmatism. It describes the events of the Suez Crisis of 1956, the Arab-Israeli Wars of 1967 and 1973, the Gulf War of 1991, Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Moscow's policy towards Israel. The author gives an honest and unbiased assessment of Moscow's goals, methods and tools, its real achievements and miscalculations in this region, analyzes the pragmatic steps taken by the new Russia's leadership in the fight against terrorism, in connection with the intervention of the US and its allies in Afghanistan and Iraq, the "Arab spring" and the Syrian crisis. [See more](#)



## 2. "Ethnic identity in modern Africa"

Rosa N. Ismagilova "Ethiopia: the peculiarities of federalism".  
Editors: Corresponding Member of RAS Dmitri M. Bondarenko,  
Ph.D. Alexander A. Tkachenko. Moscow: Institute for African  
Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, 2018. - 544 pp. with ill. ISBN  
978-5-91298-196-8

The [monograph](#) is devoted to a detailed and multidimensional analysis of the ethnic federalism system in Ethiopia and the ethnopolitical situation in its states, the peculiarities of interethnic relations and conflicts, the role of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms in modern society. It is written at the intersection of three disciplines: ethnology, history and political science, which makes it possible to more fully characterize the features of the processes taking place in the country. Ethiopia is the only country in the world where ethnicity is officially recognized as a political ideology. As a result, there followed a politicization of ethnicity and the ethnization of politics. The experience of Ethiopia is important for all polyethnic states, namely: the legislative consolidation and transfer of power to the states, as well as the foundations of ethno-cultural autonomy through the creation of zones and *woredas* (districts) on a narrow ethnic basis; creating the multicultural central power by including numerous ethnic minorities in the federal government; giving all ethnic groups the opportunity to learn and use in teaching their native languages, as well as the development of traditional cultures. Such work was prepared for the first time in the foreign and domestic studies of Ethiopia.

### ЭТНИЧЕСКАЯ ИДЕНТИЧНОСТЬ В СОВРЕМЕННОЙ АФРИКЕ



## RUBRIC "TIMELY COMMENT"

### Results of the 2017 presidential elections in Liberia

26 On December 26, 2017, George Weah was elected the new president of Liberia, replacing Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (2005-2017) at the highest state office. The elections were held in two rounds. As a result of the first one, held on October 10, none of the 20 candidates received the required number of votes. The second round was scheduled for early November, but one of the candidates who received third place in the first round, Charles Brumskine (a lawyer and religious figure, former chairman of the Senate), challenged the results in the Supreme Court, and the elections were postponed. However, only the leaders of the presidential race entered the second round of elections - G. Weah from the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the former vice-president of the country (2006-2017), Joseph Boakai, who received 61.5% (732,185) votes and 38.5% (457,579), respectively. [See more](#)



### **China and Africa: the results of economic cooperation in recent years**

On November 27-28, 2017, the China-Africa Investment Forum (CAIF) was held in Marrakech, Morocco. More than 400 representatives of Chinese and African businesses arrived in Morocco to discuss joint projects in the field of transport infrastructure, industry, modern technologies, trade, and energy. The program of the forum included conferences and debates on issues of financial assistance to the economies of African countries, primarily those included in the Chinese initiative of the new Silk Road. The country, which does not have oil reserves like Angola or Algeria, suddenly gained an important place in Beijing's policy of diversifying the spheres of investment. [See more](#)



### **30th Session of the African Union: outcomes and questions**

On January 28-29 this year, in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), the 30th regular session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) was held, immediately preceded by the 35th ordinary session of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the AU (22-23 January of this year) and the 32nd regular session of the AU Executive Board (25-26 January). Struggle with corruption became the main topic of the agenda of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU which went under the heading: "Victory in the Fight against Corruption: a Sustainable Path to the Transformation of Africa" [See more](#)





### **On the change of the senior leadership in South Africa**

Late in the evening on February 14, 2018, South African President Jacob Zuma publicly announced his immediate resignation. This step was preceded by the dramatic events - the conflict within the ruling party, the African National Congress (ANC), between its supporters and opponents. Criticism of Zuma and the demands of his resignation intensified after the unsuccessful performance by the ANC at the local elections held in August 2016, where it lost more than 8% compared with the parliamentary elections in 2014 and also lost control over the municipalities of the major cities: Tsvane (Pretoria),

Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth. During 2017, corruption scandals connected directly with Zuma continued. By filing appeals, he managed to delay the execution of the court decision to cancel the closure of the criminal case, which contained charges against him on 783 episodes. The implementation of the decision to establish an independent legal commission to investigate the charges contained in the report of the public defender (ombudsman) on the "state capture" was delayed in every way. This term in South Africa is understood as illegal actions of persons close to the president, first of all, the Gupta brothers of Indian origin, who used state structures for sordid motives and even interfered in the appointment of cabinet members. Some members of the ANC leadership, its veterans, as well as the allies of the ANC - the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the South African Communist Party (SACCU) – began to demand the resignation of Zuma. [See more](#)



### **To the visit of the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov to Africa**

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Sergei Lavrov on March 5-9, 2018, made a tour in several African countries, during which he visited Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia. This visit once again confirmed the fact that the vector of our foreign policy is slowly turning towards the "black continent". Leading experts of the Institute for African Studies RAS have long talked about this as an urgent necessity, since Africa of the 21st century is a new emerging center of global development and a sphere where the strategic interests of all major

world powers collide. Sub-Saharan African countries (SSA) have become a zone that has rapidly begun to approach emerging countries with a developing market economy, in particular BRICS, in terms of the pace of development, growth of their influence in the world economy and politics. A number of foreign analytical structures (Rand, MSCI, Economist Intelligence Unit, McKinsey, Ernst and Young) proceed from the fact that, from the point of view of the perspective investment attractiveness for the Western countries, Africa begins to exceed gradually even China and India. According to the forecasts of the World Bank, the continent can be "on the verge of economic growth the same way that China 30 years ago was and India 20 years ago was". The views from the past decades on Africa as a continent of backwardness and total poverty, no longer corresponds to reality. [See more](#)