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INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN STUDIES
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Newsletter



Congratulations on your anniversary! 80th anniversary of the Honorary President of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences A.M. Vasiliev



Dear Alexey Mikhailovich! It is hard to convey in words what you mean to us, your colleagues, to Russian African studies and Oriental studies as a whole. You are a role model to us: a brilliant world-famous scientist, writer, journalist. Over the last six decades, you have achieved impressive results in all these areas, but most of all you have succeeded in the work of your whole life - the study of the countries of the Middle East and Africa. Looking back to the beginning of your career, we want to note that it was journalism that taught you the first lessons of courage and professional mastery. Many bright, memorable reports from “hot spots” came out from under your pen. You were an eyewitness to the Vietnam War and the Arab-Israeli conflict, working as a correspondent and political observer for the newspaper Pravda in these regions. The result of your two-

year stay in Vietnam was the book of reporting “Rockets over the lotus flower. Vietnam during the days of war.” You happened to take the reins of government of our Institute during the most difficult, dashing years of perestroika, when science and art collapsed, and many years of research and development lost their significance. Then your leadership talent was fully manifested, thanks to which our Institute not only survived, but also strengthened its well-deserved authority in Russia and abroad, and implemented new breakthrough research projects. That period was very fruitful for you personally. You worked on the fundamental problems of the socio-political history of the Arab and African countries saw the light of day. Your major work “History of Saudi Arabia”, where the phenomenon of “Wahhabism” was first studied in our country, has withstood several editions and has been published in Russian, Arabic and English.

[Read more](#)



Africa day celebration

Ahead of the Russia-Africa Summit, Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Egyptian Embassy organized on May 28 Africa Day celebration and a seminar, the cross-cutting theme of which was the issue of economic cooperation and preparations for the upcoming summit. The event was attended by more than 120 people - representatives of state authorities, in particular the Presidential

Administration of the Russian Federation, the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, relevant ministries, as well as 28 ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions of African states accredited to the Russian Federation, experts, senior officials of Russian companies from various sectors of the economy. The moderator of the seminar was Honorary President of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Special Representative of the President of Russia for Relations with the Heads of African States (2006-2011), Academician A.M. Vasiliev. Director of the African Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia A.V. Kemarsky, Ambassador of Egypt I. Nasr, Head of the Group of African Ambassadors to the Russian Federation M.Puba. A.V. Kemarsky expressed hope that the Russia-Africa summit and its previous events will bring bilateral relations to a new level, stressing that he counts on the support of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Ambassador of Egypt I. Nasr, in his speech about the upcoming summit, stressed that the Egyptian side welcomed the interest of the Russian partners in restoring ties, and suggested that the upcoming event would open a new chapter in Russian-African relations. [Read more](#)

EAEU-Egypt International Expert Session

On April 11 at the site of the Eurasian Economic Commission, in preparation for the Eurasian-Egyptian business forum, scheduled for this year, an expert session was held on the prospects for the creation and functioning of a free trade zone between the EAEU and the Arab Republic of Egypt. The event was attended by almost 100 representatives of various organizations,



including the EEC, ministries and departments, business and expert communities of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. One of the five keynote speakers was the team leader, Senior Researcher [Center for Global and Strategic Studies](#), Ph.D. K.A. Aleshin, speaking on the topic “Prospects for the market of the Arab Republic of Egypt for export from the EAEU”. On the event also were discussed issues such as: the current state of the negotiation process under the FTA agreement with Egypt, barriers to trade and economic relations with Egypt, the export potential of the small and medium-sized businesses of the EAEU. Following the keynote speakers, a thorough exchange of views took place. It is expected that the developed proposals will be taken into account in the course of preparation for the EAEU-APE business forum and negotiations of the EEC with the Egyptian side. [Read more](#)

“Saudi-Russian Relations: Past and Present”

On April 17-18, in Riyadh - the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - the scientific symposium “Saudi-Russian relations: past and present” was held. It was jointly organized by the Center for Research and Intercommunication Knowledge (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), led by Dr. Yahya Ibn Junayd and the Institute for African Studies of RAS. The symposium was attended by Russian Arabists, orientalists - Honorary President of the Institute for African Studies, RAS, Academician A.M. Vasiliev, Head of the Laboratory of Risks of Socio-Political Destabilization of the Higher School of Economics, Doctor of History A.V. Korotaev, professor of the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation A.Vavilov, senior researcher IAF RAS, Ph.D. Kukushkin V.Yu., Head of the [Centre for North African and African Horn Studies](#), Ph.D. Tkachenko A.A. From the Saudi side - Dr. Turki bin Fahd bin Abdullah Al-Saud, Dr. Abdel Aziz bin Salma - Deputy Minister of Information of KSA, Dr. Mansour al-Marzuki - Assistant Professor of Political Science at the Institute of Diplomacy named after King Saud Faisal, Dr. Abdullah Muhammad Hussein - writer, expert-Russian scholar, Dr. Ali al-Husheyban - columnist of the newspaper Riyadh, Dr. Saleh Haslan - Member of the Advisory Council (Shura) KSA, Dr. Abdullah Abdel Mohsen al-Farraj is a fellow at the Center for Arab Studies. [Read more](#)



Meeting of the Director of the Institute I.O. Abramova with the Ambassador of Egypt in Russia Aref Ali Nayed.

On the 22 of April the director of the Institute for African Studies of RAS, member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences, corresponding member of the RAS I.O. Abramova conducted a meeting Ambassador of Egypt Aref Ali Nayed. The conversation was also attended the first secretary of the Egyptian Embassy in Russia O. Magdi and the Team Leader, Senior Researcher

[Center for Global and Strategic Studies](#), Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Ph.D. K.A. Aleshin. The parties thoroughly discussed issues and mechanisms aimed for further strengthening the Russian-Egyptian economic and investment cooperation, the possibility of holding joint practical events, including taking into account the Russia-Africa summit planned for October this year. Russian companies, the meeting participants agreed, reasonably consider Egypt as one of the most promising markets for export development and investment activities, and also consider this country as a platform for further business expansion to neighboring countries and regions. It is worth noting that when working in the Egyptian direction, an increasing number of representatives of Russian business circles rely on information and analytical support offered by the Institute for African Studies. [Read more](#)

Solemn meeting of the Club of Friends of Madagascar

On April 24, a solemn meeting of the Club of Friends of Madagascar was held, dedicated to the anniversary of the club members - the 90th anniversary of the leading researcher at the [Center for Civilizational and Regional Studies](#) of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Ph.D. Aida Nikolaevna Moseyko and the 85th anniversary of the leading researcher at the [Center for Sociological and Political Studies](#), Doctor of Geography Vladilen Ivanovich Gusarov. S.M. made a scientific report following the election results in Madagascar. Shlenskaya. The meeting was attended by a translator from Malagasy M.U. Shaposhnikova, journalist I.O. Ivanov, diplomat Artyom Kozvonin, M.I. Vorobyev, employees of the Institute of Africa, RAS N.N. Rodionova, A.A. Tokarev, E.N. Korendyasov and others. The participants remembered their trips to Madagascar and discussed the current state of affairs in Madagascar. [Read more](#)

North Africa Expert Roundtable

On April 24, in Moscow, with the support and participation of the, the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, an expert round table was held devoted to a comprehensive review of the current political and socio-economic situation in North Africa, the identification and discussion of key regional development trends in the foreseeable short and medium term. The round table was organized by the Russian Middle East Association in cooperation with the [Centre for North African and African Horn Studies](#) of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Center for Arab and Islamic Studies of the Institute for Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Libyan Institute for Advanced Studies (Libya Institute for Advanced Studies) at the National Research University Higher School economics. “Scientists from leading Russian research centers engaged in academic research and advising public authorities and Russian business on politics, economics and security in North Africa discussed the main internal and external factors determining the causality that occurred in the spring of 2019 in Libya, Algeria, Sudan and Egypt events. [Read more](#)



Public lecture of Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamaria

On May 21, 2019, at the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, a public lecture was held by Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda Dr. Jeanne d'Ark Mujawamaria on the 25th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide. The topic of the lecture was: “25 Years after the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda: Lessons learned by the International Community”. The lecture was attended by representatives of the diplomatic corps of African countries and the academic community. [Read more](#)



“War, environment, social inequality and prosociality”

May 24, Corresponding Member Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Deputy Director for Research, of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor Dmitry Mikhailovich Bondarenko made a presentation: “Prosperous” and “Struggling”: the emergence of a social hierarchy among African migrants in Moscow during the transition from the

Soviet Union to the Russian Federation at the biennial conference “War, environment, prosociality ” in Seville (Spain). [Read more](#)

Social inequality and research trip by Ph.D. Griбанова V.V. and Prof. Shubin V.G. In the framework of the project “Russians in Africa”

From May 12 to May 31, the head of the [Center for History and Cultural Anthropology](#) Ph.D. Griбанова V.V., Doctor of History prof. Shubin V.G. in the framework of the project “Russians in Africa”, carried out by the Institute for African Studies RAS, made a research trip to Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. In addition to the interviews with descendants of Russian immigrants who found themselves in southern Africa, there were meetings with leaders and representatives of associations of compatriots, in particular, the Russian Club of Cape Town, the Russian community of Hauteng province, parishioners of the first Russian Orthodox church in southern Africa, consecrated in 2003 and succeeded the parish that existed in South Africa from 1952 until the mid-1970s. Work was carried out with archival, museum and other materials on the subject of the project. [Read more](#)



The speech of the Director of the Institute for African studies of the RAS, Corresponding Member, Professor Irina Abramova at the economic conference “Russia – Africa”.

On June 20-21, Director of the Institute for African Studies of the RAS, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor Irina Abramova took part in an economic conference held at the annual meeting of shareholders and Board meetings of the African Export-import bank, speaking at the panel session “Prospects for the development of multilateral relations in the era of protectionism.” The annual meeting of the African Export-Import Bank is a landmark meeting of African

political and business leaders to discuss trade, industrialization, exports, financial sustainability and efficiency. [Read more](#)

“Current comment”

(the rubric was created in cooperation with IMEMO of the Russian Academy of Sciences)



Emmanuel Macron's official visit to Egypt

French President Emmanuel Macron arrived on January 27, 2019 to Egypt with a three day visit. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Jean-Yves LeDrian, Secretary of Defense Florence Parley, Minister of Economics and Finance Bruno LeMayor, Minister of Culture Frank Rister, Minister of Public Funds Gerald Darmanin, as well as dozens heads of major French

companies, including giants such as Orange, SNCF, Engie. The composition of the French delegation made it possible to judge both the nature of the issues to be discussed and the purpose of the visit of the head of the Fifth Republic. [Read more](#)



Sudan: mass protests

The internal situation in Sudan, which has been characterized by a continuous political and economic crisis since 2011, at the end of 2018 has reached a new level of tension. Since December 19, 2018, almost the entire country has been embraced by mass protests, often turning into violent clashes between protesters and security forces using tear gas, rubber batons, less commonly firearms. In a

number of cities, protesters burned down buildings of the ruling Party of the National Congress (PNK), the National Intelligence and Security Service (NSSR), and a number of local administrations. On February 9, 2019, the Prosecutor General's Office of Sudan confirmed the deaths of 31 people during the demonstrations; according to estimates by Human Rights Watch and some other international human rights organizations, the death toll exceeded 50. Hundreds of participants (according to opposition figures - about 2 thousand) ended up in prisons. In December alone, about 400 protests took place in the country. [Read more](#)



Nigeria: 2019 Presidential Election

Early 2019 in Nigeria the first presidency of Mohammad Bukhari ends. On February 23rd the new presidential election was held. 73 candidates from 91 political parties took part. However, the main and, in fact, the only serious rival to Mohammad Bukhari Progressive Congress (MIC) - became the representative of the opposition People's Democratic Party (NDP) Atiku

Abubakar. [Read more](#)

Russian industrial zone in Egypt

A memorandum on the creation of the Russian industrial zone (RPZ) in Egypt was signed in 2007. However, at the highest level of bilateral cooperation - the level of the presidents of the two countries - this issue began to be discussed only in 2014, and in May 2018 an intergovernmental agreement was signed on the creation and ensuring the conditions for the activity of industrial zone in the economic zone of the Suez Canal. He determined that its developer would be the RPZ management company established by JSC Russian Export Center in accordance with Egyptian law. From Egypt, the authorized organization for the implementation of this project is the Main Directorate of the Special Economic Zone of the Suez Canal (SCZone). [Read more](#)



Results of the constitutional referendum in Egypt

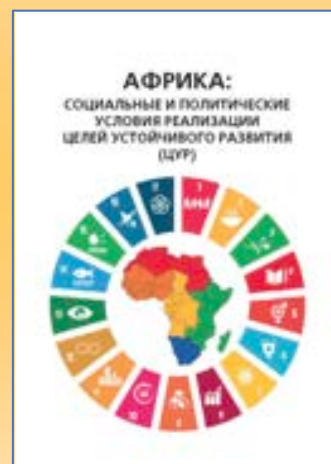
The convincing victory of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi on elections in March 2018, first elected on this post in 2014 extended his term to 2022. Moreover, in accordance to Egyptian Constitution, which determines that the president is elected for 4 years and can be re-elected only once, A.F. al-Sisi lost the right to run for office again. As a result, a dilemma arose before the ruling elite of Egypt: either to transfer power in 2022 as required by the Constitution, or once again change the basic law (over the past 7 years it has changed twice: in 2012 and in 2014). [Read more](#)



Institute publications:

Collective monograph “Africa: Social and Political Conditions for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals” Editor Ph.D. N.A. Xenofontova. Institute for African Studies RAS, 2018 ISBN 978-5-91298-226-2

The work reflects the most acute problems associated with the possibility of African countries to implement the global project of the Sustainable Development Goals. The issues of social, economic and political development of the states of the continent are considered in the context of food and national security. Special attention is paid to factors of maintaining internal stability and social policies pursued by the governments of individual countries, as well as climatic factors that have a direct impact on the future of the continent. [Read more](#)





“East African Community. Integration issues. Collection of scientific papers” Editor Ph.D. N.V. Vinogradova Institute for African Studies, RAS, 2018. ISBN 978-5-91298-225-5

Collection of articles devoted to evolution of the East African Community. The questions of political and economic formation of this regional organization are considered, an assessment of its activities at the present stage and prospects for further development is given.

[Read more](#)



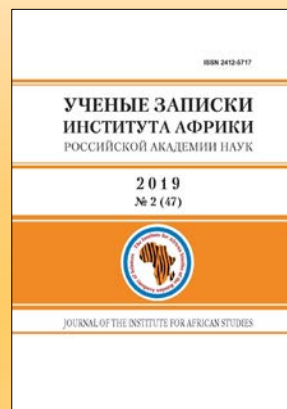
Monograph Morozenskaya E.V. “State regulation of the economy in Africa.” Editor Ph.D. V.P. Morozov. Institute for African Studies, RAS, 2018, ISBN 978-5-91298-228-6

The monograph details the evolution of the role states in the socio-economic development of African countries, found in use by governments concepts and models. Analyzed modern features of budget, industrial and foreign trade policies of African states and their regional associations as well as the interrelationship of the pan-African economic policies and the competitiveness of national economies. [Read more](#)



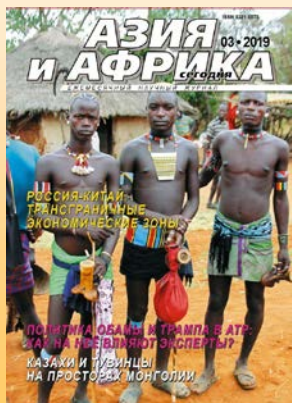
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