



INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN STUDIES  
RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

# Newsletter

June 2020  
Vol. 10, Iss. 2



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
INSTITUTE HAPPY AFRICA DAY!

[Union of African Diasporas of Russia](#)  
[Embassy of the Republic of Gambia](#)  
[Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania](#)

## Russia and Africa in the Modern World: New Challenges and Prospects for Cooperation

On June 4, 2020, an online conference was held on "Russia and Africa in the Modern World: New Challenges and prospects of cooperation" under the auspices Integration club, the Chairman of the Council Federation, the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Valentina I. Matvienko. The organizers: the Institute for African Studies (Russian Academy of Sciences), Financial University (under the Government of the Russian Federation), Youth Parliament (the State Duma of the Federal Council of the Russian Federation) with the support of the Russian Committee for Solidarity and Cooperation with the Peoples of Asia and Africa. The plenary session was chaired by the Director of the Institute for African Studies, member of the RAS Presidium, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Economics, Professor Irina O. Abramova. [More details.](#)

ОНЛАЙН-КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ

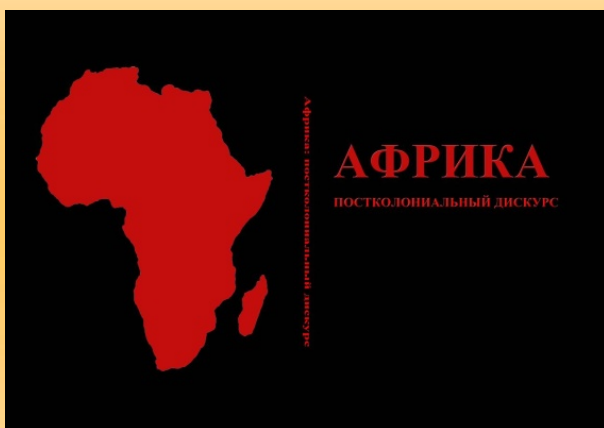
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15:00

РОССИЯ И АФРИКА  
В СОВРЕМЕННОМ МИРЕ:  
НОВЫЕ ВЫЗОВЫ  
И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА

Logos of the Institute for African Studies, Financial University, and other participating organizations.

## Africa: Postcolonial Discourse

On June 25-26, 2020, the All-Russian Scientific Online Conference "Africa: Postcolonial Discourse" was held. The event, organized by the Laboratory of Oriental and African Studies of the Department of World History of P.G. Demidov Yaroslavl State University and the Center for History and Cultural Anthropology of the Institute for African Studies, was dedicated to the 60th Anniversary of the continent's liberation from colonial dependence. [More details.](#)



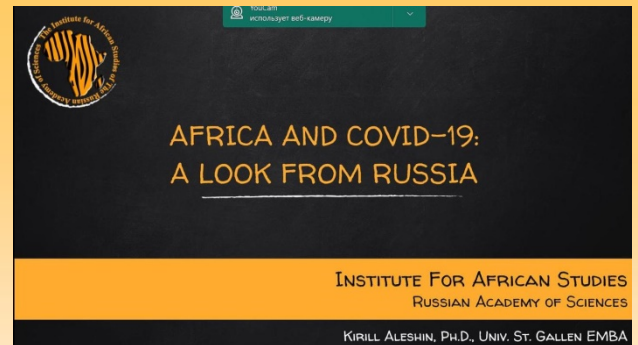


## VII Annual Conference with International participation "System Economy, socio-economic cybernetics, soft dimensions in the economy – 2020"

At the plenary session spoke the head of the “North-South” Group of the Center for Civilizational and Regional Studies of the Institute for African Studies, Chairman of the Commission on Social and Cultural Problems of Globalization of the Scientific Council “History of World Culture” under the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences A.I. Neklessa. [More details.](#)

### “Options of Africa in Corona Crisis, Under AFRICOM and Financial Clout of China: Comparative Challenges and Opportunities of Engagement with Global South”

On June 5, 2020, Member of the Directorate, Head of the Group applied research, senior researcher, Ph.D. K.A. Aleshin took part in the international online conference “Options of Africa in Corona Crisis, Under AFRICOM and Financial Clout of China: Comparative Challenges and Opportunities of Engagement with Global South”, organized on the Webex platform by the African Studies Association of India (ASA India) in cooperation with the Center for African Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. [More details.](#)



### Round table "Global Transformations and Global Challenges"

On June 26, 2020, the Center for the Study of a Crisis Society and the journal from the RSCI database on the WoS platform "Contours of Global Transformations" held a round table “Global Transformations and Global Challenges”. [More details.](#)

### "New Global and Regional Challenges in Africa"

On May 16, 2020, the Zoom platform hosted an online conference "New Global and Regional Challenges in Africa", jointly organized by the Council of Young Scientists (Institute for African Studies) and African Club of the MGIMO Scientific Student Society.

The event was attended by 20 experts from different regions of the country: representatives of the Institute for African Studies and MGIMO, as well as St. Petersburg State University, Perm State National Research Institute, Ryazan State University, Moscow State University, Higher School of Economics. [More details](#)



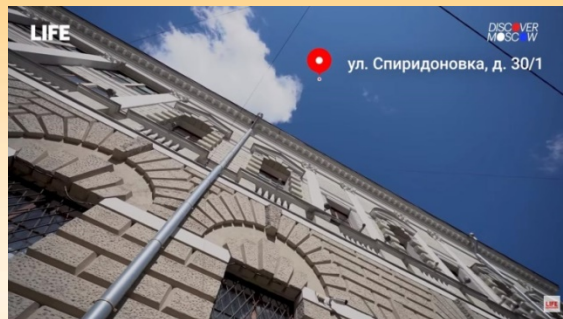
Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Institute for African Studies and the University of The Free State. [More details.](#)

## Online seminar "Political and socio-economic peculiarities of lockdown in South Africa"

On May 11, 2020, an online seminar "Political and socio-economic peculiarities of lockdown in South Africa" was held. A report on the specifics of quarantine and measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 was made by E. Salakhedinov, Ph.D., researcher of the Institute for African Studies, postdoctoral student of the University of South Africa. [More details.](#)

## A. Lapushkina at the seminar "Homo Sapiens Historicus"

On May 31, 2020, the regular meeting of the scientific seminar of the International Center for Anthropology, Homo sapiens historicus was held. With a report on the topic "Transformation of the initiation rite in the culture of Avatime (Ghana) XIX-XXI centuries" was made by junior researcher of the Institute for African Studies, member of the Avatime History Project and consultant to the Avatime Traditional Council, A. Lapushkina. [More details.](#)



## Online tour of Moscow. Estate of Gabriel Tarasov

In this edition of online tours from "Life", the Moscow Tourism Committee and the Museum of Moscow, we will see an amazingly beautiful mansion built by the architect Ivan Zholtovsky at the beginning of the 20th century.

Moscow scholar Larisa Skrypnik will guide us through the rooms with painted ceilings, which were supposed to become a home for the family of the merchant Gabriel Tarasov. [More details.](#)

## "Actual Commentary"

(rubric created in collaboration with IMEMO RAS)

### Results of elections in Namibia and Botswana

At the end of 2019, national elections were held almost simultaneously in two southern African states - Namibia and Botswana. On March 21, 2020, on the day of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the country's independence, the inauguration of the re-elected President of Namibia, Hage Geingoba, took place. And earlier, on November 1, 2019, - the inauguration of the President of Botswana Mokvetsi Masisi. [More details.](#)

### 2020 presidential election in Togo

On February 22, 2020, the presidential elections were held in Togo. In accordance with the amendments to the Constitution adopted in May 2019, the so-called "absolute majority" system was introduced in presidential elections. According to it the candidate who received 50% + 1 vote is considered the winner, instead of the previously used "relative majority" scheme, when the winner went to the candidate with the highest number of votes. [More details.](#)

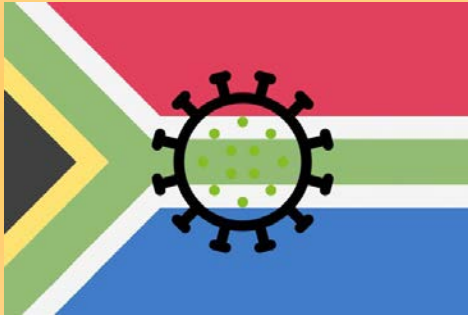






## The current geopolitical situation in the Sahel

At the end of 2019, the American edition of The New York Times reported that the head of the Pentagon, Mark Esper, is considering the possibility of reducing or completely withdrawing American troops from the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. It became known that he ordered the African Command of the US Armed Forces (Africa) to prepare a comprehensive plan for the withdrawal of troops from the Sahel. [More details.](#)



## COVID-19 epidemic in South Africa (February-April 2020)

More than 20% of all confirmed cases of a new form of coronavirus in the African continent were detected in South Africa. As of April 17, 2,783 infected with COVID-19 were registered in South Africa, 50 died and 903 recovered. More cases were confirmed only in Egypt (2844), at the same time Morocco and Algeria are slightly behind South Africa on this indicator - 2670 and 2418 infected, respectively. [More details.](#)



## Guinea: parliamentary elections and referendum on amendments to the Constitution, 22 March 2020

On March 22, parliamentary elections and a referendum on constitutional amendments were held in Guinea. Their term of office as parliamentarians of the previous convocation, elected in 2013, expired almost two years ago, but in early 2019 the powers of the deputies were extended indefinitely by decree of President Alfa Conde. [More details.](#)



## Fighting COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Aftermath in Egypt

According to the World Health Organization, since February 14, 2020, when the first confirmed case of SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus was detected in Egypt, a total of 9,746 cases were registered until May 12, of which 533 have died. The spread of the new coronavirus infection in Egypt has become a serious test for the national health system, represented by both government and private medical institutions. [More details.](#)



## 2020 elections in Cameroon and the Anglophone crisis

On February 9, 2020, elections were held for the lower house of the Cameroonian parliament - the National Assembly (NA). It consists of 180 deputies elected by direct universal suffrage of the country's population for a 5-year term. The territory of the Republic of Cameroon is divided into 49 multi- and single-member districts. [More details.](#)



## Visit of V.I. Matvienko the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Namibia in February 2020

On February 17-22, 2020, a delegation of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, headed by its Chairman V.I. Matvienko, paid an official visit to the Republics of Zambia and Namibia. The visit took place within the framework of the parliamentary consultations mechanism between Russia and African countries. [More details.](#)



## Parliamentary elections in Mali: tensions in the country continue

Parliamentary elections were held in Mali: the first round - March 29, the second - April 19 this year. Mali became the second African country to hold elections, despite the coronavirus pandemic announced by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11 (parliamentary elections and a constitutional referendum were held in Guinea on March 22). [More details.](#)



## COVID-19 epidemic in Nigeria

Coronavirus in Nigeria was detected on February 27, 2020. As of June 7, there were 12,233 people infected with coronavirus infection in the country, 342 people died, 3,826 recovered. Thus, in terms of the number of infected, Nigeria was in third place in Africa, lagging behind South Africa (45 973) and Egypt (32 612). [More details.](#)



## African politics in Paris in the context of the pandemic

Now, there are few doubts that the world after the coronavirus pandemic will be different. The economic, social, political, demographic consequences will be very sensitive and will lead to noticeable geopolitical transformations in many regions of the world. These changes are likely to be especially pronounced on the African continent. [More details.](#)

## Institute Publications:



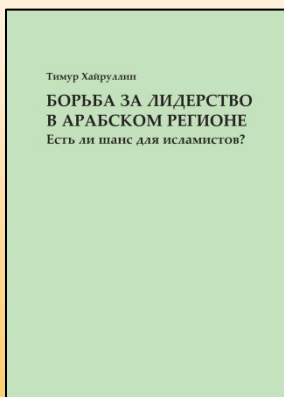
### "African traditions and modernity: problems of history, culture and gender".

Resp. editors: Ph.D. V.V. Gribova, Doctor of History N.L. Krylova

M.: IAfr RAN, 2020. --- 308 p.

ISBN 978-5-91298-248-4

[More details](#)



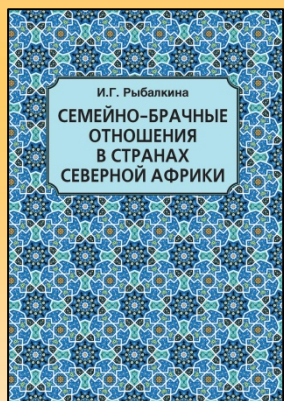
**Khairullin T.R. Struggle for leadership in the Arab region. Is there a chance for Islamists?**

Resp. Editor Academician of RAS A.M. Vasiliev

- M.: IAfr RAN, 2019. --- 214 p.

ISBN 978-5-91298-243-9

[More details](#)



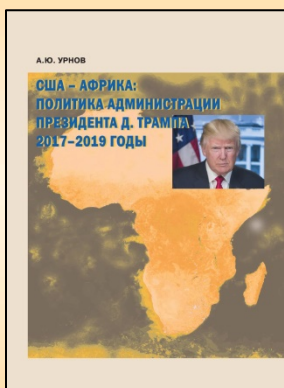
**Rybalkina I.G. Family and marriage relations in the countries of North Africa.**

Resp. editor, Doctor of History, prof. V.V. Orlov

- M.: IAfr RAN, 2019. --- 190 p. from Fig.

ISBN 978-5-91298-242-2

[More details](#)



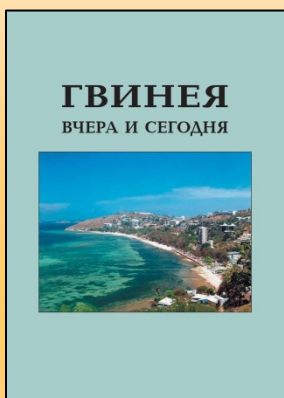
**Urnov A.Yu. USA - Africa: Policy of the Administration of President D. Trump. 2017-2019 years.**

Resp. editor Ph.D., senior researcher O.S. Kulkova

- M.: IAfr RAN, 2020. --- 294 p.

ISBN 978-5-91298-247-7

[More details](#)



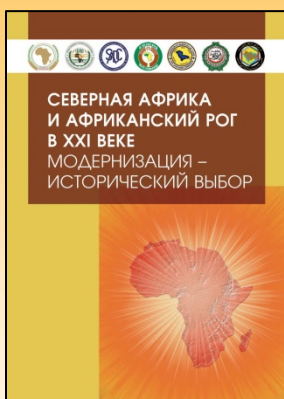
**Guinea yesterday and today. Digest of articles.**

Resp. editor Ph.D. T.S. Denisova

- Moscow: IAfr RAN, 2019. --- 240 p.

ISBN 978-5-91298-239-2

[More details](#)



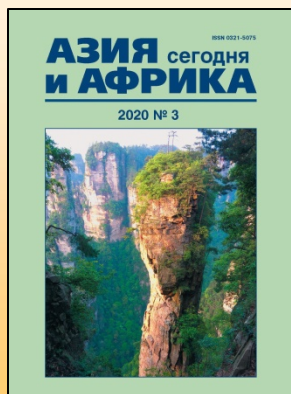
**North Africa and the Horn of Africa in the XXI century. Modernization is a historic choice.**

Resp. editor A.A. Tkachenko

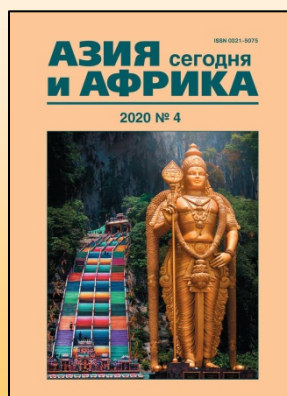
M.: IAfr RAN, 2019. --- 178 p.

ISBN 978-5-91298-245-3

[More details](#)



**“Asia and Africa Today”**  
[issue 3 2020](#)



**“Asia and Africa Today”**  
[issue 4 2020](#)



**“Asia and Africa Today”**  
[issue 5 2020](#)