

Focus: The World Facing Africa (Summary)

Essay: A World in Crisis and Africa: For the Future of TICAD

Motoki Takahashi (Professor, Kyoto University, and Professor Emeritus, Kobe University)

The world is facing two crises of Human Security: the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The pandemic had the potential to be a catalyst for collective action by the whole humankind, but countries have adopted exclusionary defensive measures that have resulted in significant vaccination inequalities between developed countries and Africa. Africa has been extensively ravaged by war in the past, but the scant attention it has been paid pales in comparison with that being accorded to Ukraine. These two “Apartheids” will need to be overcome. Africa has refrained from changing its borders, drawn disregarding its history, for the sake of peace and prosperity, and has been aiming for regional integration. We should listen carefully to Africans’ criticisms of invasions and learn from their thoughts and experiences. If the TICAD process can provide a forum to discuss regional and global efforts beyond bilateral cooperation in order to expand Human Security and realize a “dignified life” for individuals, it will show its historical significance in a world of crisis-driven turmoil.

1 Japan’s Policies and Practices for Peace in Africa

Shinichi Takeuchi (Professor, African Studies Center - Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

The purpose of this paper is to examine Japan’s policies and practices for peace in Africa in relation to the realities of African conflicts and international efforts for the conflict resolution, thereby identifying the challenges that the country faces. Although intensified armed conflicts epitomized Africa in the 1990s, low-intensity conflicts in rural areas are the main feature in the recent period. In response, the United Nations and African regional organizations have taken the lead in implementing partnership peace operations. While the opportunities for the use of force has clearly increased due to the implementation of the principle of impartiality, such operations have not necessarily produced desired results. Having developed policies for peace in Africa since the end of the Cold War, Japan has promoted international peace cooperation with JICA and the SDF as two main actors. In addition to the necessity of developing legal and institutional frameworks for the participation of the SDF in UN peacekeeping operations, Japan should clarify the aims and principles of its peace policy and of advocating them to the domestic and international audience.

2 France and the Sahel Crisis

Sadaharu Kataoka (Professor, Faculty of International Research and Education, School of International Liberal Studies, Waseda University)

French President Emmanuel Macron announced the withdrawal of French troops from Mali on February 17, 2022, signaling an end to Operation Barkhane. This military operation, started in August 2014 to eliminate Islamic extremists in the Sahel region centered on Mali in West Africa, is thus terminated partway through, having failed to completely stop the terrorist activities of Islamic extremists in Mali.

More than 10 years have passed since terrorist attacks and killings by jihadists first emerged in the Sahel region, especially Mali, but terrorist attacks have continued unabated. Across West Africa,

political instability and social unrest are reaching new heights due to the activities of militant Islamic extremist groups. These jihadist activities have spread beyond Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania, to the north of Cote d'Ivoire, northern Benin and Ghana, and are having a significant impact on local communities.

Were the military intervention and other measures taken by the international community, led by France, a complete failure? While France will continue its military commitments in the Sahel outside of Mali, a fundamental review of the international community's policy toward the Sahel is urgently needed.

3 New Developments in the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

Naohiro Kitano (Professor, Waseda University)

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), jointly managed by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Commerce, has served as a platform for cooperation between China and Africa. At the 8th Ministerial Conference of FOCAC (Dakar Conference) in 2021, health and medical care became the top priority sector against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, and one billion vaccine doses were committed. Numerical targets were set for trade and investment promotion. The scale of financial assistance at \$60 billion, pledged at the 2015 Beijing Summit, was not reached, and the level was dropped by \$20 billion to \$40 billion at the Dakar Conference. Infrastructure connectivity was not included as a priority item, but African needs in this regard are high and financial assistance is expected to continue. FOCAC adopted long-term vision for the first time, and other new developments included establishment of a cooperation plan and coordination mechanism for cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) between the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), which is leading the BRI, and the African Union Commission (AUC). With FOCAC and BRI overlapping in Africa, it can be inferred that actors such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, and the NDRC are advancing China-Africa cooperation in cooperation and competition with each other.

4 Russian Policy toward Africa

Yoko Hirose (Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University)

Russia has been increasing its engagement with Africa in recent years, both formally and informally, and it has been especially welcomed in countries whose values are incompatible with those of the West, making skillful use of this receptiveness to its own benefit.

The objectives of Russia's activities in Africa can be summed up in five points: (1) involving itself in regional conflicts and expanding its influence; (2) securing military bases; (3) gaining access to natural resources and mineral concessions; (4) competing with the US, Europe and China; and (5) securing 54 votes in the United Nations amid international isolation.

Since the October 2019 Russia-Africa Summit, Russia has actively deepened its ties with all African countries and expanded its presence through financial assistance and economic cooperation, including debt write-offs. On the other hand, private military companies such as the Wagner Group are particularly active in the unofficial sphere and, as a "security export," they are engaged in the defense of mines, support for local governments, and military training.

The complicated sentiment of African countries toward Russia can be also observed in their attitude to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

5 Ethiopian Civil War: A Long Way to the End

Yuka Kodama (Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization)

In November 2020, armed conflict erupted in Ethiopia between the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the federal government when TPLF forces attacked a federal military base. As a result, the TPLF, which had been the center of power for a long time, was designated as a proscribed terrorist organization. Although the media had reported the political conflict, the sudden armed attacks on the federal government by the TPLF was not anticipated both at home and abroad. This paper reviews the background to the TPLF's marginalization leading up to the civil war and the course of the civil war. In March 2022, the two sides declared a humanitarian truce, resulting in a temporary lull. This paper will also examine the possibility of a "national dialogue" that has begun almost simultaneously with this civil war.