Narratives drive politics. Controlling how reality is understood and can be changed gives power and influence over development. For the last four decades African countries have to a large extent lived off the generosity of the international donor community. The cost of doing so has been obvious: the imperative to follow policy prescriptions that have worked elsewhere and for that reason alone have been treated as relevant and helpful also for Africa. This liberal internationalist approach has been centred on the twin principles of free market and democratic governance. It has served as dominant policy narrative with many governments in Africa embracing it as the way forward. It still has its supporters but the interesting thing about Africa today is that cracks are emerging in this intellectual edifice, thus rendering the narrative less compelling and less attractive.

The lack of development in developing countries and the examination of the underlying societal problems that are in close causal relation have been providing fertile ground for research to present an extensive historical background. Economic challenges, the backwardness in growth or modernization, and the disorders of society and democratization are collective research subjects for multiple disciplines. Within this multidisciplinary field, the system of international development and aid is an important branch which has grown into a set of independent research and policy standards.
We estimate that by 2050, one-third of the world’s population will live in Africa: up from about one-fifth in 2012. Such growth will be imbalanced across Africa with Southern and North African countries characterised by slowing or even negative youth population growth, while West Central, and East African countries will experience significant youth population increases. Sub-Saharan Africa will have a considerably higher youth-to-population ratio over the next 35 years. The continent must, therefore, be ready for an increasingly young labour force.

Almost all East African Community member states have more than 30 percent female MPs in their national parliaments. What could be the reason for the fact that all EAC countries, except Kenya, are above the so-called ‘critical mass’ in the field of female political representation? In the last decades, both conflict and political transition have emerged in EAC countries. During the post-conflict period, gender norms and values (with a focus on gender quota regulations) have been implemented into national policies. The newly established liberal constitutions and gender policy creation have affected the status of East African women positively, although there is a big difference between the states concerning the effectiveness of gender policy-making.

The paper focuses on Kenya, and its education system. The aim of my study was to present the historical development of education in Kenya, and the odds and limits appearing within it, based on the available literature. It becomes visible that access to education is not given equally to everyone, regardless of which level of education we examine. This becomes really interesting and unique if we ask primary school students and college students about fair play and its content in such an imbalanced and even unequal system.
The post-1991 Ethiopia and Eritrea were hoped to become promising and exemplary states in Africa. But, after seven years of euphoria, national stability and security trapped both countries into a bloody conflict, and their relation is now in structural crisis: the ‘no war, no peace’ dilemma. Their security dilemmas are basically centered on the antagonistic foreign and national security as well as nation-building policies.

Despite the fact that currency devaluations are likely to have a negative effect on the economy in the long run, Ethiopia devalued its national currency, the birr (ETB). They turned to this option in the hope of attracting more investments from abroad, decreasing import bills, improving the current account deficit and giving a boost to the exports of the coffee sector.

The Republic of South Africa is 25 years into its democracy and the youth of the country find themselves inextricably linked with the country’s politics. With a fast-growing population, rapid urbanisation, gross overpopulation, inequalities as well as other issues faced by most developing countries, the youth of South Africa find themselves in the position of being the product of their history as well as the catalysts for their future.
AHMET MURAT YETKIN

TRADE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TURKEY AND SOUTH AFRICA 
A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE LAST 20 YEARS?

In the 2000s, a single political party became able to manage Turkey alone for the first time in the country’s history. By ensuring internal stability, Turkey started to build and improve its relationships with foreign countries. In this manner, Turkey decided to look for ways to strengthen its relations with the African continent and especially with South Africa.

ALAXANDER SHIPILOV

POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF THE LEBANESE DIASPORA IN CÔTE D’IVOIRE BEFORE THE 2020 ELECTIONS

The recent political developments that took place in West Africa, encompassing several bloody civil wars and the following reconstruction, were marked by the involvement of a number of regional and completely external stakeholders. It has been, furthermore, broadly acknowledged by the recent scope of globalization, international, and transnational studies that diasporas constitute a significant portion of the internal groups of interest in local political processes. This tendency is true to West Africa and, most particularly, Côte d’Ivoire, the country that has experienced the latest large-scale civil conflict among the states in this part of Africa.

TAMÁS BALÁZS

SHARING SOVEREIGNTY STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA SUPPORTING FRANCE’S PERCEPTION AS A GREAT POWER

The paper argues that conventional sovereignty can no longer account for France’s perception as a great power, therefore, suggests Stephen Krasner’s approach in analyzing French Africa policy. The basic assumption is that France can maintain its relative power by intervening in weak and failing states in sub-Saharan Africa. Interventions in its former colonies have long played a vital role in enhancing France’s perception as a great power in the international system and in the protection of its vital national interests worldwide. Since the decolonization, there have been around fifty interventions on the continent.
The United States of America ratified the Anti-genocide Convention only thirty-six years after its initial signature. It was passed to the Senate for the first time by President Harry Truman in 1949. It evoked great controversy as it was perceived as something that might be favorable to communist regimes and possibly be an attack on the basic rights of US citizens. Successive attempts to pass it began much later in 1970 due to the support from Richard Nixon who backed the ratification initiative. The main reason for the reluctance to pass the convention was its record on international jurisdiction on persons responsible for genocide.

In the last years, the African political landscape has become increasingly influenced by the effects of the introduction of social media as a major channel for political debate. Apart from democratising the discourse, it has contributed massively to the spread of rumour, hate speech and disinformation, which had significant real-life effects on the ground.

The paper examines the parallel existence of the global paradigm ‘linguistic imperialism’ and the linguistic/cultural paradigm in the African language system, which in their own right can have positive or negative effects, too. The other question that the paper looks at is the role of the great African lingua francas (e.g., Swahili) in this system.