

## **Editorial: The Continuity of Change**

### **1. The Institute and its Journal**

The Institute for Strategic and Political Affairs in the Department of Political Sciences at University of Pretoria has spent the past two years introspecting on three questions:

- What do strategic and political studies entail for us in Africa and southern Africa today?
- What does it mean to provide a platform for excellent academic and policy research work on strategic and political questions today? and
- How do we position both the Institute and the *Strategic Review for Southern Africa* to respond appropriately to their mandate to understand strategic and political questions in Africa and Southern Africa today?

As part of this discourse, the Institute has decided that its research agenda will revolve around four focal areas, which the *Strategic Review* will take into consideration:

- The first is multilateralism and the global south including the agency of the south at the UN and the rest of global multilateralism;
- Second is the subject of international, continental, regional and national peace including the pursuit of nuclear-free zones of peace and development, security communities, transitional justice and so forth;
- Third is thinking about strategic thinking, the focus on understanding strategic thought with a particular focus on distilling from the African archive patterns of thought to theorise about, to conceptualise and to apply on strategic political questions today – a book series is a dissemination platform for this focus; and
- Fourth is understanding trends and patterns in state-making and regional integration as a mechanism for development, security, peace and social liberation – partnership with Centre for Governance Innovation is a critical part of delivering on this.

The *Strategic Review* is positioned strategically to harness creative thinking that seeks to shift the geography of reason in relation to strategic studies by foregrounding fresh, alternative and even rebellious thinking about strategic challenges and opportunities facing the region and continent.

## **2. This edition**

This, the second edition of the 40<sup>th</sup> volume of the *Strategic Review*, straddles a number of these above-mentioned focal areas – regional security, epistemological shifts and state making. A number of articles in this edition come from the 2017 Limpopo/Gauteng Colloquium of the South African Association of Political Studies hosted by the Universities of Limpopo and Venda through the able hands of Dr Kgothatso Shai (UL) and Prof Richard Molapo (UNIVEN), and with the generous support of the National Institute for Social Science and Humanities. While most of the articles focus on the geographic area called southern Africa, two articles discuss issues that do not emanate from this area, but whose implications affect the whole continent including the region. Chris and Efe Isike's article on migration and terrorism draws from the experience of West Africa, but its insights should attract the attention of southern Africanists already worried about the rise of terrorism in Mozambique and on the Indian Ocean coast generally. Its arguments about the role of networks, inter-linkages of various kinds and globalisation-induced migration as factors in the changing nature and character of terrorism may help southern African anticipate what seems to be an emerging terror factor in its regional conflict theatre.

Mu'uz Alemu Gidey's review article meditating on the basis of a comprehensive UNECA research publication on new pastoralism and new patterns of violence in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa also makes conclusions relating to the inter-connection between structural, cultural and physical violence enabled by transnational, regional and global networks including terror and illicit trade networks. This has implications for how we understand the problems of inter-communal violence and transborder crime in southern Africa.

The articles by Kgothatso Shai and Sylvester Marumahoko conduct lessons-yielding comparative analysis on foreign power machinisations and constitution-making processes, respectively. Shai looks at US foreign policy towards Ghana and Tanzania on the basis of a dissenting epistemological lens in strategic studies – the Afrocentric perspective – and concludes that the US foreign policy does not differentiate between different African countries and has not changed over time, in spite of positive shifts in its rhetoric especially under Barack Obama.

Marumahoko's close scrutiny of the experiences of Kenya and Zimbabwe with constitution-making processes following governance crises suggests that while there are a few crucial similarities between the two (including externally facilitated political settlements leading to power sharing arrangements and constitutional reforms), there are marked differences in outcomes.

The piece by Stephen Phiri provides a conceptual exploration of Fanonian

thinking about race, given the prominence of the question of race in regional discourses about anything from the land question to Africa in the world as well as incidents of racism. The article points to reimagining life and discourses in the frame of Fanonian concept of full humanity as a way out of racialised discourses and realities.

Thabiso Muswede and D Masvopo take a critical look at the discursive and political implications of a documentary on Nelson Mandela as a figure symbolic of negotiated settlement, forgiveness, post-colonial/apartheid reconciliation in order to underline the fact that Eurocentric ideological prisms impact on what is celebrated, what is highlighted and what is not about role of figures in transformation of societies and states. In the end, they find that the documentary underpins the important lessons in managed transition for various African countries to explore for their own transformation/transitions.

It is hoped that this edition will stimulate discussions about such questions as terrorism, racism, constitutionalism, transformation and imperialism. Clearly, as this edition shows the more there has been change in pastoral patterns, in constitution-making, in foreign relations and in security and terrorism, the more things have also remained the same. There is certainly change happening all the time, but the old demons are also not dying fast enough for us to announce a break with the past in Africa.

Let me use this opportunity to pass my gratitude to the outgoing editor, Professor Henning Melber, for a sterling job done over the years in giving direction to this journal, helping it grow into a much sought-after journal. We wish to also thank the editorial board that has supported the journal over the years. We would like to appreciate Wilma Martin and Heather Thuysnma for excellent editorial support to the editorial committee over the years. We thank Ambassador Jan Mutton who has ended his tenure as an astute book review editor.

We warmly welcome Bongi Cwayi and Nomzamo Malindisa as journal administrator and editorial assistant, respectively. We also thank Professor Everisto Benyera (University of South Africa) and Dr Kgothatso Shai (University of Limpopo) for agreeing to join the editorial committee. Professor Maxi Schoeman remains a source of support and wisdom to the journal team.

**Siphamandla Zondi**  
**Editor**  
November 2018