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Strategic Review for Southern Africa

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Aims and Scope

The Strategic Review for Southern Africa is an accredited on-access journal listed in the IBSS index. It has since 1978 been a platform for strategic and political analyses of themes and socio-political developments that impact on or provide lessons for Southern Africa. As a multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary journal, the Strategic Review facilitates vigorous and enlightened debate among scholars, policy makers, practitioners, students and activists in order to contribute to the wider global discourse on changing strategic and political dynamics within and beyond nation states.

The journal publishes two regular issues a year (May/June and November/December) with a possibility of one additional guest special issue per year as need justifies, subject to editorial group approval. Issues are available mainly as an open access online platform licensed under creative commons. Printed copies can be ordered. All submissions are subject to double-blind peer review by at least two appropriately qualified reviewers.

The Strategic Review invites submissions sent electronically to:

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Editorial

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The Russian war against the Ukraine has added to the many challenges already facing the African continent. African countries have, for instance, had to deal with geostrategic (re-) positioning in times of new multilateral shifts and realignments. Some of these consequences were the thematic reference point of our issue no. 1/22 while issue no. 2/22 specifically focused on the evolving Indo-Pacific as another trans-continental dynamic. This issue continues in this vein and offers a special focus on African security and the situation in the (Eastern) DRC. It illustrates our intention, to recognise significant trends and developments on the continent and especially their relevance for the Southern African region.

Understanding the *AU Kampala Convention*, formally known as the *African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa*, as a contribution to geopolitical security is the subject of the article by *Seun Bamidele and Innocent Pikirayi*. It stresses the need for enhanced national and regional collaboration to fully implement the treaty framework in favour of more geopolitical security. The dynamics unfolding in the *Democratic Republic of the Congo* are at the centre of the following three articles: *George Abel Mbango and Angelita Kitbatu-Kivekete* take stock of the *Force Intervention Brigade* as a new form of peacekeeping/peace enforcement created by the UN as part of MONUSCO and its mission to stabilise the precarious balance of powers in the Eastern DRC. As they conclude, the mixed results of the hybrid operations “moderates the kind of impact that could be expected from such a robust brigade, thereby leaving the United Nations, African Union, and sub-regional organizations with serious issues to ponder in relation to the future of peacekeeping on the continent.” *Kristof Titeca* explores the constellation following the Russian intervention in the Ukraine regarding *The Struggle for Influence in the DRC*. As he argues, the “neo-Cold War” provides new manoeuvring space and opportunities for political leverage vis-à-vis the Western governments which is fuelled more by anti-Western sentiments than direct Russian pressure. While playing the “Russian card” seems, for the time being at least, to be off the table, it remains an ace up the sleeve. This directly relates to the role the DRC’s neighbours in the Great Lakes region, specifically to the

East of it, can play and *Cori Wielenga, Samuel Igba and Patrick Hajayandi* assess *Why Burundi intervenes in the DRC*. As they suggest, beyond the country's own interests a motivating factor to be considered is also "the context of Pan-Africanist considerations, including that of African integration, African self-reliance and agency, and African ownership of and control over its own resources."

The focus of this issue is complemented by a *debate article* by *Abiodun Adiat* on the challenges to decolonise *Knowledge Production and Power Relations in African Studies*. As he maintains, this is unfinished business with many African scholars at universities in Africa not yet applying a postcolonial lens. As the section title suggests, we invite others to enter the debate with contributions on the subject. Finally, *Masilo Lepuru* critically engages in a review essay with a widely acknowledged recent book on *post-Apartheid South Africa*. Eleven years after Marikana, the biggest massacre since Sharpeville, we also invite others to participate in a debate on the subject.

With the coup in Niger and its far-reaching implications not only for the Sahel region, the BRICS Summit in South Africa, and the elections in Zimbabwe, as well as the build-up for elections in South Africa and Namibia next year, a *Strategic Review for Southern Africa* (nomen est omen) faces no fear or risk of running out of relevant subject matter to contemplate. Our next issue (no. 2/23) will, therefore, include some analyses of the post-election situation in Zimbabwe. But we welcome other submissions that engage with relevant subjects. Since this is the grist of intellectual efforts, we would also like to encourage more contributions that interpolate today's socio-political, -economic, and -cultural realities for the debate section.