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## Editor ' s Note

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## Editor's Note

*Modern Africa: Politics, History and Society* is a new journal published twice a year at the University of Hradec Králové by the Department of Politics of the Philosophical Faculty. The journal, the first of its kind in East-Central Europe, intends to become a forum for Africanists worldwide but with a special emphasis on the publication of research results conducted in this part of the world. Of late, African studies have been experiencing an upswing in the formerly communist-ruled Europe. The demise of communism has enabled the opening up of Africa for first hand research by both seasoned researchers and PhD. candidates from East-Central Europe and Russia, bringing in research results which are not tainted by colonial biases. Conversely, also contacts and cooperation between African Africanists and their East-Central European counterparts have begun to intensify. For example the international conference on African studies "Viva Africa" organized yearly since 2006 attracted numerous scholars from Africa and Western Europe who together pondered over the questions of poverty, violence and development in Africa to name just few major topics. The journal will try to answer questions such as that asked by the late Patrick Chabal: "Why is it that the countries of Africa have not fared better since they gained their freedom?"

The journal will publish texts written by political scientists, historians and anthropologists as well as sociologists. We will publish reports on current research and scholarly exchange, reviews of current publications produced in East-Central Europe, Africa and elsewhere in the world. *Modern Africa: Politics, History and Society* welcome submissions which will be carefully scrutinized by a college of peer reviewers. Our aim is to create a high quality journal which will be a welcome addition to the existing body of international Africanist journals. We are happy to announce that our International Advisory Board is composed of well-known Africanist scholars who will supervise the efforts of the editor, editorial board and editor's team. At this stage the journal will be distributed free to our partners worldwide and those colleagues who request it. Gradually we will ask for recognition by the established databases and classified journal ratings. At this stage we would like to thank those authors who eagerly contributed their texts to a journal that is yet to prove its qualities. Let me express the hope that *Modern Africa: Politics, History and Society* will be read with interest by both specialists and members of the public who care for Africa and seek less than superficial answers and explanations of problems concerning Africa in the contemporary world.

Petr Skalník

