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## Editor ' s Note

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

With this issue *Modern Africa* achieves its second volume. Have we done well? I think we can say that given the circumstances the journal is going in the right direction. However, we need to broaden the base of peer reviewers so that we can keep the publication deadlines better. For that purpose we had to turn occasionally to the members of the International Advisory Board and now also to the colleagues in Germany, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Many thanks to all peer reviewers! The editorial board met in Hradec Králové on the margin of the Viva Africa seminar in December 2014. We decided to make accessible online articles from the first volume (2013) and this policy of online accessibility will apply always one year after the volume was published in hard copies. With gratitude we accepted the offer of Georg Klute to finance a new webpage of the journal. That was achieved thanks to cooperation with Christian Eichler and all interested may see the result at [www.modernafriajournal.org](http://www.modernafriajournal.org). Lot of attention is being paid to the question of better worldwide distribution of the journal. The latter will be presented by the editor at the forthcoming 6th European Conference on African Studies, to be held in Paris in July 2015. We are keen to recruit as many subscriptions to the journal as possible so that we can seriously consider to entrust the technical production of *Modern Africa* to a professional publisher. Until then we will continue to produce the journal relying on local economic and personnel resources. The high standard of the journal will however not be sacrificed in the least.

This issue is dedicated to the late Ali A. Mazrui without whose massive and critical contribution the study of Africa would be considerably poorer. The main corpus of this issue makes widely accessible writings both by African and Central European authors. Francis Nyamnjoh draws on his intimate knowledge of chieftaincy in his native Cameroon and in Botswana where he spent some time in teaching and research. The question of the link between chieftaincy and democracy has become important again and Nyamnjoh shows that at least in Cameroon and Botswana chieftaincy has had potential for strengthening democracy. Desalegn Amsalu approaches the question of democracy in Africa from another angle, that of ethnic minorities. The case of federal

system in Ethiopia is questionable because there is a gap between the letter of the law and the implementation. The question remains: does Ethiopia remain an imperial structure or has it potential to become a truly balanced federal state? Alžběta Šváblová analyzes her field data from Liberia which pertain to the post-civil war commissions on governance and land. The crucial point is to reform the state functioning so that no resort to civil war would be possible. The fourth essay in this issue concerns the perennial quest of Ghanaian civil servants for decent salaries. Isaac Brako and Kwame Asah-Asante analyze various phases of these strivings and relate them to the general question of labour in formal sector in Ghana. The research studies are followed by two reports on conferences in 2014 and several book reviews.

Let me thank the executive editor and her assistant, and of course the members of the editorial board and the International Advisory Board. I sincerely hope that all readers will enjoy reading the fourth issue of our journal.

Petr Skalník