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Editor ' s Note

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The first issue of the second volume of *Modern Africa* is rich in its variety of topics and geographical distribution. The essays published here address issues which all have their importance for knowledge production about present day Africa. Although the journal ideally has its internal divisions, this issue is remarkable for breaking barriers between disciplines. Jan Klíma is a historian who explains the evolution of political institutions in Namibia throughout the entire colonial, transitional and postcolonial era. The reader will be able to follow Namibian state formation and understand why this country is today an example of political stability after a period of liberation war and de facto occupation by the South African apartheid regime. Obert Hodzi broaches the rather sensitive theme of the commodification of elections in Zimbabwe, a country that displays a high degree of one-partyism while presenting itself as a democracy. Clinging on to power at any cost does not seem compatible with the democratic change of the regime. The third article on politics tackles the conundrum of Jos crises in Nigeria. Peter Nungshak Wika ably explains interests behind atrocities and he sensitively shows how ethnic, religious and purely political factors are intertwined and feed the protracted conflict.

Bettina Engels discusses the discourse on autochthony and allochthony in south-western Burkina Faso using the example of conflicts over land. Social categories of belonging are decisive for access to land resources and conflicts arising from it. Walter Gam Nkwi brings us to south-western Cameroon from where enterprising women initiated trading mobility to China. The case explodes the long established thesis about the male as the migrant and the breadwinner. Finally Borys Bińkowski shows that Fair Trade policies, so much propagated in the global North, have practically no effect in the areas which should be helped by Fair Trade. Ghana is a good example because cocoa from Ghana is widely used for the production of fair trade chocolate sold on European markets. Debunking the myth of Fair Trade reveals the true face of neoliberalism.

This issue also contains a detailed discussion of a recent book on political partisanship. Vlastimil Fiala in his review article persuasively documents the coming of age of the studies on political parties in Africa.

At the close of this note I should mention that starting with 2015 *Modern Africa* is an officially recognized peer-reviewed journal in the Czech Republic. We intend to strive for international recognition with the third volume.

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