



Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences

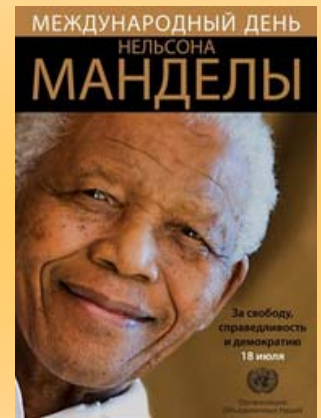
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Newsletter

In November 2009 the UN General Assembly proclaimed the International Day of Nelson Mandela, in recognition of his contribution to peace and freedom. It reflects the widespread international recognition of the role played by this major political figure in the settlement of inter-racial relations, to overcome the inequalities of distribution and protection of human rights, the advancement of the poorest and underdeveloped social groups, as well as promoting the processes of democratization and peace on the planet.



On the 3rd of July at the Russian State Library, the Hall of international organizations, a round table devoted to this outstanding African leader was held. The event was attended by staff of the Embassy of South Africa, the UN Information Centre, State Library, the Institute of African Studies, People's Friendship University, and representatives of nongovernmental organizations. *Read more on p. 4.*

13th International African Studies Conference

On May 27-29, 2014 in Moscow the Research Council for the Problems of African Countries and the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences hold the 13th African Studies Conference titled «Society and Politics in Africa: Traditional, Transitional, and New». The Conference will take place at the Institute for African Studies and the Institute for Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The working languages are Russian and English. The deadline for panel proposals submission is February 1, 2013. For more information, click [here](#).

Publications

On the 1st of August the monograph «Foreign policy of the democratic South Africa» by Dr. A.A. Arkhangelskaya was published. ISBN 978-5-91298-109-8

The monograph is a study of the democratic South Africa's foreign policy formation and the definition of the role and impact of these policies on the situation in South Africa and other regions of the continent and the world in general, from the standpoint of the modern theory of international relations and the study of South African history in particular.



This is a comprehensive study of foreign policy of South Africa, the development of relations in various aspects of the leading nations of the world and African countries, as well as international governmental and nongovernmental organizations, the role and the place of South Africa in those organizations. A special attention is given to the conceptual foundations of the foreign policy of South Africa, as well as the influence that the modern trends of the international and regional relations exert on this course.

Conference in Pecs, Hungary

On June 14-16 Prof. Vladimir Shubin and Dr. Veronica Usacheva took part in the [international conference](#) «Emerging Africa 2012: Old friend, new partnerships and perspectives for the 21st century» (Pecs, Hungary).

Prof. Shubin presented the paper «[Africa and the War in Libya](#)». Dr. Usacheva delivered a report on «[Social media and New Image of Africa: New Perspectives and Possible limitations](#)». The International Conference on «Emerging Africa 2012: Old friend, new partnerships and perspectives for the 21st century» was convened by the Africa Research Centre, [University of Pecs](#).



«8th Iberian Conference on African studies» in Madrid

On June 14-16 Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko, Dr. Evgeny Korendyasov, Dr. Tatiana Deych and Dr. Alexandra Arkhangelskaya took part in the international conference CIEA8 in Madrid (Spain). Prof. Bondarenko together with Arkhangelskaya headed the panel «[The BRICS States: Images and Prospects in Africa](#)».

The theme of the conference was African realities and the nature of their transformations, as well as national, regional and global processes in Africa. More than 360 reports were presented on 43 thematic panels.

Prof. Bondarenko delivered a paper on «Russia's Image in Africa», based on data collected by him and a group of scholars during the expeditions in 2006-2010. Dr. Deych's report was titled «BRICS in Africa: the role of China and Russia». The speech of the head of the Centre for Russian-African relations and foreign policy of the Institute for African studies Dr. Korendyasov was devoted to Russian policy in Africa. The final report on the «Image and prospects of the BRICS in Africa» was performed by Dr. Arkhangelskaya.



In the footsteps of history

In June 2012 Dr. Galina Sidorova visited Pauline Lumumba, the widow of Congolese national hero Patrice Lumumba. She lives in a modest house on Avenue 30 June in Kinshasa (DR Congo), where once P. Lumumba lived. Pauline is surrounded by care and attention of her three sons: Francois, Patrice, and Roland. Pauline's daughter Juliana lives in Egypt, but from time to time she visits home. Pauline enches the memory of her husband and keeps photos from the family album. Many of them are well-known and migrate from one publication to another. But there are also rare pictures and a lot of portraits drawn by local artists. «The authorities have destroyed everything, even the personal belongings of my husband» - recalls Pauline.

In the photo (standing from left) are: sons of Lumumba - Patrice, Roland; Dr. Sidorova; Rector of the University named after Patrice Lumumba in the DRC; on the very right is the eldest son of Patrice Lumumba, Francois.



Roundtable on Sub-Saharan Africa

On the 27th of June the session of roundtable «Civilization processes in Sub-Saharan Africa in the second half of the twentieth century: factors, peculiarities and dynamics» was held at the Institute for African Studies.

The meeting was organized by the Center for Civilizational and Regional Studies. The reports were made by the researches of the Center: L.A. Andreev, A.N. Moseyko, I. Ponomarev, A.D. Savateev, I. Sledzevski, E.V. Kharitonova.

A. Zhukov at the conference in Germany

On June 1-2 Alexander Zhukov (Centre for Russian-African Relations Studies) took part in the 3rd biannual conference of the African Studies Association in Germany ([VAD](#)) «Embattled Spaces, Contested Orders» held in Cologne, Germany.

Together with Dr. [Aleksi Ylönen](#), Mr. Alexander Zhukov co-headed a panel «Africa's Disputed Borderlands: Responses from Multiple Disciplinary Perspectives» that brought together researchers from Cameroon, Finland, Italy, Nigeria and Russia interested in various problems of political science, political economy, social anthropology and history of international relations. Dr. Aleksi Ylönen from the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) represented a joint paper «State-building and its Security Challenges in southern Sudan: 2005-2011», written by him and Mr. Zhukov.

A meeting of veterans of Angola

On the 17th of May a meeting of veterans serving in Angola with South African director David Forbes was held at the Institute for African Studies. Mr. Forbes is making a documentary film about the Soviet Union's contribution to the struggle against apartheid. Vyacheslav Shiryayev and Victor Belush, former political and military advisers in Angola, took part in the shootings. D. Forbes has taken detailed interviews about their military service. The meeting was attended by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to Russia, Mandisi Mpahlwa, and Simon Cardy, advisor of the political department of the Embassy of South Africa in the Russian Federation.

D. Forbes is a participant of the South African Film Festival, held in Moscow on May 17-20th. He has brought the film «The Cradock Four» to Moscow, narrating on the murder of the anti-apartheid activist Matthew Goniwe. In 2010 the film won the «Best Documentary» award at the International Film Festival in Durban.

Seminar series «Culture and Society»

On the 2nd of May the seminar of the «Culture and Society» seminar series was held at the Center for History and Cultural Anthropology, Institute of African Studies.

The report «Comparative Analysis of Media Systems: the regulatory approach» has been delivered by Dr. Veronika Usacheva, the research fellow of the Center for History and Cultural Anthropology.

At the seminar held on the 23rd of May PhD Oleg Kavykin reported on «Traditional African arts as a sociocultural phenomenon».

International cooperation

Institute for African Studies has signed a cooperation agreement with the [Center for the Study of BRICS](#) in Brazil. The Center is a division of the Catholic faculty of the [Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro](#). Cooperation between the two institutions aimed at developing joint research programs.

Also in the summer of 2012 the agreements of understanding with the [University of Dodoma](#) (Tanzania) and [South-Kazakhstan State University named after M.O. Auezov](#) were registered.

EASA Conference 2012

On July 10-13 Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko, Dr. Veronica Usacheva, and Dr. Daria Zelenova took part in the 12th Biennial European Association of Social Anthropologists Conference «Uncertainty and Disquiet» in Paris (France).

Prof. Bondarenko, Dr. Usacheva and Dr. Zelenova gave papers; besides, Bondarenko co-convened a workshop with Petr Skalnik from the University of Gradec Kralove, Czech Republic.

Visit of delegation from South Africa

On the 3rd of July a delegation from South Africa visited the Institute for African Studies in terms of the Year of Heritage in South Africa.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the The National Heritage Council of South Africa: Chief executive officer of The National Heritage Council Sonwabile Mancotywa, Deputy Director General of Cultural Heritage and Preservation Vusithemba Ndima; coordinator of the Liberation Heritage Route Project Babalo Mdikane. The attendees included members of the Institute for African studies: Dr. A. Tokarev, Prof. A. Urnov, Prof. V. Shubin, Dr. A. Arkhangel'skaya, graduate students V. Kruchinsky, P. Popov, V. Sidorov, and the officers of the South African embassy in Russia: Tembani Maluleke and Dr. Neville Arendse.

The purpose of the visit of the delegation to Russia is an acquaintance with archival materials related to the history of the cooperation of African liberation movements with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Mancotywa has reported that currently South African officials are working on the creation of the South African Heritage Institute. The Institute is a storage of digital archives and visual collections. Photos, memories of Soviet diplomats and military servants, copies of archival materials - all of these will become an invaluable contribution to the development of the Institute.

South African Film Festival

From 17 to 20 May in Moscow the «Khudozhestvenny» cinema hosted the South African Film Festival, organized by the South African Embassy in Moscow with the support of the Government of Moscow and the cinema directorate.

At the opening of the festival a press conference of the Ambassador of South Africa Mandisi Mpahlwa together with leading South African film producers / directors - Ms. Sara Blecher and Mr. David Forbes took place.

Nine films were shown at the festival: feature, documentary and short movies provided an opportunity to get acquainted with the reach cultural and linguistic diversity of South Africa, as well as its political history and contemporary socio-economic conditions.

A few films shown at the Festival have replenished the fund of the Cinema Club of the Institute for African studies, and are to be shown during its next sessions.

Young scholars council column

On November 14-15, 2012 the Scientific Council on Problems of African Studies, Council of Young Scholars of the Institute for African Studies and Kazan Federal University organize regular XI All-Russian school of young Africanists «Problems of African Studies in Russia and abroad».

Presentation of the book

On the 13th of June a presentation of the monograph «The protest movements in the Arab countries: background, peculiarities and prospects» (ed. Prof. Igor Sledzevski, Prof. Anatoly Savateev, Moscow: «Librokom», 2012) was held at the Institute of African Studies.

This is the first comprehensive study in Russian science devoted to the events in the Near East countries in 2011-2012. A number of scientists from academic Institutes and Universities of Moscow and St. Petersburg were involved into the preparation of the volume.

July 18 - Nelson Mandela International Day *(see beginning on p. 1)*

Among the discussants were: Deputy Director of the [Russian State Library](#) Alexander Samarin, Director of the UN Information Center Alexander Gorelik, Charge d'Affaires of the Republic of South Africa in Moscow South Africa Henry Robenhymmer, Head of the Department of Africa of the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) Nikolay Krasilnikov, General Secretary of the Moscow branch of the [Universal Peace Federation](#) Dmitry Samko. The staff of the [Institute for African Studies](#): Prof. Vladimir Shubin, Dr. Andrei Urnov, Dr. Lyubov Prokopenko delivered a paper «Nelson Mandela - politician of honor». Director of the Center for African Studies at [Peoples' Friendship University](#) Vladimir Yurtaev, Peoples' Friendship University graduate student Emeka Okoh, editor in chief of Africana.ru website Igor Sid. The event was accompanied with exhibition of books devoted to Nelson Mandela and African liberation movements in general, and the demonstration of the video about his life.

Roundtable and the book exhibition were organized by the UN Information Centre and the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in conjunction with the staff of the Hall for International Organizations of the Russian State Library.

«City within a city» roundtable

June 8, the Franco-Russian Centre for Research in Human and Social Sciences hosted the Franco-Russian colloquium «City within a city», co-organized by the Center for History and Cultural Anthropology of the Institute for African Studies.

The main objective of the Colloquium was to determine the invisible boundaries of existing urban areas (blocks, separated areas - markets, squats, hostels), emphasizing them as functional social organisms, as well as the study of social and cultural processes within them and determining the identity of its inhabitants.

Colloquium had been arrayed around two main approaches that made a comparison of various countries possible: the first approach was identifying the significance of the theme of the city in the academic disciplines and also in the public discourse. The second approach was considering the big cities as areas of differences that were identified by the participants of the colloquium. Among the attendees were

French scholars Didier Lapeyronnie, Marco Oberti, Jaques Donzelot. The Russian side was represented by Olga Vendina, Daniil Alexandrov, Youlia Florinskaya, Natalia Kosmarskaya, Olga Tkach, Ekaterina Demintseva, Alexei Levinson and Alexandre Bikbov.

