

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE ON AFRICAN COUNTRIES?



APRI

AFRICA POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE



NOVEMBER 22, 2019 • 2:00-3:30PM

Discussion held on Twitter Spaces.

BACKGROUND

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Africa Policy Research Institute, APRI, has been tracking the effects of the war on African countries through a series of essays written by experts in various sectors. The essays cover a range of topics from energy policy and changes in geopolitics to the effects on Africa's digital transformation.

Some highlights from the essay collection:

- Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union in response to the war, as well as Russia's retaliatory actions, have resulted in European countries taking steps to wean themselves off Russian energy imports.
- African energy-producing countries stand to gain from Europe's search for new sources of gas. But this will require increased investment in the oil and gas sector. Political and regulator stability in addition to good governance are also essential to attract investor capital.
- The war in Ukraine has demonstrated that "neutral" service providers of digital technologies can and have become powerful governance actors capable of making unilateral decisions with considerable ramification for information flows across Africa, and the world more broadly.
- Many of these service providers are angling to meet Africa's connectivity infrastructure demands beyond offering digital communication platforms. African policymakers must ensure their respective digital economies are not reduced to pawns on the geopolitical chessboard or a mere battleground for resurgent great power competition between geopolitical blocs.
- In Africa, Russia sees an avenue to wield influence. Defense and security are the main anchors of Russian involvement in Africa.
- Jostling for influence requires financial commitments that may be beyond Russia. Despite Russia's best efforts to demonstrate that it can forge new partnerships despite Western efforts to isolate it, its roadmap for doing that has been complicated by its commitments in Ukraine.
- Africa-EU relations remain in flux despite the promise of the AU-EU Summit. Russia's war in Ukraine is likely to exacerbate the fragility of this hierarchical relationship.



THE EVENT ON TWITTER SPACES

On the 22nd of November 2022 from 2pm CET, APRI is hosting a two-part discussion with the experts who wrote the essays, to discuss the effects the war in Ukraine has had on African countries. The discussion will be held on Twitter Spaces.

The published authors will reflect on the respective issues they raised in their essays, and how those issues have played out since the war broke out in February. The first part of the discussion will focus on the following issues: internet governance, changes in the EU's security assistance and Great Power competition. Meanwhile, during the second part of the event we will discuss whether African countries should have taken a stronger stand in support of Ukraine. Furthermore, we will touch on Europe's search for gas and how this affects Africa's climate justice.



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ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Christopher O. Ogunmodede is an associate editor for World Politics Review and a foreign affairs analyst. He specializes in diplomacy, development and international security, with a specialist focus on West African history, political institutions and foreign relations. His areas of interest include governance, elections, military dictatorships, comparative authoritarianism, trade and regional integration, migration, diasporism and social movements in Africa, with a focus on the West Africa region.

Nanjira Sambuli is a researcher, policy analyst and strategist interested in and working on understanding the unfolding, gendered impacts of ICT adoption on governance, diplomacy, media, entrepreneurship and culture. Nanjira is a Fellow in the Technology and International Affairs Program at The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and a Ford Global Fellow. She is also a co-Chair of Transform Health, and board member at The New Humanitarian, Development Gateway, and Digital Impact Alliance.

Dr. Cliff Ochieng' Mboya is an Africa-China analyst and International relations practitioner. He is currently a research fellow at the Afro-Sino-Centre of International Relations (ASCIR) and a research associate at the African Centre for the Study of the United States (ACSUS). He previously worked at the China Africa Project as the Africa editor and consultant. He has worked at the Chinese Embassy in Nairobi as information and public affairs officer and interned at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kenya.



ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Dr. Toni Hastrup is Professor in International Politics at the University of Stirling. Her research broadly explores the nature of global power hierarchies (between the Global North and South) in knowledge and practice. I have worked in the area of global governance of security via regional security institutions - the African and European Unions. A part of her current research agenda draws on critical feminisms to understand the foreign policy practices of both institutions. In addition to research and teaching on gender and international security issues she sometimes offers media commentary, and advice to international organisations. Toni is a graduate of University of California, Davis (BA), University of Cape Town (MA), and the University of Edinburgh (PhD).

Vincent Obisie-Orlu is a Natural Resource Governance Researcher. His research focuses on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risks, the natural resource governance of critical minerals, oil and gas, energy and the energy transition, and advancing Africa's sustainable development.

Aaliyah Vayez is a South African political and security risk analyst. Her main research interests include European politics, African foreign policy and regionalism. She holds a Masters degree in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences, a Bachelor's degree of Social Science a



AGENDA

OPENING REMARKS

14:00 - 14:05

with **Christopher O. Ogunmodede**

SESSION 1

14:05 - 14:45

Internet Governance, Changes in the EU's Security Assistance and Great Power Competition.

with **Nanjira Sambuli, Dr. Cliff Ochieng' Mboya, & Dr. Toni Hastrup**

SESSION 2

14:50 - 15:20

Africa's Geopolitical Positioning, Europe's Search for Gas and Africa's Climate Justice.

with **Vincent Obisie-Orlu & Aaliyah Vayez**

OPEN PLENARY SESSION AND Q&A

15:20 - 15:30

