



Óbuda University Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences
Africa Research Institute
Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies



Dear Readers,

It is with genuine pride that I present to you our special issue on the topic of „Nigeria: Balkanization ahead?,” a multifaceted collection of scholarly takes on the dangers and opportunities that appear amidst Nigeria’s inter-religious and inter-ethnic challenges.

The guest editors of this specialized collection of articles are Dr Adam Mayer, (of Széchenyi University Győr, Africa Research Center, Óbuda, Hungary, and UNED, Madrid, Spain) and Dr Michael Nwankpa (of Unicaf, Roehampton, and Centre for African Conflict & Development, London). Dr Mayer taught and researched in Nigeria’s Northeast for three years, and has published extensively on matters Nigerian. Nigerian-British Dr Nwankpa is a fixture in Boko Haram scholarship in the UK and beyond, as well as a security scholar of pan-African importance.

The fact that such a special edition can appear in Hungary is in itself significant and shows that Hungarian African studies has matured and that its venue, our very journal, is attractive to African, Eastern European and well as Western scholars. Hungary today has superseded that lack of interest that characterized the country’s turn away from the global South since 1990. Since the year 2015 and Hungary’s Eastward Opening and Southward Opening initiatives at the political level, the country is active again in both Asia and Africa – with Nigeria earning high state visits from Budapest and a special focus, due to its size and economic importance.

Nigeria today is bustling with creative energy in fields as varied as banking, IT, music, and movies. At the same time, it is experiencing security challenges that question the meaning of the word „peacetime” in the country. A crucial element in those challenges is the ethnic conundrum that has burdened the country since independence itself. Our contributors address this conundrum from different vantage points and arrive at very different conclusions regarding possible ways out of the current maze. Their opinions do not reflect the views of JCEEAS, naturally. But it is my conviction that every single one of them contributes to our better understanding of the topics at hand.

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