



CALL FOR PAPERS

for the
Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies (JCEEAS)

on

Sahel: A turbulent region of increasing importance

Although Africa has been gaining an increasing amount of attention in a “*new scramble for Africa*”, one region has definitely attracted even more of this attention in the last decade and especially in the last few years, namely *the Sahel*. This group of countries – forming a belt between the Atlantic and the Red Sea – has been facing a growing number of challenges.

The term ‘Sahel’ comes from the Arabic for “coast” or “shore”, but was originally a climatic or ecological expression, referring to the semiarid region located below the Sahara Desert and above the humid and more tropical savannas of North-Central Africa. In this regard, the list of Sahel states usually ranges from 5 to 14, depending on the organization, for this special volume however, the editor suggests to use the above mentioned “belt of countries”, namely, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan and Eritrea.

Despite being a region with vast natural resources such as oil, natural gas, uranium, gold, diamond, phosphates, graphite, bauxite, tin and iron ore, as well as zinc, manganese and molybdenum, besides others, with large areas of arable land and available workforce, the Sahel is still representing some of the poorest and least developed nations in the world. This coupled with generally weak democratic institutions and political instability, an often extreme level of corruption and nepotism sets the perfect environment for various actors to intervene and influence the centres of power or even to try to take control by force. Few years ago, the region was home to several peacekeeping operations, served as area of operation for various international military operation, but the situation has changed dramatically, as did the number of the foreign military bases but not because stability and peace have returned but because of the coups that have happened during the last few years. Former strong powers of the region, like France or the United States have been losing ground, while others have slowly been returning such as Russia. China, Turkey, India, and the UAE, besides others have been setting foot in the region and been building their presence.



This special issue aims to gather thought-provoking studies and new researches in topics such as population growth, migration, refugees and IDPs, poverty, shortages of food and potable water, human rights issues, Francophonie, political instability, corruption, transnational terrorism, armed groups, insurgencies, peace support operations, lack of infrastructure, transhumance issues, desertification, droughts, climate change, child marriage, religious and interethnic tensions, besides others.

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Guide for Authors:

<https://jceas.bdi.uni-obuda.hu/index.php/jceas/instructions>

We look forward to reading your paper!

Yours respectfully,

Dr. David Vogel Editor of the Issue on behalf of the editorial team of JCEEAS

The Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies (JCEEAS) is a double-blind peer review academic journal published quarterly by the Africa Research Institute of Óbuda University in Budapest. Its open-source philosophy and international character of the editorial team ensures that it reaches a wide audience interested in contemporary African affairs and studies.

The journal is **open-source** and there are **no publishing fees**.