

**CALL FOR PAPER****Theme: Russia – Ukraine Crisis and Its Impact on Africa****Venue: Institute of African and Diaspora Studies,
University of Lagos, Nigeria and Virtual (Zoom)****DATE: 16 – 19 November 2022**

Russian-Ukraine conflict, no doubt, is a product of historical claims, myths, and narratives that tend to have legitimized Russian invasion. The quest of Russian president, Vladimir Putin to construct a narrative of making Russia great again as it were in the past and the fact that history defined Ukrainian territory as belonging to Russia and the need to pruned NATO's influence and imperialism in the region drive the current Russian-Ukraine war. This, when a nuclear power proclaims, as Russia has raised alarm that the admittance of Ukraine in NATO is fundamentally injurious to its national security interests. It simply says that continuous eastward expansion of NATO is at variance with its own national security interests. President Putin may not be as diplomatically savvy as the Westerners with whom he is sparring, but he comes to this game with a very strategic mind, and a relatively closed political system.

Extant invasion and military operations as it is currently on-going in Ukraine by Russia is not unexpected; it is the predictable result of a succession of failed public and private diplomacy between Moscow and Kyiv, NATO and Washington. Despite the fact that there are various ideas and arguments to explain and argue against Russia's aggression in Ukraine, diplomacy remains the most effective tool for reaching a realistic understanding and settlement. Putin is well aware of the perils and implications of a global conflict, as most analysts foresee. It is argued that a fair deal (good intent diplomacy) from NATO and the US, which Russia was unable to obtain through diplomacy alone can be realized through invasion of Ukraine, for other countries to respect and take Russia more seriously. For the truth is, historically and strategically, Ukraine is too important to Russia for any Russian leader to allow it fall totally into the hands of the US and its NATO allies, which is what its membership of the alliance would epitomize. Accordingly, it is also argued that the use of military force by Russia in Ukraine is morally wrong but strategically balance. It is morally wrong, because the territory and sovereignty of another independent state is invaded by the other. It is against the norms of international law as contained in article 1 of the UN charter and it capable of provoking multinational war as more sovereign nations might be tempted to join the war so as to avoid giving space for the emergence of second Hitler. This historical myths form the disturbing basis of the current xenophobic Russian-Ukraine crisis, which has affected all the continents, including Africa.

Africa is always at the cross road and is often at the receiving end. Politically, almost all the leaders of Africa are still mute except South Africa on the military invasion of Ukraine by the Russian federation because Africa is either democracy or dictatorship. African leaders basically don't want to annoy the US and NATO and at the same time, they don't want to be in the bad book of Putin. The reason is not far-fetched. What exist in Africa is hybrid regimes. Regimes that juxtapose democratic and authoritarian values. This makes them to need the support of both the leaders of the free world and dictators. There is lack of definite political ideology and Africa's inability to speak up in time like this, is likely to affect the perception of western democracies on Africa. The US and NATO expect African nations and the AU in particular to come out and unapologetically condemn Russian invasion of Ukraine because according to President W. Bush, friends of terror are enemies of civilization. Africa might be the next enemy of civilization and this perception might have negative consequences on its weak economy. It is noteworthy that African economy is highly dependent on the western economy. African economy is Import dependent and over the years the west except for China in the past few decades have been the source. The lack of political and moral support to the west might create new unfavorable economic policies for Africa engineered by the west. All of this and more calls for a critical reflection on the impacts of Russian-Ukraine war on Africa.

The organizers invite a broad range of contributions, ranging from shorter (3000-3,500 words) interventions and review essays to slightly longer (6,000) research papers. The articles within the following topics are expected for consideration, but not limited to this:

- Russian-Ukraine conflict and natural resources in Africa
- Russian-Ukraine conflict and the displacement of Africans
- Russian-Ukraine conflict and African education migrants
- Russian-Ukraine conflict and BRICS
- Ukrainian nationalism and its relations to “Africanism”
- Russian nationalism and its relations to Africanism
- Food security and the Russian-Ukrainian crisis
- The Russian discourse of humiliation
- Energy, revenue, and Russian-Ukrainian crisis
- Human rights perspective of Russian-Ukrainian crisis
- Human rights and development
- Community and social progress

Crucial Dates

Conference Venue: *Institute of African & Diaspora Studies, University of Lagos, Nigeria*

16th September 2022: Submission of Abstracts due.

23rd September 2022: Decision on abstracts announced.

28th October 2022: Full Papers are submitted.

1-15 November 2022: Registration for the Conference.

16–19 November 2022: Conference.

Conference Fees:

Participants: \$ 400 (Covering the international tourist tour)

West African participants: N15000

Keynote Address will be given by:

Prof T.D Thobejane

Faculty of Human and Social Sciences

University of Venda

South Africa

Prospective Presenters are expected to send a maximum abstract of 300 words with a short bio of 100 words to: info@glotanresearch.com, stating the appropriate subthemes that best suit their submission. Upon acceptance of abstracts, presenters are expected to send 10 page slides and a well-researched manuscript of between 6,000 and 8,000 words.

Post Conference Opportunity

Authors whose papers were presented at the conference or who were unable to attend for various reasons, have the option of submitting their corrected papers for peer review and publishing in any of the four journals listed below or in an edited book coordinated by Prof. Victor Ojatorotu and Dr. Nicholas Idris Erameh.

- African Renaissance
- Journal of African Affairs
- Journal of African Union Studies
- AYIKA: Journal of Environment and Politics in Africa
- Africa and Global Issues Quarterly

Keynote Speaker

Professor Lere Amusan, Department of Political Studies and International Relations, NWU, Mafikeng, South Africa

Conference Conveners

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Dr Kayode Eesuola, Institute of African & Diaspora Studies, University of Lagos, Nigeria

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