



Diversity in Europe

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issue 10 – Diversity of the South

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*« These strangers in a foreign World
Protection asked of me-
Befriend them, lest yourself in Heaven
Be found a refugee »*

*« Ces Etrangères, en Monde inconnu
Asile m'ont demandé
Accueille-les, car Toi-même au Ciel
Pourrait être une Réfugiée »*

Emily Dickinson (Quatrains II-2, 1864-65, Amherst, Massachusetts, Etats-Unis)
translation i French by Claire Malroux (NRF, Poésie/Gallimard, Paris, 2000)

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Diversity of the South

The Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (Iriv) has published since September 2016 a newsletter dedicated to migration- *Regards Croisés sur la Migration*.

The first issues (September 2016 - March 2018) were dedicated to a comparison between Paris and Berlin based on testimonies gathered among migrants interviewed in the two European capital cities. Since 2018, our newsletter has been entitled “Diversity in Europe”. Its main aim is now to tackle the issue of diversity- the motto chosen by the European Union (EU) since 2000 and in 2004 after the last biggest enlargement of the European Union (from 15 to 25 EU members).

The first issue (November 2018) was focussed on diversity at school with Rotterdam (in the Netherlands) whose inhabitants coming from abroad represent more than 70 % of the total population which is both a challenge and an opportunity to experience new approaches. Paris also has in its schools very diverse students in its classrooms.

The second issue (March 2019) was dedicated to religious & cultural diversity, with a focus on the Jewish community. If the Judaeo-Christian roots of the European Union are obvious, the European Union is a secular project with a genuine cultural identity open to all religions- “*United in diversity*”. This issue suggested a comparison between Paris and Thessaloniki, two cities sharing an history of troubled times during World War II.

The third issue (November 2019) tackled the issue of interreligious dialogue with articles on diversity in Switzerland and France. This is especially important in secular countries where all religions have to be respected together with the right to be free from any religious belonging or belief. A “republican” approach has allowed a civil peace for the past century in most of our European societies (but during World War II).

The fourth issue (March 2020) was focused on Education and Interfaith dialogue among multicultural countries. A first article analysed diversity inclusion in the USA, insisting on the necessity to enhance a “glocal diversity mindset”. A second article reminded of the example of Sarajevo, a city of peaceful existence between Jews, Muslims, Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats in a European country, Bosnia, with a historical “multifaceted, universal identity” that was brutally treated during the bloody Balkan war (1992-1995).

The fifth issue (November 2020) addresses diversity in the Mediterranean. The first article discusses the eastern part of the Mediterranean region, a crossroads between Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. The second article discusses the contradictory strategies in the Middle East and the role of the European Union

The sixth issue (March 2021) discusses artistic diversity and intercultural education. The first article presents Mexico and the great wealth of its craftsmanship. The second article discusses intercultural dialogue and intercultural education.

The seventh issue (November 2021) illustrates francophone diversity. Diversity is at the heart of the Francophonie (first article), which has many facets, including literature (second article).

The eighth issue (March 2022) is dedicated to Ukraine under war. It suggests a reflection on the diversity in learning- the grid of analysis for war at stake in the 21st Century is also meaningful for better understanding unpleasant and conflictual experiences which can be seen as real *casus belli* (second article).

This 9th issue tackles the issue of diversity in Geopolitics- a war is always a failure. When dialogue is cut, weapons and forces express themselves with violence. There has been a brutalisation among States that may question the role of the Francophonie but also of the Intelligence services in the fragile balance between a « hot » war and a ceasefire, while looking forward to a real peace that seems more and more illusory in troubled times in disturbed geopolitics?

The tenth issue is dedicated to the diversity of the South. The first article is devoted to cooperation between countries of the South. The second article evokes the neutrality displayed by some countries of the Global South towards Ukraine and the universal character of the struggle for democracy.

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The wide diversity of cybersecurity cooperation in the Global South to address cyber threats

Space of conflict, cyberspace is a major geopolitical issue. The countries of the South, especially in Africa, have understood this. Sometimes at their expense, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic with massive use of digital and increased exposure to threats. According to a Kaspersky report, cybercrime cost Africa \$4.12 billion in 2021, a decline in its gross domestic product (GDP) of more than 10%. More than one in two organizations in Africa reports having suffered at least one cyberattack in 2022 (1). The criminal armed gangs that sow terror in Africa use digital, to recruit and train supporters and as a propaganda platform to extol the losses inflicted on the security and defence forces. The African continent is also facing massive misinformation, orchestrated by trolls from China, Russia, and several Western countries or actors (2).

In the face of cyber threats, countries in Africa and the Arab world have diversified and strengthened their cybersecurity exchanges with other countries in the South. South-South cooperation can be defined as the exchange of knowledge and resources in political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, or technical fields between governments, organizations and individuals of developing nations. It may be implemented on a bilateral, regional, sub-regional or inter-regional level and may concern two or more developing countries” (3). The United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (Nairobi, December 2009) spoke of a “partnership between equals based on solidarity”.

South-South cooperation is diverse and varied. It consists firstly in harmonizing legislation or regulations. On 27 June 2014, the African Union adopted a specific Malabo Convention on cybersecurity and the protection of personal data. In 2020, one component of the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030) focuses on “cybersecurity, privacy and personal data protection”. The Arab States adopted the Convention to Combat Cybercrime in Cairo on 21 December 2010.

After a Directive on combating cybercrime in August 2011 and an Additional Act on the Protection of Personal Data, 16 February 2010, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted a Regional Cyber Security and Cybercrime Strategy in 2020. In 2016, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) approved model laws on the protection of personal data, electronic transactions and the fight against cybercrime

This South-South cooperation makes it possible to strengthen cyber-capabilities, exchange information, share best practices, and respond in a common and coordinated way to cyber-incidents based on trust between States. With the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), was created in December 2012 in the Sultanate of Oman, an Arab Regional Centre for Cybersecurity, based in Muscat to unify cybersecurity cooperation in the Arab region. This centre facilitates the exchange of information, ideas, solutions, and practices that can improve cybersecurity and limit computer crime. Several African countries are working together in AfricaCERT - training and training teams to respond to IT security incidents.

Training activities take the form of cybersecurity exercises such as the 5th edition of Benin’s HackerLab, extended to several ECOWAS countries. (Nigeria, Mauritania, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Togo, Senegal, Liberia, Cape Verde, Niger and Benin) in October 2022. (4) Several forums and conferences on cybersecurity have been organized, such as the SIT Africa Forum, each year in Morocco; it is addressed to the Directors of Information Systems and Heads of Information Systems Security (RSSI) Francophone African countries with projects in Cybersecurity. On a bilateral level, certain competent countries or institutions have developed closer cooperation such as the National Agency for Security of Information Systems of Benin (ANSSI BENIN) and its counterpart in Burkina Faso, ANSSI Burkina Faso, which signed in Cotonou, on November 11, 2020, a memorandum of understanding for cooperation. (5)

The exchange of expertise between countries in the South enables the design and implementation of related policies and mechanisms. The Smart Africa Alliance, created in 2013, brings together 36 African countries committed to building a sustainable and resilient digital infrastructure for Africa, develop agile policies and a harmonised environment to attract investment in the digital sector and create a single digital market in Africa (6). Operators of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) cooperate to address the challenges of cybercrime, such as the digitalization of banking services. (7) Technical and/or technological solutions are offered to sub-regional operators to minimize cyber-risks.

The multitude and diversity of cybersecurity cooperation improve the security and cyber-resilience of countries. Africa will have to set up data storage centres. At the end of 2020, more than 1% of the data generated in Africa was stored on the continent. A hundred structures exist, half of which are housed in South Africa. Other countries in the region need 700 data centres to meet the demand, according to the African Association of Data Centres (ADCA) (8). African digital sovereignty is at this price.

© Emmanuel V. Adjovi, Doctor of Laws, specialist in cyberlaw and e-strategy

- (1) 56% in 2022 versus 64% in 2021 - CESIA, Africa Cybersecurity Barometer, 2022 edition - https://lecesia.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/BAROMETRE-DE-LA-CYBERSECURITE-EN-AFRIQUE-2023_compressed.pdf
- (2) In February 2023, a collective of investigative journalists "Forbidden Stories" revealed that an Israeli company (Team Jorge), specialized in electoral manipulation, especially by social networks, has influenced dozens of elections around the world, particularly in Africa
- (3) International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC, CSI, IGB), "Backgrounder: What is South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation?" , <https://www.ituc-csi.org/note-d-information-qu-est-ce-que.html?lang=en>

(4) It was precisely to put in competition teams of ethical hackers who work in conditions of response to a cyberattack in order to measure their defence capabilities. More importantly, the exercise aimed to train teams that could become armies to defend the cyberspace of their respective countries, while integrating the rules of synergy of actions.

(5) This partnership consists mainly of information sharing and human resource exchanges. It can also extend to joint cyber response operations.

(6) The basic principle is the sharing of experiences developed in this field. To this end, a lead country is designated to develop and produce a reference document or master plan outlining its experience and best practices from which others can draw inspiration. Thus, Ivory Coast is designated as a leading country on cybersecurity. The reference document includes a cybersecurity program around which a pilot project with up to 5 countries is built. The lessons learned from this experiment make it possible to consider the specificities of these countries and to scale up. Guidelines for developing cybersecurity strategies are also proposed.

(7) It's about leveraging and sharing experiences in risk management, regulation, standards and Cyber Security governance.-
<https://www.lebigdata.fr/besoin-1000-mw-700-data-centers-Africa> and
[https://www.jeuneafrique.com/1266352/economie/souverainete-numerique-pouri-les-datacenters-sont-cruciaux-pour-lafrique/»](https://www.jeuneafrique.com/1266352/economie/souverainete-numerique-pouri-les-datacenters-sont-cruciaux-pour-lafrique/)

Diversity and neutrality of the global South (1)- supporting Ukraine, a universal struggle

In an editorial published in April 2022 in the French newspaper *Le Monde* (2), more than 80 writers and academics (including Indian Arundhati Roy, Nigerian Wole Soyinka, etc.) from countries belonging to the Global South whose population is favourable to Russia call for “standing with Ukraine”, adding “despite the faults of the West”. In the first paragraph, the authors write that Vladimir Putin is waging a war of conquest against Ukraine. Its army is bombing and destroying cities, killing thousands of civilians as it did in Chechnya and Syria. Ukrainians are resisting, we must support them without calculation or reserve.” Further on, they explain that public opinion in their countries supports Russia “in the name of an anti-imperialism that has turned over the years into passionate hatred” that makes them “applaud anyone who opposes the West.”

While the Global South is diverse, the western countries of the Global North are also diverse. Many European nations have had colonial empires and have been responsible for two world wars that led to the worst, especially during the Second World War with a crime against humanity never committed in the past. Part of the West has thus contributed, as the authors rightly point out, to the “great devastation of the world”. Hanna Arendt demonstrated this in her masterful work on the origins of totalitarianism (3). Since the 1950s, with the construction of Europe, the European nations have recognized their responsibilities and tried to redeem themselves by preventing the worst from repeating itself (4). Since the 1960s, the former European colonial powers have also disengaged; constrained and forced, sometimes peacefully in Africa or Asia (France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Portugal, etc.). But as in Latin or Central America, where independence had been acquired since the beginning of the 19th century (with figures such as Simon Bolivar), the same European colonial powers or the United States continued to exert a self-serving influence, especially under authoritarian regimes, “indefensible dictatorships”.

Things changed in the 21st century, which began with the terrorist attack on New York in September 2001. The project of the Islamist terrorists was clearly to reach Democracy by striking on its soil, for the first time in its history, one of the most powerful and emblematic democracies- the United States. The war never stopped.

In Europe, France has paid a heavy price with terrorist attacks that have hit it hard since 2012 (5). Our republican model disturbs the terrorists- the first secular country in Europe where the largest Muslim and Jewish community (majority) and the unbelievers (very many) live side by side. France has been militarily present in Africa, with several operations (Serval, Barkhane, etc.) to combat the jihadist threat that has repercussions on our territory by exploiting the African diaspora. The anti-French and anti-Western propaganda in Africa are also being exploited by Russia through the Wagner private Russian militia. In the absence of a common defence policy, the European Union has consistently affirmed its support for the war against terrorism, a permanent fight against disinformation and for the defence of fundamental rights (6)

In the case of Ukraine, the situation is paradoxical and even reversed. The Global South by refusing to take sides implicitly supports a dictator, Vladimir Putin and a colonial war. Russian aggression aims to vassalize an independent state, Ukraine, and overthrow a democratically elected president, Volodymyr Zelensky, who has worked since his election in 2019 to fight against the corruption of certain political or economic leaders (acquired for the Russian cause) and to bring his country into the European Union, with demanding democratic specifications - rule of law, pluralism of the media and political parties, etc

The neutrality of some countries in the Global South is close to that of Switzerland - an "interested neutrality" as stated in an article in the American newspaper *The New York Times*, which consists in "putting oneself at the service of both parties" , according to Sacha Zala, a Swiss neutrality historian at the University of Bern (7). It was codified by the Hague Convention of 1907, which requires neutral states to refrain from war and to maintain an equal distance between warring parties—they can sell arms, for example, but only if they do so for all parties to the conflict. The convention also requires neutral countries to ensure that their territories are not used by warring forces. Swiss call it “armed neutrality”, which combines neutrality with maintaining the ability to protect it.

In the Global South, the “neutrality” of countries such as Xi Jinping’s China (which martyrs the Uighurs and threatens Taiwan) or Modi’s India (which pursues a nationalist policy that persecutes Muslim or Christian religious minorities) or Erdogan’s Turkey (who continues with his vindication the Kurdish community on its soil and as far as Syria) grind teeth. Their bellicose aims are obvious, especially in Africa, where they plunder their resources. Lula’s Brazil’s neutrality (which defeated illiberal leader Bolsonaro, with support for Vladimir Putin) is much more surprising, like that of Macky Sall, the Senegalese president who met with Vladimir Putin in June 2022.

Léopold Sédar Senghor (the «African»), co-founder with Aimé Césaire (the «American»), of the beautiful idea of Francophonie and one of the pioneers of negritude fought in his literary, artistic and political work to «reinvent the universal» which is no longer a Western concept. The war in Ukraine reminds us that the defence of democracy is not only western; it is a universal struggle.

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- (1) The notion of Global South has replaced the expression of «Third World» as we spoke under the Former Third State Regime; it includes the States of the South, the main victims of the harmful effects of globalization and refusing to align with any of the powerful of the global North, this other name of the West. “- Marc Semo , “Global South, this heterogeneous set of non-aligned countries”, Le Monde - October 26, 2022
https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2022/10/26/le-sud-global-cet-ensemble-heterogene-de-pays-non-alignes_6147333_32323232.htm
- (2) 80 writers and academics “Despite the faults of the West, we must wholeheartedly support the Ukrainians”, Le Monde, Tuesday 19 April 2022
- (3) Responsibility recalled every 26 January, European and international day dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT_23_345
- (4) (Hannah Arendt showed in the second part of her work on totalitarianism and the totalitarian system (New York, 1951) that imperialism had entered the world scene in Africa. Here comes the time of race as the foundation of the political body, of bureaucracy as the principle of domination. No ethical considerations should hinder the white race” she writes in “Imperialism – the origins of totalitarianism” (Paris: Points Essais n°356, New York , 1951, translated into French in 1982)
- (5) Attacks against French soldiers, several of whom were Muslims and against the Jewish school Ozar Hatorah , Montauban and Toulouse, spring 2012
- (6) European policy against terrorism recalled every 10 -
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_23_1571
- (7) Quoted by Erika Solomon, “War in Ukraine Puts Centuries of Swiss Neutrality to the Test”, March 12, 2023 -
<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/12/world/europe/swiss-neutrality-russia-ukraine.html>

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