

ABSTRACTS

A Bad Omen Bird: Ngugi's Postcolonial Anxiety

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Usually, the most common approach towards the literatures of former European colonies has been that of post-colonialism. This essay seeks to perform an aesthetic assessment capable of surmounting the limitations that postcolonial perspectives often display when dealing with African literature. By focusing on Ngugi wa Thiong'o's "The Black Bird", the aim is to think over the various mechanisms of aesthetic and ideological influences that converge in this short-story and that confer on it a legitimate literary strength of its own. Thus, more than just appraising the text as a witness of postcolonial anxieties, the idea is to give it its proper value as a literary product, especially by resorting to the theory of influence.

Islamization in Indonesia: Political Action of the Justice and Prosperity Party

JAVIER GIL PÉREZ

This article offers a study of the policies advocated by the largest Islamist party in Indonesia, the ruling Prosperous Justice Party (Partai Keadilan Sejahtera, PKS), on the various laws influenced by sharia established in Indonesia during the last term 2004-2009. In it, along with the introduction of sharia laws locally, there has been a breakthrough in the Islamization of the country with anti-pornography law, the law of halal certification (not voted yet) and the freezing of activities of religious organization Ahmadiyah. This process reveals the tensions that exist within the PKS that also reflected the tensions that occur in the binomial Islam and democracy. While there has been a breakthrough for democracy in the Muslim world, the situation is far from positive and there is still a long way to go.

The Neutrality of United Nations Peacekeeping Missions: An Analysis from the Cases of Somalia and Rwanda

SILVIA ALEJANDRA PERAZZO

United Nations peacekeeping missions are one of the Organization responses in order to fulfill its purpose of ensuring peace and security. As a rule, they should be deployed with the consent of the host state, not engage in combat except for self-defense, and maintain strict neutrality with regard to the conflicting parties, thus preventing the United Nations to become part of war, preserve State sovereignty and escape from the charge of implementing a “multilateral colonialism”. In this article about the cases of Rwanda and Somalia, we analyze how the lack of pragmatic management of neutrality in peacekeeping missions may undermine the success of the mission and worse, may lead to escalation of conflict, worsen the fate of civilians and humanitarian calamities in its worst.

China’s Commitment to Third World Development: The Case of Angola

PERLA MARIBEL OLGUÍN VÉLEZ

Nowadays China is going through a very important period for its economic development, which has been possible against the adversities that hinder the healthy and rapid development of its economy. One of these challenges has been the lack of energy sources and natural resources that are important because of their connection to the lifeline of economic development of every nation: productivity. The purpose of this paper is to analyze how the Chinese government is working with Angola, a developing country that is strategic for China.

