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Editorial

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This issue of the *Journal of African Foreign Affairs* comes at a critical moment for the world and for Africa. Several hot spots are disrupting world order. Two major nuclear powers are engaged in warfare: the United States in Iran, and Russia in Ukraine. A third nuclear power, and second world economy, China, could move from a cold war to a hot war with Taiwan. In a global context, this political turbulence is not without various impacts on Africans. This issue of JoAFA reflects that context: looking inward the African continent. There is a second reason, as important, to look inward and exercise an agency in the field of African studies that is subject to erasure in a major country like the United States. In that, JoAFA is playing its role. In an article titled “The Erasure of Black Studies: A Report from an Undoing of a Field” (*The Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 13, 2026), Jafari S. Allen reported what is currently happening in the US regarding black studies: “Institutions that have canceled affinity graduation ceremonies, audited thousands of external affiliations, limited faculty participation in race-based professional conferences, or begun consolidating ethnic- and gender-studies programs into Social and Cultural Analysis umbrellas — before

receiving any specific directive against any specific program — are not protecting themselves from federal action. They are replacing it.” It falls on us to keep the flame burning.

Marcel Kitissou, PhD

Editor