

## Role and influence of Chinese and Russian state media in Sub-Saharan Africa

### Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

#### African Affairs

##### Overview:

In his December 13, 2018 speech on the current Administration's New Africa Strategy, National Security Advisor Ambassador John R. Bolton stated that "Great power competitors, namely China and Russia, are rapidly expanding their financial and political influence across Africa. They are deliberately and aggressively targeting their investments in the region to gain a competitive advantage over the United States." Media can also be used to gain financial, political, and even military influence. In 2018, three Russian investigative journalists who were investigating Wagner, a Russian paramilitary company, were killed in the Central African Republic. The USG wishes to safeguard the economic independence of countries in Africa and help African nations move towards self-reliance. A free press and transparency is one of the hallmarks of democracy and can help countries safeguard their independence and move towards self-reliance.

This research proposal seeks to gain a clear picture of the role and influence of Chinese and Russia state owned media in Sub-Saharan Africa. This may be used to brief Department of State officers, develop outreach or training strategies for independent media, and develop strategies to combat disinformation aimed at controlling or destabilizing societies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

##### Format of Final Project:

Please present your findings in a 1-5 page executive summary and a presentation, and share all sources of reference and data used. Presentations may be delivered in person or virtually.

##### Potential Areas of Useful Expertise or Interest:

African Studies; Communications; Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction; Democracy & Human Rights; Economic & Finance Issues; Education & Cultural Studies; International Development; International Relations; Sociology

##### Comments:

The White House recently released a new Africa Strategy which can be found here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-national-security-advisor-ambassador-john-r-bolton-trump-administrations-new-africa-strategy/>

The Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs handles all press, social media, and exchange programs within the Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/p/af/>  
Research projects for this office should all focus more heavily on society, media, social media, education, and exchange programs. For more information on exchange programs please visit the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs: <https://eca.state.gov/>