"The New Business of Africa"
Jon Gosier, Thomas P. Johnson Visiting Scholar

A look at how Africa's growing creative class is changing the future of the continent and opening up new opportunities for international business.

Finding the future while tramping through the dunes: Namibia's struggle to free itself from the past
Nancy Decker, Rollins College Department of Modern Languages

Known as the last colony created by the Treaty of Versailles, Namibia gained independence from South Africa in 1990. This sparsely populated country of haunting landscapes strives to find ways to propel its population into the twenty-first century while burdened with issues related to its past—land reform, scarcity of water, ecological fragility, poverty and lack of education. Yet its natural beauty and mineral riches offer Namibia new opportunities for the future.

The Africa that Might Have Been: Wakanda, the Black Panther, and the Postcolonial Narrative in Marvel Comics
Julian Chambliss, Rollins College Department of History

The emergence of African-American superhero characters in the 1960s and 1970s offers a window on how comic creators balanced changing race relations, new political ideas, and market demands. More than entertainment, comics offer a way to understand changing ideas about race, power, and society. The paper examines the mystical land of Wakanda and Black Panther, the first black superhero in U.S. superhero comics. In creating an African country untouched by European imperialism, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby began a dialogue about the consequences of colonialism in Marvel Comics that continues to this day.