

Summary

There has been a significant evolution in the French African policy during the presidency of Jacques Chirac. Reasons for this must be searched in the Rwandan Civil War and the genocide of 1994 which showed that Paris did not understand the political evolution in Africa. This fact was only confirmed by two crisis in Ivory Coast in 1999 and 2002. This is why the French launched the RECAMP military program. It was no more thinkable for Paris to be kept alone in a military trap in Africa. Moreover, it was necessary to change state/regime perception. Paris neither could nor wanted to be held responsible for the security of African regimes that were by power. Therefore, France started to depersonalize its African policy. Stability of the African states assured by the Africans, not the security of the African regimes assured by Paris was the goal. This shift enabled the French to have more flexible African policy. Nevertheless, they did not withdraw from Africa. Military interventions were regarded as a source of credibility both for France and for the European Union.