Forum: GA3: Special Political & Decolonization Committee

Issue: Monitoring the conflict between Sudan and South Sudan

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Introduction

It is an undeniable fact that in today's world of increasing tension, political problems that may lead to wars must be prevented or resolved quickly. In this context, the Sudanese conflict in Africa, which is a tense continent, should be urgently resolved and ended so as not to reopen.

We can see the political interests of countries, the wishes of separatist groups, national and international political tensions in actions that are effective in emerging wars, and the decrease in the quality of life of people. After the 2nd World War, the United Nations was established, which emphasized the importance of politics and the security of international relations. We can see the Sudan problem in the decisions taken and calls made at the 9476th meeting of the Security Council, the important board of the United Nations. The problems that started with South Sudan, which became independent with the referendum held in 2011, and the transformation of these diplomatic problems into a military conflict in the following years mobilized the United Nations and called for vital decisions to ensure peace in the tense African continent. These resolutions paved the way for action to be taken in Africa, and in Sudan in particular, to prevent the civilian population and soldiers from suffering greatly during the war.

Bringing the issue to the United Nations in 2023, the United Nations sending aid to the region and the establishment of peace organizations show the desire to make the world more peaceful.

In general, the issue can be linked to blocs and organizations. Ensuring that the armies, states, and blocs at war reach a compromise, implementing the 16 development goals of the United Nations, and promoting peace may be some of the solutions.

Definition of Key Terms

Free-economic zone:

Free-economic zones (FEZ), or free-trade zones (FTZ), are trade areas (exports, imports, manufacturing, handled) that remove the customs' intervention and extensive regulation. Allowing swifter relations, they are usually set up in areas under dispute or with a high frequency of ongoing commercial actions (Britannica Money).

Coup d'état:

A coup d'état is simply the abrupt replacement of the leading state official with the use of arsenal. Unlike a revolution, it does not require a large basis of people to perform (e.g. the French Revolution) and generally does not result in the alteration of government policies. One of the most famous coup d'états was of Napoleon Bonaparte's. Modern coups were mostly undertaken in African and South American countries (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Coup D'etat | Definition, Examples, and Facts").

Background Information

First Sudanese Civil War — Anyanya Rebellion

A vast network of political, cultural, and historical forces led to the First Sudanese Civil War. A year prior to Sudan's independence from British colonial control, the war erupted in 1955. The main source of concern was the glaring contrasts between the southern and northern areas. These distinctions included

economic growth, religion, ethnicity, and language. There was tension between the primarily African and Christian south and the predominantly Arab and Muslim north. The central government's imposition of policies fostered resentment that benefited the north and its indifference for the south's development. Leading individuals such as Joseph Lagu, the Southern Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM) became a voice for southern grievances. The war started out as a few small-scale skirmishes but quickly developed into a massive battle.

Figure 1: Child Troops in the First Sudanese Civil War.

The war broke out in terrifying waves of carnage. Rebels from the southern Sudan, who frequently used guerilla tactics, engaged in war with the troops of the northern government. Both sides of the war committed atrocities, destroying communities and killing civilians. The SSLM proved resilient despite its minimal resources. They even enlisted kid soldiers. Ethnic tensions increased, livelihoods got disrupted, and the war displaced many communities. Fighting was more violent as a result of the struggle for control over resources, especially Nile's lush plains. The Sudanese's collective memory preserves the scars of an inconceivable human cost sustained during the war.

With the Addis Ababa Agreement in March 27, 1972, a strained truce was announced in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, concluding the twelve-year conflict. However, in the end, the death count surpassed 500,000 in 1970 by all odds. It recognized the southern region's unique cultural identity, gave it autonomy, and permitted local administration. Still, there were underlying tensions. Mistrust continued, and challenges riddled the agreement's implementation. Sudan was further divided by a much bloodier second civil war that broke out in 1983 ("*First Sudanese Civil War (1955-1972)*").

Second Sudanese Civil War

Moving towards Islamism, in 1983, the Sudanese President Jaafar Nimeiri tried to impose Sharia laws across the state. He revoked the autonomy of South Sudan after eleven years of respective peace, and consequentially, having the Addis Ababa Treaty go out of order. Also, the John Garang led Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/SPLA) rebeled against the central government and its islamic policies, in favor of a democratic and secular "New Sudan" in 1983. Altogether, the Second Sudanese Civil War began on June 5, 1983.

Figure 2: Soldier in the Second Sudanese Civil War of the SPLM.

The conflict arose majorly between the central Sudanese government based in Khartoum and the rebels of SPLM/SPLA of the south, and also within the SPLM. In 1989, Islamist military officer Omar al-Bashir successfuly performed a coup d'état in the central government, putting a stop to the rebels of the south. Besides the southern rebels, there were also rebels in the northern Sudan, and they fought the central government in the regions of Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile, and Eastern Sudan.

In January 9, 2005, the Bashir-led Republic of Sudan and Garang-led SPLM/SPLA signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) mediated by the Kenyan government, thus ending the Second Sudanese Civil War. All throughout the conflict, it is estimated that almost 2 million people died due to illnessa and starvation, and approximately 4 million got displaced.

South Sudan Referandum of 2011

The northern region faced a large reduction in earnings due to restricted access to southern oil sources that accounted approximately 80% of Sudan's total oil production. Meanwhile, South Sudan primarily relied on oil money for its income but required access to refineries and pipelines in north for export. Diversifying its economy away from oil was in need for South Sudan, although this undertaking faced obstacles in a relatively underdeveloped country. The economic hardships ahead tested the patience of both the northern and southern nations ("South Sudan Independence").

Nonetheless the separation of the two states, clashes in the Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains continued. Chiefing these clashes was the new SPLM-North—which consisted former guerilla troops. On the other hand, besides the Blue Nile and the Nuba region, border disputes on oil-rich areas reflamed gunfire between the Sudanese and the newly-established South Sudanese governments (AFP).

South Sudanese Civil War

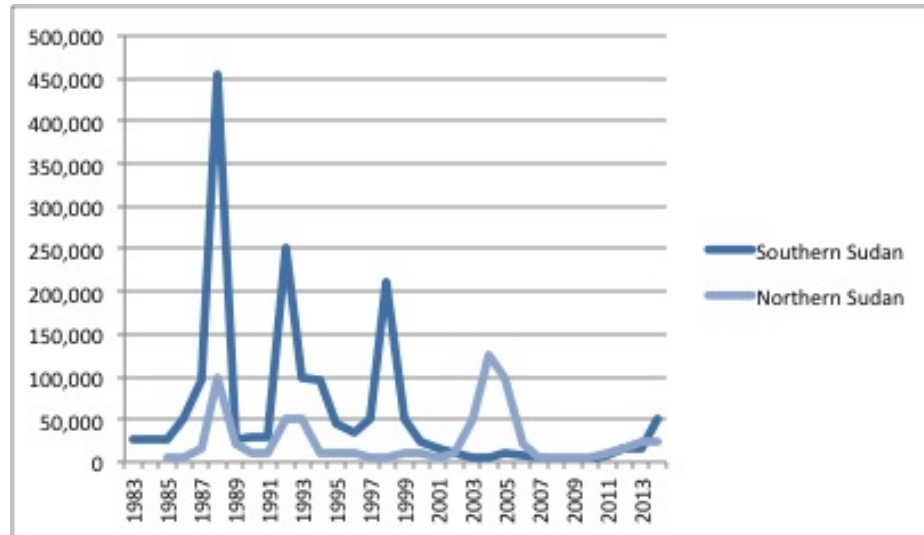## The refugee crisis and humanitarian status-quo

Figure 3: Fatalities to due the Sudanese wars in 1983–2014.

Environmental and economic challenges

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Sudan

South Sudan

Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/SPLA)

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
18 August 1955	The First Sudanese Civil War begins.

27 March 1972	The First Sudanese Civil War concludes as the Addis Ababa Agreement is signed.
5 June 1983	The Second Sudanese Civil War begins.
9 January 2005	SPLM/SPLA and the Republic of Sudan sign the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, thus ending the Second Sudanese Civil War.
8 July 2011	Adoption of Resolution 1999 by the UNSC for suggesting South Sudan to be admitted as a UN member state.
9 July 2011	South Sudan gains independence from Sudan resulted by the independence referandum after a years-long war for autonomy.
13 July 2011	Adoption of Resolution 1996 by the UNSC on the establishment of the UN Mission in South Sudan.
27 September 2012	The "Agreement between The Republic of the Sudan and The Republic of South Sudan on Border Issues" was signed by representatives from South Sudan and Sudan.
15 December 2013	The South Sudanese Civil War begins.

Relevant UN Resolutions and Other Documents

- The Comprehensive Peace Agreement [(CPA)](#) Between the Republic of the Sudan and Sudan People's Liberation Army/Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLA/SPLM).
- Resolution 1999 was adopted by the UNSC on 13 JULY 2011 for South Sudan to be admitted as a member of the UN. ([S/RES/1999](#))
- Resolution 1996 was adopted by the UNSC on 8 JULY 2011 to establish the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). ([S/RES/1996](#))
- Agreement between The Republic of Sudan and The Republic of South Sudan on Border Issues in 2012: [SD SS_120927_Agreement on border issues.pdf (un.org)](#)
- The Addis Ababa Agreement on the Problem of South Sudan, signed between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan and the Southern Sudan Liberation Movement in 1972: [Addis Ababa Agreement on the Problem of South Sudan | UN Peacemaker](#)

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

- <u>Reopening of the Sudan–South Sudan Border:</u> The closure of the border has been negative to both parties, both economically and politically. After almost 11 years, the border is ready to reopen again. Even though the "real border" is still argumentative, it has to be opened to balance the trade relations of the region. Due to the export of crude oil from South Sudan going through Sudan, the closure of the border has been consequential for both South Sudan's external trade relations and Sudan, which has been collecting all kinds of fees regarding export through its borders. Currently, the Abyei Area has been a case to ponder on this matter with its criticality on the stability of the region. The African Union (AU), however, has proposed to declare the Abyei Area a border-free trade zone (FEZ).
- <u>The South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP):</u> With the influences of the South Sudanese Civil War still propagating, circa 2.33 million

South Sudanese refugees are spread across the five neighboring states. The South Sudan RRRP attempts to reach over 5.9 million refugees currently residing in Uganda, DR Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Sudan. The displacement of refugees across the locality also offers a propagative environment for disease outbreaks such as malaria, cholera, and measles. The response plan will make its first priority to approach people with moderate and severe acute malnutrition, diminishing mortality and morbidity rates both generally and due to viruses like tuberculosis and HIV.

- The South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan: As of April 10, 2024, almost 19% of the $1.8 billion USD required for the humanitarian response plan has been covered. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) aims to reach 6 million people to deliver the protection and support needed for survival. Malnutrition is at high rates in women and children as the conditions are exacerbated by natural disasters, gender-based & sexual violence, civil war, and displacement.

Possible Solutions

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