[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Redirect](/wiki/Template:Redirect) [Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) **Sudan** ([Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar) *as-Sūdān*, English pronunciation (US) [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en), (GB) [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)),[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) officially the **Republic of the Sudan**[[3]](#cite_note-3) ([Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar) *Jumhūriyyat as-Sūdān*), is a country in north-east [Africa](/wiki/Africa). It is bordered by [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt) to the north, the [Red Sea](/wiki/Red_Sea), [Eritrea](/wiki/Eritrea), and [Ethiopia](/wiki/Ethiopia) to the east, [South Sudan](/wiki/South_Sudan) to the south, the [Central African Republic](/wiki/Central_African_Republic) to the southwest, [Chad](/wiki/Chad) to the west and [Libya](/wiki/Libya) to the northwest. It is the third largest country in Africa. The River [Nile](/wiki/Nile) divides the country into eastern and western halves.[[4]](#cite_note-4) Its predominant religion is [Islam](/wiki/Islam).[[5]](#cite_note-5) Sudan was home to numerous ancient civilizations, such as the [Kingdom of Kush](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kush), [Kerma](/wiki/Kerma), [Nobatia](/wiki/Nobatia), [Alodia](/wiki/Alodia), [Makuria](/wiki/Makuria), [Meroë](/wiki/Meroë) and others, most of which flourished along the [Nile](/wiki/Nile). During the pre-dynastic period Nubia and Nagadan Upper Egypt were identical, simultaneously evolved systems of pharaonic kingship by 3300 BC.[[6]](#cite_note-6) By virtue of its proximity to [Egypt](/wiki/History_of_Egypt), the Sudan participated in the wider history of the [Near East](/wiki/Near_East) inasmuch as it was [Christianized](/wiki/Christianization) by the 6th century, and [Islamized](/wiki/Islamization_of_the_Sudan_region) in the 15th.

As a result of Christianization, the [Old Nubian language](/wiki/Old_Nubian_language) stands as the oldest recorded [Nilo-Saharan language](/wiki/Nilo-Saharan_languages) (earliest records dating to the 9th century). Sudan was the largest country in Africa and the [Arab world](/wiki/Arab_world) until 2011, when [South Sudan](/wiki/South_Sudan) separated into an independent country, following an [independence referendum](/wiki/South_Sudanese_independence_referendum,_2011). Sudan is now the third largest country in Africa (after [Algeria](/wiki/Algeria) and the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo)) and also the third largest country in the Arab world (after [Algeria](/wiki/Algeria) and [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia)).

Sudan is a member of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations), the [African Union](/wiki/African_Union), the [Arab League](/wiki/Arab_League), the [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation](/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation) and the [Non-Aligned Movement](/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement), as well as an observer in the [World Trade Organization](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization).[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[7]](#cite_note-7) Its capital is [Khartoum](/wiki/Khartoum), the political, cultural and commercial centre of the nation. It is a [presidential](/wiki/Presidential_system) [representative democratic](/wiki/Representative_democracy) [federal republic](/wiki/Federal_republic). The [politics of Sudan](/wiki/Politics_of_Sudan) is regulated by a parliamentary organization called the National Assembly.[[8]](#cite_note-8) The [Sudanese legal system](/wiki/Politics_of_Sudan#Legal_system) is [based on Islamic law](/wiki/Application_of_sharia_law_by_country).

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## Name[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The country's [place name](/wiki/Place_name_origins) *Sudan* is a name given to a [geographical region](/wiki/Sudan_(region)) to the south of the [Sahara](/wiki/Sahara), stretching from Western Africa to eastern Central Africa. The name derives from the [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic) [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), or "the lands of the [Blacks](/wiki/Black_people)", an expression denoting [West Africa](/wiki/West_Africa) and northern-[Central Africa](/wiki/Central_Africa).[[9]](#cite_note-9)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

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### Prehistoric Sudan[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|left|The large mud brick temple, known as the shrek or Western Deffufa, in the ancient city of](/wiki/File:Western_Deffufa_-_Kerma.jpg) [Kerma](/wiki/Kerma) By the eighth millennium BC, people of a [Neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) culture had settled into a sedentary way of life there in fortified [mudbrick](/wiki/Mudbrick) villages, where they supplemented [hunting](/wiki/Hunting) and [fishing](/wiki/Fishing) on the Nile with [grain](/wiki/Grain) gathering and [cattle](/wiki/Cattle) herding.<ref name=locearlyhist>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> During the fifth millennium BC migrations from the drying Sahara brought neolithic people into the Nile Valley along with agriculture. The population that resulted from this cultural and genetic mixing developed social hierarchy over the next centuries become the Kingdom of Kush (with the capital at Kerma) at 1700 BC.

Anthropological and archaeological research indicate that during the predynastic period Nubia and Nagadan Upper Egypt were ethnically, and culturally nearly identical, and thus, simultaneously evolved systems of pharaonic kingship by 3300 BC.[[6]](#cite_note-6)

### Kingdom of Kush (1070 BC–AD 350)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Sudan_Meroe_Pyramids_2001.JPG)[Nubian pyramids](/wiki/Nubian_pyramids) in [Meroë](/wiki/Meroë). The [Kingdom of Kush](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kush) was an ancient [Nubian](/wiki/Nubia) state centered on the confluences of the [Blue Nile](/wiki/Blue_Nile) and [White Nile](/wiki/White_Nile), and the [Atbarah River](/wiki/Atbarah_River) and the [Nile River](/wiki/Nile). It was established after the [Bronze Age](/wiki/Bronze_Age) collapse and the disintegration of the [New Kingdom of Egypt](/wiki/New_Kingdom_of_Egypt), centered at Napata in its early phase.

After King Kashta ("the Kushite") invaded Egypt in the eighth century BC, the Kushite kings ruled as pharaohs of the [Twenty-fifth Dynasty of Egypt](/wiki/Twenty-fifth_Dynasty_of_Egypt) for a century before being defeated and driven out by the [Assyrians](/wiki/Assyria). At the height of their glory, the Kushites conquered an empire that stretched from what is now known as [South Kordofan](/wiki/South_Kordofan) all the way to the Sinai. Pharaoh [Piye](/wiki/Piye) attempted to expand the empire into the Near East, but was thwarted by the Assyrian king [Sargon II](/wiki/Sargon_II). The Kingdom of Kush is mentioned in the Bible as having saved the Israelites from the wrath of the Assyrians, although disease among the besiegers was the main reason for the failure to take the city.[[10]](#cite_note-10)[Template:Page needed](/wiki/Template:Page_needed)

The war that took place between Pharaoh [Taharqa](/wiki/Taharqa) and the Assyrian king [Sennacherib](/wiki/Sennacherib) was a decisive event in western history, with the Nubians being defeated in their attempts to gain a foothold in the [Near East](/wiki/Near_East) by Assyria. Sennacherib's successor [Esarhaddon](/wiki/Esarhaddon) went further, and invaded Egypt itself, deposing Taharqa and driving the Nubians from Egypt entirely. Taharqa fled back to his homeland where he died two years later. Egypt became an Assyrian colony; however, king [Tantamani](/wiki/Tantamani), after succeeding Taharqa, made a final determined attempt to regain Egypt. Esarhaddon died while preparing to leave the Assyrian capital of [Nineveh](/wiki/Nineveh) in order to eject him. However, his successor [Ashurbanipal](/wiki/Ashurbanipal) sent a large army into southern Egypt and routed Tantamani, ending all hopes of a revival of the Nubian Empire.

During Classical Antiquity, the Nubian capital was at [Meroë](/wiki/Meroë). In [ancient Greek](/wiki/Ancient_Greece) geography, the Meroitic kingdom was known as [Ethiopia](/wiki/Ethiopia) (a term also used earlier by the Assyrians when encountering the Nubians). The civilization of Kush was among the first in the world to use iron smelting technology. The Nubian kingdom at Meroë persisted until the fourth century AD. After the collapse of the Kushite empire several states emerged in its former territories, among them Nubia.

### Christianity and Islam[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|The ruins of](/wiki/File:Church_of_the_Granite_Columns_2007-10-03_02.jpg) [Old Dongola](/wiki/Old_Dongola). By the 6th century, fifty states had emerged as the political and cultural heirs of the Meroitic Kingdom. [Nobatia](/wiki/Nobatia) in the north, also known as Ballanah, had its capital at [Faras](/wiki/Faras); the central kingdom, Muqurra ([Makuria](/wiki/Makuria)), was centred at Tungul ([Old Dongola](/wiki/Old_Dongola)), about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) south of modern [Dongola](/wiki/Dongola); and Alawa ([Alodia](/wiki/Alodia)), in the heartland of old Meroë, which had its capital at [Soba](/wiki/Soba_(city)) (now a suburb of modern-day Khartoum).

In all three kingdoms, warrior aristocracies ruled Meroitic populations from royal courts where functionaries bore Greek titles in emulation of the [Byzantine court](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire). A missionary sent by Byzantine empress [Theodora](/wiki/Theodora_(6th_century)) arrived in Nobatia and started preaching [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity) about 540 AD. The [Nubian](/wiki/Nubia) kings became [Monophysite Christians](/wiki/Monophysitism). However, [Makuria](/wiki/Makuria) was a [Melkite](/wiki/Melkite) Christian, unlike [Nobatia](/wiki/Nobatia) and Alodia.

[thumb|Fresco of](/wiki/File:Sudan_Farras_fresco_of_cathedral_22dez2005.jpg) [Faras](/wiki/Faras) Cathedral, 10th–11th century After many attempts at military conquest failed, the Arab commander in Egypt concluded the first in a series of regularly renewed treaties known as *al-baqṭ* (pactum) with the Nubians that governed relations between the two peoples for more than 678 years. [Islam](/wiki/Islam) progressed in the area over a long period of time through intermarriage and contacts with Arab merchants, [Sufi ascetics](/wiki/Ascetic#Islam) and settlers. Additionally, exemption from taxation in regions under Muslim rule were also a powerful incentive for conversion.[[11]](#cite_note-11) In 1093, a Muslim prince of Nubian royal blood ascended the throne of Dunqulah as king. The two most important Arab tribes to emerge in Nubia were the [Ja'alin](/wiki/Ja'alin_tribe) and the [Juhaynah](/wiki/Juhaynah). Today's northern Sudanese culture often combines Nubian and Arabic elements.

During the 16th century, the [Funj people](/wiki/Funj_people) under Amara Dunqus, appeared in southern Nubia and supplanted the remnants of the old Christian kingdom of [Alodia](/wiki/Alodia), establishing *as-Saltana az-Zarqa* (the Blue Sultanate), also called [Sennar](/wiki/Sennar_(sultanate)). The Blue Sultanate eventually became the keystone of the Funj Empire. By the mid-16th century, Sennar controlled Al Jazirah and commanded the allegiance of vassal states and tribal districts north to the Third Cataract and south to the rainforests. The government was substantially weakened by a series of succession arguments and coups within the royal family. In 1820, [Muhammad Ali of Egypt](/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_of_Egypt) sent 4000 troops to invade Sudan. His forces accepted Sennar's surrender from the last Funj [sultan](/wiki/Sultan), [Badi VII](/wiki/Badi_VII).

### Turkiyah and Mahdist Sudan[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|180px|Ismail Pasha, the](/wiki/File:Ismail_Pacha.JPG) [Ottoman](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) [Khedive](/wiki/Khedive) of Egypt and Sudan from 1863 to 1879. In 1821, the Ottoman ruler of Egypt, Muhammad Ali, had invaded and conquered northern Sudan. Although technically the [Vali](/wiki/Vali_(governor)) of Egypt under the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire), Muhammad Ali styled himself as [Khedive](/wiki/Khedive) of a virtually independent Egypt. Seeking to add Sudan to his domains, he sent his third son Ismail (not to be confused with [Isma'il Pasha](/wiki/Isma'il_Pasha) mentioned later) to conquer the country, and subsequently incorporate it into Egypt. This policy was expanded and intensified by [Ibrahim Pasha's](/wiki/Ibrahim_Pasha_of_Egypt) son, Isma'il, under whose reign most of the remainder of modern-day Sudan was conquered.

The Egyptian authorities made significant improvements to the Sudanese infrastructure (mainly in the north), especially with regard to irrigation and cotton production. In 1879, the [Great Powers](/wiki/Great_Powers) forced the removal of Ismail and established his son [Tewfik Pasha](/wiki/Tewfik_Pasha) in his place. Tewfik's corruption and mismanagement resulted in the [‘Urabi Revolt](/wiki/‘Urabi_Revolt), which threatened the Khedive's survival. Tewfik appealed for help to the [British](/wiki/United_Kingdom), who subsequently occupied Egypt in 1882. Sudan was left in the hands of the Khedivial government, and the mismanagement and corruption of its officials.[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13) [thumb|180px|](/wiki/File:Muhammad_Ahmad_al-Mahdi.jpg)[Muhammad Ahmad](/wiki/Muhammad_Ahmad) ruler of Sudan, 1881–1885. During the Khedivial period, wide spread dissent had spread due to harsh taxation's imposed on most activities. Taxation on irrigation wells and farming lands were so high most farmers abandoned their farms and live stock. During the 1870s, European initiatives against the [slave trade](/wiki/Slave_trade) had an adverse impact on the economy of northern Sudan, precipitating the rise of [Mahdist](/wiki/Muhammad_Ahmad) forces.[[14]](#cite_note-14) [Muhammad Ahmad ibn Abd Allah](/wiki/Muhammad_Ahmad), the [*Mahdi*](/wiki/Mahdi) (Guided One), offered to the ansars (his followers) and those who surrendered to him a choice between adopting Islam or being killed. The Mahdiyah (Mahdist regime) imposed traditional Sharia [Islamic laws](/wiki/Sharia).

From his announcement of the Mahdiyya in June 1881 until the [fall of Khartoum](/wiki/Siege_of_Khartoum) in January 1885, Muhammad Ahmad led a [successful military campaign](/wiki/Mahdist_War) against the Turco-Egyptian government of the Sudan, known as the [Turkiyah](/wiki/History_of_Sudan_(1821–85)). Muhammad Ahmad died on 22 June 1885, a mere six months after the conquest of Khartoum. After a power struggle amongst his deputies, [Abdallahi ibn Muhammad](/wiki/Abdallahi_ibn_Muhammad), with the help primarily of the [Baggara](/wiki/Baggara) of western Sudan, overcame the opposition of the others and emerged as unchallenged leader of the Mahdiyah. After consolidating his power, Abdallahi ibn Muhammad assumed the title of *Khalifa* (successor) of the Mahdi, instituted an administration, and appointed [Ansar](/wiki/Ansar_(Sudan)) (who were usually Baqqara) as emirs over each of the several provinces.

Regional relations remained tense throughout much of the Mahdiyah period, largely because of the Khalifa's brutal methods to extend his rule throughout the country. In 1887, a 60,000-man Ansar army invaded [Ethiopia](/wiki/Ethiopia), penetrating as far as [Gondar](/wiki/Gondar). In March 1889, king [Yohannes IV](/wiki/Yohannes_IV) of Ethiopia marched on [Metemma](/wiki/Metemma); however, after Yohannes fell in battle, the Ethiopian forces withdrew. Abd ar Rahman an Nujumi, the Khalifa's general, attempted an invasion of Egypt in 1889, but British-led Egyptian troops defeated the Ansar at Tushkah. The failure of the Egyptian invasion broke the spell of the Ansar's invincibility. The [Belgians](/wiki/Belgium) prevented the Mahdi's men from conquering [Equatoria](/wiki/Equatoria), and in 1893, the [Italians](/wiki/Italy) repelled an Ansar attack at [Agordat](/wiki/Agordat) (in [Eritrea](/wiki/Eritrea)) and forced the Ansar to withdraw from Ethiopia.

[thumb|The Flight of the Khalifa after his Defeat at the](/wiki/File:Battle_of_Omdurman-1.JPG) [Battle of Omdurman](/wiki/Battle_of_Omdurman). In the 1890s, the [British](/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland) sought to re-establish their control over Sudan, once more officially in the name of the Egyptian Khedive, but in actuality treating the country as a British colony. By the early 1890s, British, [French](/wiki/France) and [Belgian](/wiki/Belgium) claims had converged at the [Nile](/wiki/Nile) headwaters. Britain feared that the other powers would take advantage of Sudan's instability to acquire territory previously annexed to Egypt. Apart from these political considerations, Britain wanted to establish control over the Nile to safeguard a planned irrigation dam at [Aswan](/wiki/Aswan).

[Herbert Kitchener](/wiki/Herbert_Kitchener) led military campaigns against the [Mahdist Sudan](/wiki/Mahdist_Sudan) from 1896 to 1898. Kitchener's campaigns culminated in a decisive victory in the [Battle of Omdurman](/wiki/Battle_of_Omdurman) on 2 September 1898.

### Anglo-Egyptian Sudan (1899–1956)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

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[thumb|240px|The](/wiki/File:The_war_in_the_Soudan.jpg) [Mahdist War](/wiki/Mahdist_War) was fought between a group of Muslim dervishes, called [Mahdists](/wiki/Muhammad_Ahmad), who had over-run much of Sudan, and the British forces. In 1899, Britain and Egypt reached an agreement under which Sudan was run by a governor-general appointed by Egypt with British consent. In reality Sudan was effectively administered as a [Crown colony](/wiki/Crown_colony). The British were keen to reverse the process, started under [Muhammad Ali Pasha](/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_of_Egypt), of uniting the [Nile Valley](/wiki/Nile) under Egyptian leadership, and sought to frustrate all efforts aimed at further uniting the two countries.

During [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), Sudan was directly involved militarily in the [East African Campaign](/wiki/East_African_Campaign_(World_War_II)). Formed in 1925, the [Sudan Defence Force](/wiki/Sudan_Defence_Force) (SDF) played an active part in responding to the early incursions (occupation by Italian troops of [Kassala](/wiki/Kassala) and other border areas) into the Sudan from [Italian East Africa](/wiki/Italian_East_Africa) during 1940. In 1942, the SDF also played a part in the invasion of the Italian colony by British and Commonwealth forces. From 1924 until independence in 1956, the British had a policy of running Sudan as two essentially separate territories, the north and south. The last British [governor-general](/wiki/Governor-general) was [Robert George Howe](/wiki/Robert_George_Howe).

[thumb|A camel soldier of the native forces of the British army, early 20th century.](/wiki/File:Anglo-Egyptian_Sudan_camel_soldier_of_the_British_army.jpg) The continued British administration of Sudan fueled an increasingly strident nationalist backlash in Egypt, with Egyptian nationalist leaders determined to force Britain to recognise a single independent union of Egypt and Sudan. With the formal end of Ottoman rule in 1914, [Hussein Kamel](/wiki/Hussein_Kamel_of_Egypt) was declared [Sultan of Egypt and Sudan](/wiki/Sultan_of_Egypt), as was his brother and successor, [Fuad I](/wiki/Fuad_I_of_Egypt). They continued their insistence of a single Egyptian-Sudanese state even when the [Sultanate of Egypt](/wiki/Sultanate_of_Egypt) was retitled as the [Kingdom of Egypt and Sudan](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Egypt), but the British continued to frustrate such reaches for independence.

The [Egyptian revolution of 1952](/wiki/Egyptian_revolution_of_1952) finally heralded the beginning of the march towards Sudanese independence. Having abolished the monarchy in 1953, Egypt's new leaders, [Muhammad Naguib](/wiki/Muhammad_Naguib), whose mother was Sudanese, and later [Gamal Abdel Nasser](/wiki/Gamal_Abdel_Nasser), believed the only way to end British domination in Sudan was for Egypt to officially abandon its claims of sovereignty over Sudan. In addition Nasser knew it would be difficult for Egypt to govern the impoverished Sudan after independence.

The British on the other hand continued their political and financial support for the Mahdist successor, [Abd al-Rahman al-Mahdi](/wiki/Abd_al-Rahman_al-Mahdi), who, they believed, could resist the Egyptian pressures for Sudanese independence. Rahman was able to resist the pressures, but his regime was plagued with political ineptitude, which garnered him a loss of support in northern and central Sudan. Egypt and Britain both sensed a great political instability forming, and opted to allow the Sudanese in the north and south to have a free vote on independence to see whether they wished for a British withdrawal.

### Independence (1956-)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Missing information](/wiki/Template:Missing_information) [thumb|Sudan's flag raised at independence ceremony on 1 January 1956 by the Prime Minister Ismail al-Azhari and in presence of opposition leader Mohamed Ahmed Almahjoub](/wiki/File:Sudan_independence.png) A polling process was carried out resulting in composition of a democratic parliament and [Ismail al-Azhari](/wiki/Ismail_al-Azhari) was elected first Prime Minister and led the first modern Sudanese government.[[15]](#cite_note-15) On 1 January 1956, in a special ceremony held at the People's Palace, the Egyptian and British flags were lowered and the new Sudanese flag, composed of green, blue and yellow stripes, was raised in their place by the prime minister Ismail al-Azhari.

Dissatisfaction culminated in a second [coup d'état](/wiki/Coup_d'état) on 25 May 1969. The coup leader, Col. [Gaafar Nimeiry](/wiki/Gaafar_Nimeiry), became prime minister, and the new regime abolished parliament and outlawed all political parties.

Disputes between [Marxist](/wiki/Marxist) and non-Marxist elements within the ruling military coalition resulted in [a briefly successful coup in July 1971](/wiki/1971_Sudanese_coup_d'état), led by the [Sudanese Communist Party](/wiki/Sudanese_Communist_Party). Several days later, anti-communist military elements restored Nimeiry to power.

In 1972, the [Addis Ababa Agreement](/wiki/Addis_Ababa_Agreement_(1972)) led to a cessation of the north-south civil war and a degree of self-rule. This led to ten years hiatus in the civil war.

Until the early 1970s, Sudan's agricultural output was mostly dedicated to internal consumption. In 1972, the Sudanese government became more pro-Western, and made plans to export food and [cash crops](/wiki/Cash_crop). However, commodity prices declined throughout the 1970s causing economic problems for Sudan. At the same time, debt servicing costs, from the money spent mechanizing agriculture, rose. In 1978, the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) (IMF) negotiated a [Structural Adjustment Program](/wiki/Structural_Adjustment_Program) with the government. This further promoted the mechanized export agriculture sector. This caused great economic problems for the pastoralists of Sudan (See [Nuba Peoples](/wiki/Nuba#Effect_of_private_agriculture_schemes)).

In 1976, the Ansars mounted a bloody but unsuccessful coup attempt. In July 1977, President Nimeiry met with Ansar leader Sadiq al-Mahdi, opening the way for reconciliation. Hundreds of political prisoners were released, and in August a general amnesty was announced for all opponents of Nimeiry's government.

On 30 June 1989, Colonel [Omar al-Bashir](/wiki/Omar_al-Bashir) led a bloodless [military coup](/wiki/1989_Sudanese_coup_d'état).<ref name=reuters-factbox>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> The new military government suspended political parties and introduced an Islamic legal code on the national level.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Later al-Bashir carried out purges and executions in the upper ranks of the army, the banning of associations, political parties, and independent newspapers, and the imprisonment of leading political figures and journalists.[[17]](#cite_note-17) On 16 October 1993, al-Bashir appointed himself "[President](/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_Sudan)" and disbanded the Revolutionary Command Council. The executive and legislative powers of the council were taken by al-Bashir.[[18]](#cite_note-18) In the [1996 general election](/wiki/Sudanese_general_election,_1996) he was the only candidate by law to run for election.[[19]](#cite_note-19) Sudan became a [one-party state](/wiki/One-party_state) under the [National Congress Party](/wiki/National_Congress_(Sudan)) (NCP).[[20]](#cite_note-20) During the 1990s, [Hassan al-Turabi](/wiki/Hassan_al-Turabi), then Speaker of the National Assembly, reached out to [Islamic fundamentalist](/wiki/Islamic_fundamentalism) groups, invited [Osama bin Laden](/wiki/Osama_bin_Laden) to the country.[[21]](#cite_note-21) The [United States](/wiki/United_States) subsequently listed Sudan as a [state sponsor of terrorism](/wiki/State_Sponsors_of_Terrorism).[[22]](#cite_note-22) The U.S. [bombed Sudan in 1998](/wiki/Operation_Infinite_Reach), targeting the [Al-Shifa pharmaceutical factory](/wiki/Al-Shifa_pharmaceutical_factory). Later, al-Turabi's influence waned, in favor of more pragmatic leaders who focused on trying to change [international isolation](/wiki/International_isolation).[[23]](#cite_note-23) Sudan worked to appease its critics by expelling members of the [Egyptian Islamic Jihad](/wiki/Egyptian_Islamic_Jihad) and encouraging bin Laden to leave.[[24]](#cite_note-24)[thumb|Government Militia in Darfur](/wiki/File:Government_Militia_in_Darfur.PNG)

Before the [2000 presidential election](/wiki/Elections_in_Sudan), al-Turabi introduced a bill to reduce the President's powers, prompting al-Bashir to dissolve parliament and declare a [state of emergency](/wiki/State_of_emergency). When al-Turabi urged a boycott of the President's re-election campaign and signed an agreement with [Sudan People's Liberation Army](/wiki/Sudan_People's_Liberation_Army), al-Bashir suspected they were plotting to overthrow him and the government,[[25]](#cite_note-25) which resulted in the jailing of Hassan al-Turabi that same year.<ref name=Denies>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

In February 2003, the [Sudan Liberation Movement/Army](/wiki/Sudan_Liberation_Movement/Army) (SLM/A) and [Justice and Equality Movement](/wiki/Justice_and_Equality_Movement) (JEM) groups in Darfur took up arms, accusing the Sudanese government of oppressing non-[Arab](/wiki/Arab) Sudanese in favor of [Sudanese Arabs](/wiki/Sudanese_Arab), precipitating the [War in Darfur](/wiki/War_in_Darfur). The conflict has since been described as a [genocide](/wiki/Genocide),[[26]](#cite_note-26) and the [International Criminal Court](/wiki/International_Criminal_Court) (ICC) has issued two [arrest warrants](/wiki/Arrest_warrant) for al-Bashir.<ref name=BBC1>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>[[27]](#cite_note-27) Arabic-speaking nomads militias known as the [Janjaweed](/wiki/Janjaweed) have been accused of many atrocities.

On 9 January 2005, the [Nairobi Comprehensive Peace Agreement](/wiki/Naivasha_Agreement) was signed between the [Sudan People's Liberation Movement](/wiki/Sudan_People's_Liberation_Movement) (SPLM) and the government, with the objective of ending the [Second Sudanese Civil War](/wiki/Second_Sudanese_Civil_War). The [United Nations Mission in Sudan](/wiki/United_Nations_Mission_in_Sudan) (UNMIS) was established under the [UN Security Council Resolution 1590](/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_1590) to support its implementation. The peace agreement led to the 2011 [referendum](/wiki/South_Sudanese_independence_referendum,_2011) which resulted in the secession of [South Sudan](/wiki/South_Sudan); the region of Abyei is to hold [its own referendum](/wiki/Abyei_status_referendum) in the future.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Southern_Sudan_Referendum1.jpg)[South Sudanese independence referendum, 2011](/wiki/South_Sudanese_independence_referendum,_2011) The [Sudan People's Liberation Army](/wiki/Sudan_People's_Liberation_Army) (SPLA) was the primary member of the [Eastern Front](/wiki/Eastern_Front_(Sudan)), a coalition of rebel groups operating in eastern Sudan. After the peace agreement, their place was taken in February 2004 after the merger of the larger [Hausa](/wiki/Hausa_people) and [Beja Congress](/wiki/Beja_Congress) with the smaller [Rashaida Free Lions](/wiki/Rashaida_Free_Lions).[[28]](#cite_note-28) A peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the Eastern Front was signed on 14 October 2006, in Asmara.

On 5 May 2006, the [Darfur Peace Agreement](/wiki/Darfur_Peace_Agreement) was signed, aiming at ending the three-year-long conflict.[[29]](#cite_note-29) The Chad–Sudan Conflict (2005–2007) erupted after the [Battle of Adré](/wiki/Battle_of_Adré), which led to the declaration of war by Chad.[[30]](#cite_note-30) The leaders of Sudan and Chad signed an agreement in [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia) on 3 May 2007 to stop fighting from the [Darfur conflict](/wiki/Darfur_conflict) along their countries' [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) border.[[31]](#cite_note-31) In July 2007 the country was hit by [flooding](/wiki/2007_Sudan_floods),[[32]](#cite_note-32) with over 400,000 people being directly affected.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Since 2009, a series of [ongoing conflicts](/wiki/Sudanese_nomadic_conflicts) between rival nomadic tribes in Sudan and South Sudan have resulted in a large number of casualties. The [Sudan internal conflict](/wiki/Sudan_internal_conflict_(2011–present)) in the early 2010s between [the Army of Sudan](/wiki/Sudan_People's_Armed_Forces) and the [Sudan Revolutionary Front](/wiki/Sudan_Revolutionary_Front) started as a dispute over the oil-rich region of [Abyei](/wiki/Abyei) in the months leading up to South Sudanese independence, though it is also related to the nominally resolved war in Darfur.

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[thumb|450px|A map of Sudan. The](/wiki/File:Map_of_Sudan_(New).jpg) [Hala'ib Triangle](/wiki/Hala'ib_Triangle) has been under Egyptian administration since 2000. [thumb|A](/wiki/File:Sudan_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) [Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) map of Sudan. Sudan is situated in northern Africa, with a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) coastline bordering the [Red Sea](/wiki/Red_Sea).[[34]](#cite_note-34) It has land borders with [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt), [Eritrea](/wiki/Eritrea), [Ethiopia](/wiki/Ethiopia), [South Sudan](/wiki/South_Sudan), the [Central African Republic](/wiki/Central_African_Republic), [Chad](/wiki/Chad), and [Libya](/wiki/Libya). With an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), it is the third largest country on the continent (after [Algeria](/wiki/Algeria) and [Democratic Republic of the Congo](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo)) and the sixteenth largest in the world.

Sudan lies between latitudes [8°](/wiki/8th_parallel_north) and [23°N](/wiki/23rd_parallel_north). The terrain is generally flat plains, broken by several mountain ranges. In the west the [Deriba Caldera](/wiki/Deriba_Caldera) ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)), located in the [Marrah Mountains](/wiki/Marrah_Mountains), is the highest point in Sudan. In the east are the Red Sea Hills.[[35]](#cite_note-35) The [Blue](/wiki/Blue_Nile) and [White Nile](/wiki/White_Nile) rivers meet in [Khartoum](/wiki/Khartoum) to form the [River Nile](/wiki/River_Nile), which flows northwards through Egypt to the [Mediterranean Sea](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea). The Blue Nile's course through Sudan is nearly [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long and is joined by the [Dinder](/wiki/Dinder_River) and [Rahad Rivers](/wiki/Rahad_River) between [Sennar](/wiki/Sennar) and [Khartoum](/wiki/Khartoum). The [White Nile](/wiki/White_Nile) within Sudan has no significant tributaries.

There are several dams on the Blue and White Niles. Among them are the [Sennar](/wiki/Sennar_Dam) and [Roseires Dams](/wiki/Roseires_Dam) on the Blue Nile, and the [Jebel Aulia Dam](/wiki/Jebel_Aulia_Dam) on the White Nile. There is also [Lake Nubia](/wiki/Lake_Nubia) on the Sudanese-Egyptian border.

Rich mineral resources are available in Sudan including [asbestos](/wiki/Asbestos), [chromite](/wiki/Chromite), [cobalt](/wiki/Cobalt), [copper](/wiki/Copper), [gold](/wiki/Gold), [granite](/wiki/Granite), [gypsum](/wiki/Gypsum), [iron](/wiki/Iron), [kaolin](/wiki/Kaolin), [lead](/wiki/Lead), [manganese](/wiki/Manganese), [mica](/wiki/Mica), [natural gas](/wiki/Natural_gas), [nickel](/wiki/Nickel), [petroleum](/wiki/Petroleum), [silver](/wiki/Silver), [tin](/wiki/Tin), [uranium](/wiki/Uranium) and [zinc](/wiki/Zinc).[[36]](#cite_note-36)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

The amount of rainfall increases towards the south. The central and the northern part have extremely dry desert areas such as the [Nubian Desert](/wiki/Nubian_Desert) to the northeast and the [Bayuda Desert](/wiki/Bayuda_Desert) to the east; in the south there are swamps and rainforest. Sudan's rainy season lasts for about three months (July to September) in the north, and up to six months (June to November) in the south.

The dry regions are plagued by [sandstorms](/wiki/Dust_storm), known as [haboob](/wiki/Haboob), which can completely block out the sun. In the northern and western semi-desert areas, people rely on the scant rainfall for basic agriculture and many are [nomadic](/wiki/Nomad), travelling with their herds of [sheep](/wiki/Sheep) and [camels](/wiki/Camel). Nearer the River Nile, there are [well-irrigated](/wiki/Irrigation) farms growing [cash crops](/wiki/Cash_crops).[[37]](#cite_note-37) The sunshine duration is very high all over the country but especially in deserts where it could soar to over 4,000 h per year.

### Environmental issues[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Desertification](/wiki/Desertification) is a serious problem in Sudan.[[38]](#cite_note-38) There is also concern over [soil erosion](/wiki/Soil_erosion). [Agricultural](/wiki/Agriculture) expansion, both public and private, has proceeded without [conservation](/wiki/Conservation_movement) measures. The consequences have manifested themselves in the form of [deforestation](/wiki/Deforestation), soil desiccation, and the lowering of [soil fertility](/wiki/Soil_fertility) and the [water table](/wiki/Water_table).[[39]](#cite_note-39) The nation's wildlife is threatened by hunting. As of 2001, twenty-one [mammal](/wiki/Mammal) species and nine bird species are endangered, as well as two species of plants. Endangered species include: the [waldrapp](/wiki/Northern_bald_ibis), [northern white rhinoceros](/wiki/Northern_white_rhinoceros), [tora hartebeest](/wiki/Tora_hartebeest), [slender-horned gazelle](/wiki/Rhim_gazelle), and [hawksbill turtle](/wiki/Hawksbill_turtle). The [Sahara oryx](/wiki/Scimitar_oryx) has become extinct in the wild.[[40]](#cite_note-40)

## Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The military situation in Sudan as of 21 February 2016.](/wiki/File:Sudanese_Internal_Conflict.svg) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) Officially, the [politics of Sudan](/wiki/Politics_of_Sudan) takes place in the framework of a [federal](/wiki/Federal_republic) [presidential](/wiki/Presidential_system) [representative democratic](/wiki/Representative_democracy) [republic](/wiki/Republic), where the [President of Sudan](/wiki/List_of_heads_of_state_of_Sudan) is [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state), [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government) and [commander-in-chief](/wiki/Commander-in-chief) of the [Sudan People's Armed Forces](/wiki/Sudan_People's_Armed_Forces) in a [multi-party system](/wiki/Multi-party_system). Legislative power is vested in both the government and the [bicameral](/wiki/Bicameralism) [parliament](/wiki/Parliament)—the [National Legislature](/wiki/National_Legislature_of_Sudan), with its [National Assembly](/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Sudan) (lower chamber) and the [Council of States](/wiki/Council_of_States_of_Sudan) (upper chamber). The [judiciary](/wiki/Judiciary) is independent and obtained by the [Constitutional Court](/wiki/Constitutional_Court).<ref name=cia/> It is part of the Northern Africa grouping of the [UN geoscheme](/wiki/United_Nations_geoscheme).[[41]](#cite_note-41) However, following the [Second Sudanese Civil War](/wiki/Second_Sudanese_Civil_War) (1983–2005) and the now-low-scale [war in Darfur](/wiki/War_in_Darfur), Sudan is widely recognized as an [authoritarian](/wiki/Authoritarianism) state where all effective political power is obtained by President [Omar al-Bashir](/wiki/Omar_al-Bashir) and the ruling [National Congress Party](/wiki/National_Congress_(Sudan)) (NCP).

In 1993, Sudan was transformed into an [Islamic](/wiki/Islamic) [authoritarian](/wiki/Authoritarianism) [one-party state](/wiki/One-party_state) as al-Bashir abolished the Revolutionary Command Council and created the [National Islamic Front](/wiki/National_Islamic_Front) (NIF) with a new parliament and government obtained solely by members of the NIF. At the same time, the structure of regional administration was replaced by the creation of twenty-six states, each headed by a [governor](/wiki/Governor), thus making Sudan a [federal republic](/wiki/Federal_republic).

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Darfur_JEM.png)[JEM](/wiki/Justice_and_Equality_Movement) rebels in Darfur. Both the government and the rebels have been accused of atrocities. Executive posts are divided between the NCP, the SPLA, the [Sudanese Eastern Front](/wiki/Eastern_Front_(Sudan)) and factions of the [Umma Party](/wiki/Umma_Party_(Sudan)) and [Democratic Unionist Party](/wiki/Democratic_Unionist_Party_(Sudan)) (DUP).

According to the new 2005 constitution, the bicameral National Legislature is the official Sudanese parliament and is divided between two chambers—the National Assembly, a lower house with 450 seats, and the Council of States, an upper house with 50 seats. Thus the parliament consists of 500 appointed members altogether, where all are indirectly elected by state legislatures to serve six-year terms.<ref name=cia/>

Despite his international arrest warrant, al-Bashir was a candidate in the [2010 Sudanese presidential election](/wiki/Sudanese_general_election,_2010), the first [democratic](/wiki/Democracy) election with multiple political parties participating in twenty-four years.[[42]](#cite_note-42) In the build-up to the vote, Sudanese pro-democracy activists say they faced intimidation by the government[[43]](#cite_note-43) and the [International Crisis Group](/wiki/International_Crisis_Group) reported that the ruling party had [gerrymandered](/wiki/Gerrymandered) electoral districts.[[44]](#cite_note-44) A few days before the vote, the main opposition candidate, Yasir Arman from the SPLM, withdrew from the race.[[45]](#cite_note-45) The U.S.-based [Carter Center](/wiki/Carter_Center), which helped monitor the elections, described the vote tabulation process as "highly chaotic, non-transparent and vulnerable to electoral manipulation."[[46]](#cite_note-46) Al-Bashir was declared the winner of the election with sixty-eight percent of the vote.[[42]](#cite_note-42)

### Sharia law[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

The legal system in Sudan is based on Islamic [Sharia law](/wiki/Sharia_law). The 2005 [Naivasha Agreement](/wiki/Comprehensive_Peace_Agreement), ending the civil war between north and south Sudan, established some protections for non-Muslims in Khartoum. Sudan's application of Sharia law is random.[[47]](#cite_note-47) [Stoning](/wiki/Stoning) remains a judicial punishment in Sudan. Between 2009 and 2012, several women were sentenced to death by stoning.[[48]](#cite_note-48)[[49]](#cite_note-49)[[50]](#cite_note-50) [Flogging](/wiki/Flogging) is a legal punishment. Between 2009 and 2014, many people were sentenced to 40–100 lashes.[[51]](#cite_note-51)[[52]](#cite_note-52)[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[54]](#cite_note-54)[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56) In August 2014, several Sudanese men died in custody after being flogged.[[57]](#cite_note-57)[[58]](#cite_note-58)[[59]](#cite_note-59) 53 Christians were flogged in 2001.[[60]](#cite_note-60) Sudan's public order law allows police officers to publicly whip women who are accused of public indecency.[[61]](#cite_note-61) [Crucifixion](/wiki/Crucifixion) is a legal punishment. In 2002, 88 people were sentenced to death for crimes relating to murder, armed robbery, and participating in ethnic clashes, [Amnesty International](/wiki/Amnesty_International) wrote that they could be executed by either hanging or crucifixion.[[62]](#cite_note-62) [International Court of Justice](/wiki/International_Court_of_Justice) jurisdiction is accepted, though with reservations. Under the terms of the Naivasha Agreement, Islamic law did not apply in South Sudan.[[63]](#cite_note-63) Since the secession of South Sudan there is some uncertainty as to whether Sharia law will now apply to the non-Muslim minorities present in Sudan, especially because of contradictory statements by al-Bashir on the matter.[[64]](#cite_note-64) The judicial branch of the Sudanese government consists of a Constitutional Court of nine justices, the National Supreme Court, the Court of Cassation,[[65]](#cite_note-65) and other national courts; the National Judicial Service Commission provides overall management for the judiciary.

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Sudanese President](/wiki/File:Omar_al-Bashir,_12th_AU_Summit,_090131-N-0506A-342.jpg) [Omar al-Bashir](/wiki/Omar_al-Bashir), wanted by the [ICC](/wiki/International_Criminal_Court) for war crimes and crimes against humanity.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Sudan has had a troubled relationship with many of its neighbours and much of the international community, owing to what is viewed as its radical Islamic stance. For much of the 1990s, [Uganda](/wiki/Uganda), [Kenya](/wiki/Kenya) and [Ethiopia](/wiki/Ethiopia) formed an ad-hoc alliance called the "Front Line States" with support from the [United States](/wiki/United_States) to check the influence of the [National Islamic Front](/wiki/National_Islamic_Front) government. The Sudanese Government supported anti-Ugandan rebel groups such as the [Lord's Resistance Army](/wiki/Lord's_Resistance_Army) (LRA).

As the National Islamic Front regime in Khartoum gradually emerged as a real threat to the region and the world, the U.S. began to list Sudan on its list of [State Sponsors of Terrorism](/wiki/State_Sponsors_of_Terrorism). After the US listed Sudan as a state sponsor of terrorism, the [NIF](/wiki/National_Islamic_Front) decided to develop relations with [Iraq](/wiki/Iraq), and later [Iran](/wiki/Iran), the two most controversial countries in the region.

From the mid-1990s, Sudan gradually began to moderate its positions as a result of increased U.S. pressure following the [1998 U.S. embassy bombings](/wiki/1998_United_States_embassy_bombings), in [Tanzania](/wiki/Tanzania) and [Kenya](/wiki/Kenya), and the new development of oil fields previously in rebel hands. Sudan also has a territorial dispute with Egypt over the [Hala'ib Triangle](/wiki/Hala'ib_Triangle). Since 2003, the foreign relations of Sudan had centered on the support for ending the [Second Sudanese Civil War](/wiki/Second_Sudanese_Civil_War) and condemnation of government support for militias in the [war in Darfur](/wiki/War_in_Darfur).

Sudan has extensive economic relations with China. China obtains ten percent of its oil from Sudan. According to a former Sudanese government minister, China is Sudan's largest supplier of arms.[[67]](#cite_note-67) In December 2005, Sudan became one of the few [states](/wiki/Sovereign_state) to recognize Moroccan sovereignty over [Western Sahara](/wiki/Western_Sahara).[[68]](#cite_note-68) In 2015, Sudan participated in the [Saudi Arabian-led intervention in Yemen](/wiki/Saudi_Arabian-led_intervention_in_Yemen) against the [Shia](/wiki/Shia_Islam) [Houthis](/wiki/Houthis) and forces loyal to former President [Ali Abdullah Saleh](/wiki/Ali_Abdullah_Saleh),[[69]](#cite_note-69) who was deposed in the 2011 uprising.[[70]](#cite_note-70)

### Armed Forces[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Sudanese Air Force](/wiki/File:Sudanese_Air_Force_Hongdu_JL-8.jpeg) [Hongdu JL-8](/wiki/Hongdu_JL-8) The Sudan People's Armed Forces is the regular forces of Sudan and is divided into five branches; the Sudanese Army, Sudanese Navy (including the Marine Corps), [Sudanese Air Force](/wiki/Sudanese_Air_Force), Border Patrol and the Internal Affairs Defense Force, totalling about 200,000 troops. The military of Sudan has become a well-equipped fighting force, thanks to increasing local production of heavy and advanced arms. These forces are under the command of the National Assembly and its strategic principles include defending Sudan's external borders and preserve internal security.

Since the [Darfur crisis](/wiki/War_in_Darfur) in 2004, safe-keeping the central government from the armed resistance and rebellion of paramilitary rebel groups such as the [Sudan People's Liberation Army](/wiki/Sudan_People's_Liberation_Army/Movement) (SPLA), the [Sudanese Liberation Army](/wiki/Sudan_Liberation_Army) (SLA) and the [Justice and Equality Movement](/wiki/Justice_and_Equality_Movement) (JEM) have been important priorities. While not official, the Sudanese military also uses nomad militias, the most prominent being the [Janjaweed](/wiki/Janjaweed), in executing a counter-insurgency war.[[71]](#cite_note-71) Somewhere between 200,000[[72]](#cite_note-72) and 400,000[[73]](#cite_note-73)[[74]](#cite_note-74) people have died in the violent struggles.

### International organizations in Sudan[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

Several UN agents are operating in Sudan such as the World Food Program ([WFP](/wiki/WFP)); the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation ([FAO](/wiki/FAO)); the United Nations Development Program ([UNDP](/wiki/UNDP)); the United Nations Industrial Development Organizations ([UNIDO](/wiki/UNIDO)); the United Nations Children Fund ([UNICEF](/wiki/UNICEF)); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ([UNHCR](/wiki/United_Nations_High_Commissioner_for_Refugees)); the United Nations Mine Service (UNMAS), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank). Also present is the [International Organization for Migration](/wiki/International_Organization_for_Migration) (IOM).[[75]](#cite_note-75)[[76]](#cite_note-76) Since Sudan has experienced civil war for many years, many Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are also involved in humanitarian efforts to help internally displaced people. The NGOs are working in every corner of Sudan, especially in the southern part and western parts. During the civil war, international nongovernmental organizations such as the Red Cross were operating mostly in the south but based in the capital Khartoum.[[77]](#cite_note-77) The attention of NGOs shifted shortly after the war broke out in the western part of the Sudan known as Darfur. The most visible organization in South Sudan is the [Operation Lifeline Sudan](/wiki/Operation_Lifeline_Sudan) (OLS) consortium.[[78]](#cite_note-78) Even though most of the international organizations are substantially concentrated in both South Sudan and [Darfur](/wiki/Darfur) region, some of them are working in the northern part as well. For example, the [United Nations Industrial Development Organization](/wiki/United_Nations_Industrial_Development_Organization) is successfully operating in [Khartoum](/wiki/Khartoum), the capital. It is mainly funded by the European Union and recently opened more vocational training. The Canadian International Development Agency is operating largely in northern Sudan.[[79]](#cite_note-79)

### Human rights[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Since 1983, a combination of civil war and [famine](/wiki/Famine) has taken the lives of nearly 2 million people in Sudan.[[80]](#cite_note-80) It is estimated that as many as 200,000 people had been taken into [slavery](/wiki/Slavery_in_modern_Africa) during the [Second Sudanese Civil War](/wiki/Second_Sudanese_Civil_War).[[81]](#cite_note-81) Sudan ranks 172 of 180 countries in terms of [freedom of the press](/wiki/Freedom_of_the_press) according to [Reporters Without Borders](/wiki/Reporters_Without_Borders), yet more curbs of press freedom to report official corruption are planned.[[82]](#cite_note-82) Muslims who convert to Christianity can face the death penalty for apostasy, see [Persecution of Christians in Sudan](/wiki/Persecution_of_Christians_in_Sudan) and the death sentence against [Mariam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag](/wiki/Mariam_Yahia_Ibrahim_Ishag) (who actually was raised as Christian). According to a 2013 UNICEF report, 88% of women in Sudan had undergone [female genital mutilation](/wiki/Female_genital_mutilation).<ref name=UNICEF2013p27>[UNICEF 2013](http://www.unicef.org/media/files/FGCM_Lo_res.pdf), p. 27.</ref> Sudan's [Personal Status](/wiki/Status_(law)) law on marriage has been criticized for restricting [women's rights](/wiki/Women's_rights) and allowing [child marriage](/wiki/Child_marriage).[[83]](#cite_note-83)[[84]](#cite_note-84) Evidence suggests that support for female genital mutilation remains high, especially among rural and less well educated groups, although it has been declining in recent years.[[85]](#cite_note-85)

#### Darfur[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[right|thumb|Darfur refugee camp in](/wiki/File:Darfur_refugee_camp_in_Chad.jpg) [Chad](/wiki/Chad), 2005 A letter dated 14 August 2006, from the executive director of [Human Rights Watch](/wiki/Human_Rights_Watch) found that the Sudanese government is both incapable of protecting its own citizens in [Darfur](/wiki/Darfur) and unwilling to do so, and that its [militias](/wiki/Militia) are guilty of [crimes against humanity](/wiki/Crimes_against_humanity). The letter added that these human-rights abuses have existed since 2004.[[86]](#cite_note-86) Some reports attribute part of the violations to the rebels as well as the government and the [Janjaweed](/wiki/Janjaweed). The U.S. State Department's human-rights report issued in March 2007 claims that "*[a]*ll parties to the conflagration committed serious abuses, including widespread killing of civilians, [rape](/wiki/Rape) as a tool of war, systematic [torture](/wiki/Torture), robbery and recruitment of child soldiers."[[87]](#cite_note-87) Over 2.8 million civilians have been displaced and the [death toll](/wiki/Death_toll) is estimated at 300,000 killed.[[88]](#cite_note-88) Both government forces and militias allied with the government are known to attack not only civilians in Darfur, but also humanitarian workers. Sympathizers of rebel groups are arbitrarily detained, as are foreign journalists, [human-rights defenders](/wiki/Human_rights_defender), student activists and displaced people in and around Khartoum, some of whom face torture. The rebel groups have also been accused in a report issued by the U.S. government of attacking humanitarian workers and of killing innocent civilians.[[89]](#cite_note-89) According to UNICEF, in 2008, there were as many as 6,000 [child soldiers](/wiki/Child_soldiers) in Darfur.[[90]](#cite_note-90)

### Disputed areas and zones of conflict[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

* In mid-April 2012, the South Sudanese army captured the [Heglig](/wiki/Heglig) oil field from Sudan.
* In mid-April 2012 the Sudanese army recaptured Heglig.
* [Kafia Kingi](/wiki/Kafia_Kingi) and [Radom National Park](/wiki/Radom_National_Park) was a part of [Bahr el Ghazal](/wiki/Bahr_el_Ghazal) in 1956.[[91]](#cite_note-91) Sudan has recognized South Sudan independence according to the borders for 1 January 1956.[[92]](#cite_note-92)\*The [Abyei Area](/wiki/Abyei_Area) is disputed region between Sudan and [South Sudan](/wiki/South_Sudan). It is currently under Sudan rule.
* The states of [South Kurdufan](/wiki/South_Kurdufan) and [Blue Nile](/wiki/Blue_Nile_(state)) are to hold "popular consultations" to determine their constitutional future within the Sudan.
* The [Hala'ib triangle](/wiki/Hala'ib_triangle) is disputed region between Sudan and [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt). It is currently under Egyptian administration.
* [Bir Tawil](/wiki/Bir_Tawil) is a [terra nullius](/wiki/Terra_nullius) occurring on the border between Egypt and Sudan, claimed by neither state.

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Sudan is divided into [18 states](/wiki/States_of_Sudan) ([*wilayat*](/wiki/Wilaya), [sing.](/wiki/Grammatical_number) [*wilayah*](/wiki/Wilayah)). They are further divided into 133 [districts](/wiki/Districts_of_Sudan).

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Political_Regions_of_Sudan,_July_2010.svg)[Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend)

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### Regional bodies and areas of conflict[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

In addition to the states, there also exist regional administrative bodies established by peace agreements between the central government and rebel groups.

* The [Darfur Regional Authority](/wiki/Darfur_Regional_Authority) was established by the [Darfur Peace Agreement](/wiki/Darfur_Peace_Agreement) to act as a co-ordinating body for the states that make up the region of [Darfur](/wiki/Darfur).
* The [Eastern Sudan States Coordinating Council](/wiki/Eastern_Sudan_States_Coordinating_Council) was established by the [Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement](/wiki/Eastern_Sudan_Peace_Agreement) between the Sudanese Government and the rebel [Eastern Front](/wiki/Eastern_Front_(Sudan)) to act as a coordinating body for the three eastern states.
* The [Abyei Area](/wiki/Abyei), located on the border between South Sudan and the Republic of the Sudan, currently has a special administrative status and is governed by an [Abyei Area Administration](/wiki/Abyei_Area_Administration). It was due to hold a [referendum](/wiki/Abyei_status_referendum,_2011) in 2011 on whether to join an independent [South Sudan](/wiki/South_Sudan) or remain part of the Republic of the Sudan.

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Sudan_Map_Oelgas.png)[Oil](/wiki/Petroleum) and [gas](/wiki/Natural_gas) concessions in Sudan – 2004 [thumb|Development in Khartoum.](/wiki/File:Strato_en_Ĥartumo_(Sudano)_003.jpg) In 2010, Sudan was considered the 17th-fastest-growing economy[[93]](#cite_note-93) in the world and the rapid development of the country largely from oil profits even when facing international sanctions was noted by [*The New York Times*](/wiki/The_New_York_Times) in a 2006 article.[[94]](#cite_note-94) Because of the secession of [South Sudan](/wiki/South_Sudan), which contained over 80 percent of Sudan's oilfields, Sudan entered a phase of [Stagflation](/wiki/Stagflation), GDP growth slowed to 3.4 percent in 2014, 3.1 percent in 2015 and is projected to recover slowly to 3.7 percent in 2016 while inflation remained as high as 21.8% in [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of).[[95]](#cite_note-95) Even with the oil profits before the secession of South Sudan, Sudan still faced formidable economic problems, and its growth was still a rise from a very low level of per capita output. The economy of Sudan has been steadily growing over the 2000s, and according to a World Bank report the overall growth in GDP in 2010 was 5.2 percent compared to 2009 growth of 4.2 percent.[[3]](#cite_note-3) This growth was sustained even during the [war in Darfur](/wiki/War_in_Darfur) and [period of southern autonomy](/wiki/Government_of_Southern_Sudan_(2005-2011)) preceding South Sudan's independence.[[96]](#cite_note-96)[[97]](#cite_note-97) [Oil](/wiki/Petroleum) was Sudan's main export, with production increasing dramatically during the late 2000s, in the years before South Sudan gained independence in July 2011. With rising oil revenues, the Sudanese economy was booming, with a growth rate of about nine percent in 2007. The independence of oil-rich [South Sudan](/wiki/South_Sudan), however, placed most major [oilfields](/wiki/Oilfield) out of the Sudanese government's direct control and oil production in Sudan fell from around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) to under [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Production has since recovered to hover around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)) for 2014-15.

In order to export oil, South Sudan relies on a pipeline to [Port Sudan](/wiki/Port_Sudan) on Sudan's [Red Sea](/wiki/Red_Sea) coast, as South Sudan is a [landlocked country](/wiki/Landlocked_country), as well as the oil refining facilities in Sudan. In August 2012, Sudan and South Sudan agreed a deal to transport South Sudanese oil through Sudanese pipelines to Port Sudan.[[98]](#cite_note-98) The [People's Republic of China](/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China) is one of Sudan's major trading partners, China owns a 40 percent share in the [Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company](/wiki/Greater_Nile_Petroleum_Operating_Company).[[99]](#cite_note-99) The country also sells Sudan small arms, which have been used in military operations such as the conflicts in Darfur and [South Kordofan](/wiki/South_Kordofan_conflict).[[100]](#cite_note-100) While historically agriculture remains the main source of income and employment hiring of over 80 percent of Sudanese, and makes up a third of the economic sector, oil production drove most of Sudan's post-2000 growth. Currently, the International Monetary Fund IMF is working hand in hand with Khartoum government to implement sound macroeconomic policies.This follows a turbulent period in the 1980s when debt-ridden Sudan's relations with the IMF and World Bank soured, culminating in its eventual suspension from the IMF.[[101]](#cite_note-101)[Template:Page needed](/wiki/Template:Page_needed) The program has been in place since the early 1990s, and also work-out exchange rate and reserve of foreign exchange.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Since 1997, Sudan has been implementing the [macroeconomic](/wiki/Macroeconomics) reforms recommended by the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[thumb|Market in Omdurman](/wiki/File:Bazaro_en_Omdurman_001.jpg) Agricultural production remains Sudan's most-important sector, employing 80 percent of the workforce and contributing 39 percent of GDP, but most farms remain rain-fed and susceptible to [drought](/wiki/Drought). Instability, adverse weather and weak world-agricultural prices ensures that much of the population will remain at or below the poverty line for years.

The [Merowe Dam](/wiki/Merowe_Dam), also known as Merowe Multi-Purpose Hydro Project or Hamdab Dam, is a large construction project in Northern Sudan, about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) north of the capital, Khartoum. It is situated on the River Nile, close to the [Fourth Cataract](/wiki/Cataracts_of_the_Nile) where the river divides into multiple smaller branches with large islands in between. [Merowe](/wiki/Merowe,_Sudan) is a city about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) downstream from the dam's construction site.

The main purpose of the dam will be the generation of electricity. Its dimensions make it the largest contemporary hydropower project in Africa. The construction of the dam was finished December 2008, supplying more than 90 percent of the population with electricity. Other gas-powered generating stations are operational in Khartoum State and other States.

According to the Corruptions Perception Index, Sudan is one of the most corrupt nations in the world.[[102]](#cite_note-102) According to the [Global Hunger Index](/wiki/Global_Hunger_Index) of 2013, Sudan has an GHI indicator value of 27.0 indicating that the nation has an 'Alarming Hunger Situation' and earning the nation the distinction of being the 5th hungriest nation in the world.[[103]](#cite_note-103) According to the 2015 [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index) (HDI) Sudan ranked the [167st](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Human_Development_Index) place in Human Development, indicating Sudan still has one of the lowest human development in the world.[[104]](#cite_note-104) Almost one-fifth of Sudan's population lives below the [international poverty line](/wiki/International_poverty_line) which means living on less than US$1.25 per day.[[105]](#cite_note-105)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[thumb|Student from](/wiki/File:Sudan_-_smiling_lady.jpg) [Khartoum](/wiki/Khartoum) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) In Sudan's 2008 [census](/wiki/Census), the population of Northern, Western and Eastern Sudan was recorded to be over 30 million.[[106]](#cite_note-106) This puts present estimates of the population of Sudan after the secession of [South Sudan](/wiki/South_Sudan) at a little over 30 million people. This is a significant increase over the past two decades as the 1983 census put the total population of Sudan, including present-day South Sudan, at 21.6 million.[[107]](#cite_note-107) The population of Greater Khartoum (including [Khartoum](/wiki/Khartoum), [Omdurman](/wiki/Omdurman), and [Khartoum North](/wiki/Khartoum_North)) is growing rapidly and was recorded to be 5.2 million.

Despite being a refugee-generating country, Sudan also hosts a refugee population. According to the *World Refugee Survey 2008*, published by the [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants](/wiki/U.S._Committee_for_Refugees_and_Immigrants), 310,500 refugees and asylum seekers lived in Sudan in 2007. The majority of this population came from [Eritrea](/wiki/Eritrea) (240,400 persons), [Chad](/wiki/Chad) (45,000), [Ethiopia](/wiki/Ethiopia) (49,300) and the [Central African Republic](/wiki/Central_African_Republic) (2,500).[[108]](#cite_note-108) The Sudanese government [UN High Commissioner for Refugees](/wiki/UN_High_Commissioner_for_Refugees) in 2007 forcibly deported at least 1,500 refugees and asylum seekers during the year. Sudan is a party to the 1951 [Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees](/wiki/Convention_Relating_to_the_Status_of_Refugees).[[108]](#cite_note-108)

### Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Eisa_shikawi.JPG)[Sudanese Arab](/wiki/Sudanese_Arab) of [Al-Manasir](/wiki/Manasir) The [Arab](/wiki/Sudanese_Arabs) presence is estimated at 70% of the Sudanese population.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Others include the Arabized ethnic groups of [Nubians](/wiki/Nubian_people), [Zaghawa](/wiki/Zaghawa_people), and [Copts](/wiki/Copts_in_Sudan).[[109]](#cite_note-109)[[110]](#cite_note-110) Sudan has 597 groups that speak over 400 different languages and dialects.[[111]](#cite_note-111) Sudanese Arabs are by far the largest ethnic group in Sudan. They are almost entirely Muslims; while the majority speak [Sudanese Arabic](/wiki/Sudanese_Arabic), some other Arab tribes speak different Arabic dialects like [Awadia and Fadnia tribes](/wiki/Awadia_and_Fadnia_tribes) and [Bani Arak](/wiki/Arakieen) tribes who speak [Najdi Arabic](/wiki/Najdi_Arabic); and [Rufa'a](/wiki/Rufa'a), [Bani Hassan](/wiki/Bani_Hassan), [Al-Ashraf](/wiki/Al-Ashraf), [Kinanah](/wiki/Kinanah) and [Rashaida](/wiki/Rashaida) who speak [Hejazi Arabic](/wiki/Hejazi_Arabic). In addition, the Western province comprises various ethnic groups, while a few Arab [Bedouin](/wiki/Bedouin) of the northern [Rizeigat](/wiki/Rizeigat) and others who speak Sudanese Arabic share the same culture and backgrounds of the Sudanese Arabs.

The majority of Arabized and indigenous tribes like the [Fur](/wiki/Fur_people), [Zaghawa](/wiki/Zaghawa_people), [Borgo](/wiki/Borgo_people), [Masalit](/wiki/Masalit_people) and some [Baggara](/wiki/Baggara) ethnic groups, who speak [Chadian Arabic](/wiki/Chadian_Arabic), show less cultural integration because of cultural, linguistic and genealogical variations with other Arab and Arabized tribes.[[112]](#cite_note-112) Sudanese Arabs of Northern and Eastern parts descend primarily from migrants from the [Arabian Peninsula](/wiki/Arabian_Peninsula) and intermarriages with the pre-existing indigenous populations of Sudan, especially the [Nubian people](/wiki/Nubia), who also share a common history with [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt). Additionally, a few pre-Islamic Arabian tribes existed in Sudan from earlier migrations into the region from Western Arabia, although most Arabs in Sudan are dated from migrations after the 12th century.[[113]](#cite_note-113) The vast majority of Arab tribes in Sudan migrated into the Sudan in the 12th century, intermarried with the indigenous Nubian and other African populations and introduced Islam.[[114]](#cite_note-114) In common with much of the rest of the [Arab world](/wiki/Arab_world), the gradual process of [Arabization](/wiki/Arabization) in Sudan following these Arabian migrations after the 12th century led to the predominance of the [Arabic language](/wiki/Arabic_language) and aspects of [Arab culture](/wiki/Arab_culture), leading to the shift among a majority of Sudanese today to an Arab ethnic identity. This process was furthered both by the spread of Islam and an emigration to Sudan of ethnic Arabs from the Arabian Peninsula, and their intermarriage with the Arabized indigenous peoples of the country.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Sudan consists of numerous other non-Arabic groups, such as the [Masalit](/wiki/Masalit_people), [Zaghawa](/wiki/Zaghawa_people), [Fulani](/wiki/Fulani), [Northern Nubians](/wiki/Northern_Nubians), [Nuba](/wiki/Nuba), and the [Beja people](/wiki/Beja_people).

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|200px|The Arabic-speaking](/wiki/File:Rashaida_family.png) [Rashaida](/wiki/Rashaida_people) came to Sudan from [Arabia](/wiki/Arabia) about 170 years ago.

Approximately 70 languages are native to Sudan.[[115]](#cite_note-115) [Sudanese Arabic](/wiki/Sudanese_Arabic) is the most widely spoken language in the country. It is the [variety](/wiki/Varieties_of_Arabic) of [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language), an [Afroasiatic](/wiki/Afroasiatic_languages) language of the [Semitic](/wiki/Semitic_language) branch spoken throughout Sudan. The dialect has borrowed much vocabulary from local Nilo-Saharan languages ([Nobiin](/wiki/Nobiin_language), [Fur](/wiki/Fur_language), [Zaghawa](/wiki/Zaghawa_language), [Mabang](/wiki/Maba_language)). This has resulted in a variety of Arabic that is unique to Sudan, reflecting the way in which the country has been influenced by Nilotic, Arab, and western cultures. Few nomads in Sudan still have similar accents to the ones in [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia). Other important languages include [Beja](/wiki/Beja_language) ([Template:Sc](/wiki/Template:Sc) Bedawi) along the [Red Sea](/wiki/Red_Sea), with perhaps 2 million speakers. It is the only language from the Afroasiatic family's [Cushitic](/wiki/Cushitic_language) branch that is today spoken in the territory.

As with South Sudan, a number of [Nilo-Saharan languages](/wiki/Nilo-Saharan_languages) are also spoken in Sudan. [Fur](/wiki/Fur_language) speakers inhabit the west ([Darfur](/wiki/Darfur)), with perhaps a million speakers. There are likewise various [Nubian languages](/wiki/Nubian_languages), with over 6 million speakers along the Nile in the north. The most linguistically diverse region in the country is the [Nuba Hills](/wiki/Nuba_Hills) area in Kordofan, inhabited by speakers of multiple language families, with Darfur and other border regions being second.

The [Niger-Congo](/wiki/Niger-Congo_languages) family is represented by many of the [Kordofanian languages](/wiki/Kordofanian_languages), and [Indo-European](/wiki/Indo-European_languages) by [Domari](/wiki/Domari_language) (Gypsy) and English. Historically, [Old Nubian](/wiki/Old_Nubian), [Greek](/wiki/Greek_language), and [Coptic](/wiki/Coptic_language) were the languages of [Christian Nubia](/wiki/Christian_Nubia), while [Meroitic](/wiki/Meroitic_language) was the language of the [Kingdom of Kush](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kush), which conquered Egypt.

Sudan also has multiple regional sign languages, which are not [mutually intelligible](/wiki/Mutually_intelligible). A 2009 proposal for a unified [Sudanese Sign Language](/wiki/Sudanese_Sign_Language) had been worked out, but was not widely known.[[116]](#cite_note-116) Prior to 2005, Arabic was the nation's sole [official language](/wiki/Official_language).[[117]](#cite_note-117) In the 2005 constitution, Sudan's official languages became [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language) and [English](/wiki/English_language).<ref name=Const>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Urban areas[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

[Template:Largest cities of Sudan](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Sudan)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Minaret_S.jpg)[Minaret](/wiki/Minaret) in [Port Sudan](/wiki/Port_Sudan) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box) At the 2011 division which split off South Sudan, over 97% of the population in the remaining Sudan adheres to [Islam](/wiki/Islam).[[118]](#cite_note-118) Most Muslims are divided between two groups: [Sufi](/wiki/Sufism) and Salafi (Ansar Al Sunnah) Muslims. Two popular divisions of Sufism, the Ansar and the Khatmia, are associated with the opposition Umma and Democratic Unionist parties, respectively. Only the Darfur region has traditionally been bereft of the Sufi brotherhoods common in the rest of the country.[[119]](#cite_note-119) Significant, long-established groups of [Coptic Orthodox](/wiki/Coptic_Orthodox_Church_of_Alexandria) and [Greek Orthodox](/wiki/Greek_Orthodox_Church) Christians exist in Khartoum and other northern cities. [Ethiopian](/wiki/Ethiopian_Orthodox_Tewahedo_Church) and [Eritrean Orthodox](/wiki/Eritrean_Orthodox_Tewahedo_Church) communities also exist in Khartoum and eastern Sudan, largely made up of refugees and migrants from the past few decades. The largest groups affiliated with Western Christian denominations are [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholic) and [Anglican](/wiki/Anglican_Communion). Other Christian groups with smaller followings in the country include the Africa Inland Church, the [Armenian Apostolic Church](/wiki/Armenian_Apostolic_Church), the Sudan Church of Christ, the [Sudan Interior Church](/wiki/Sudan_Interior_Church), [Jehovah's Witnesses](/wiki/Jehovah's_Witnesses), the Sudan Pentecostal Church, the [Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Church](/wiki/Sudan_Evangelical_Presbyterian_Church) (in the North).

Religious identity plays a role in the country's political divisions. Northern and western Muslims have dominated the country's political and economic system since independence. The NCP draws much of its support from [Islamists](/wiki/Islamists), [Salafis](/wiki/Salafis)/[Wahhabis](/wiki/Wahhabis) and other conservative Arab Muslims in the north. The [Umma](/wiki/Ummah) Party has traditionally attracted Arab followers of the Ansar sect of Sufism as well as non-Arab Muslims from Darfur and Kordofan. The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) includes both Arab and non-Arab Muslims in the north and east, especially those in the Khatmia Sufi sect.

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) Sudanese culture melds the behaviors, practices, and beliefs of about 578 ethnic groups, communicating in 145 different [languages](/wiki/Languages), in a region microcosmic of [Africa](/wiki/Africa), with geographic extremes varying from sandy [desert](/wiki/Desert) to [tropical forest](/wiki/Tropical_forest). Recent evidence suggests that while most citizens of the country identify strongly with both Sudan and their religion, Arab and African supranational identities are much more polarising and contested.[[120]](#cite_note-120)

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|A](/wiki/File:Drummer_at_Hamed_el-Nil_Mosque_(8625532075).jpg) [Sufi](/wiki/Sufi) [dervish](/wiki/Dervish) drums up the Friday afternoon crowd in [Omdurman](/wiki/Omdurman). Sudan has a rich and unique musical culture that has been through chronic instability and repression during the modern history of Sudan. Beginning with the imposition of strict [Salafi](/wiki/Salafi) interpretation of [*sharia*](/wiki/Sharia) law in 1989, many of the country's most prominent poets, like [Mahjoub Sharif](/wiki/Mahjoub_Sharif), were imprisoned while others, like [Mohammed el Amin](/wiki/Mohammed_el_Amin) (returned to Sudan in the mid-1990s) and [Mohammed Wardi](/wiki/Mohammed_Wardi) (returned to Sudan 2003), fled to Cairo. [Traditional music](/wiki/Traditional_music) suffered too, with traditional [Zār](/wiki/Zār) ceremonies being interrupted and [drums](/wiki/Drums) confiscated [Template:Ref label](/wiki/Template:Ref_label). At the same time [European](/wiki/Europe) militaries contributed to the development of Sudanese music by introducing new instruments and styles; military bands, especially the Scottish [bagpipes](/wiki/Bagpipe), were renowned, and set traditional music to [military march](/wiki/March_(music)) music. The march *March Shulkawi No 1*, is an example, set to the sounds of the [Shilluk](/wiki/Shilluk_people).

### Sport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

The most popular sports in Sudan are athletics ([track and field](/wiki/Track_and_field)) and [football](/wiki/Association_football). Though not as successful as football, [handball](/wiki/Team_handball), [basketball](/wiki/Basketball), and [volleyball](/wiki/Volleyball) are also popular in Sudan.

Sudanese football has a long history. Sudan was one of the four African nations – the others being Egypt, Ethiopia and South Africa – which formed African football. Sudan hosted the first [African Cup of Nations](/wiki/African_Cup_of_Nations) in 1956, and has won the African Cup Of Nations once, in 1970. Two years later, the Sudan National Football Team participated in the [1972 Olympic Games](/wiki/1972_Summer_Olympics) in [Munich](/wiki/Munich). The [nation's capital](/wiki/Khartoum) is home to the Khartoum League, which is considered to be the oldest football league in Africa.

Sudanese football teams such as [Al-Hilal](/wiki/Al-Hilal_Club_(Omdurman)) and [El-Merreikh](/wiki/El-Merreikh) are among the nation's strongest teams. Other teams like Khartoum, El-Neel, [Al-Nidal El-Nahud](/wiki/Al-Nidal_El-Nahud) and [Hay-Al Arab](/wiki/Hay-Al_Arab), are also starting to grow in popularity.

### Clothing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

Most individual Sudanese wear either traditional or western attire. A traditional garb widely worn in Sudan is the [jalabiya](/wiki/Jalabiya), which is a loose-fitting, long-sleeved, collarless ankle-length garment also common to [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt). The jalabiya is accompanied by a large scarf worn by women, and the garment may be white, colored, striped, and made of fabric varying in thickness, depending on the season of the year and personal preferences.

A similar garment common to Sudan is the *thobe* or [*thawb*](/wiki/Thawb). Like the jalabiya, the thawb is a long, tunic-like garment, although it may have a collar, be less loose-fitting, or have shorter sleeves or length than the jalabiya. The word "thawb" means "garment" in Arabic, and the thawb itself is the traditional Arab dress for men, although the word may also refer to similar tunic-like garments worn by women.

<gallery widths="200px" heights="200px"> File:Leila Aboulela (2010).jpg|Sudanese author [Leila Aboulela](/wiki/Leila_Aboulela) File:Piramidoj en Meroe (Sudano) 006.jpg|Sudanese tourists by the [Meroë](/wiki/Meroë) pyramids in various types of clothing. File:COSV - Darfur 2008 - Market.jpg|Sudanese women in Darfur File:Camel Market (8626639754).jpg|Herders at the camel market on the far west side of Omdurman </gallery>

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Expand section](/wiki/Template:Expand_section) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Sudan_Khartoum_Gordon_College_1936.jpg)[Khartoum University](/wiki/Khartoum_University) established in 1902 [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Education in Sudan is free and compulsory for children aged 6 to 13 years. Primary education consists of eight years, followed by three years of secondary education. The former educational ladder 6 + 3 + 3 was changed in 1990. The primary language at all levels is Arabic. Schools are concentrated in urban areas; many in the West have been damaged or destroyed by years of civil war. In 2001 the World Bank estimated that primary enrollment was 46 percent of eligible pupils and 21 percent of secondary students. Enrollment varies widely, falling below 20 percent in some provinces. Sudan has 19 universities; instruction is primarily in Arabic. Education at the secondary and university levels has been seriously hampered by the requirement that most males perform military service before completing their education.<ref name=cp>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The literacy rate is 70.2% of total population, male: 79.6%, female: 60.8%.[[3]](#cite_note-3)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Wikipedia books](/wiki/Template:Wikipedia_books)

* [List of heads of government of Sudan](/wiki/List_of_heads_of_government_of_Sudan)
* [Outline of Sudan](/wiki/Outline_of_Sudan)
* [Lost Boys of Sudan](/wiki/Lost_Boys_of_Sudan)

[Template:Sudan topics](/wiki/Template:Sudan_topics) [Template:Portal bar](/wiki/Template:Portal_bar)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

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* "Quo Vadis bilad as-Sudan? The Contemporary Framework for a National Interim Constitution". *Law in Africa* ([Cologne](/wiki/Cologne); 2005). Vol. 8, pp.  63–82. [Template:ISSN](/wiki/Template:ISSN).

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Government of Sudan](http://www.sudan.gov.sd/index.php/en) website
* [Template:GovPubs](/wiki/Template:GovPubs)
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Sudan profile](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14094995) from the [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [CIMIC activities in the African Union Mission in Sudan](http://www.scribd.com/doc/127199474/CIMIC-activities-int-he-African-Union-Mission-in-Sudan%20)

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