Sudan: Refugee Crisis

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Geography

Areas and Cities of Significance in Sudan:
- Khartoum
- Darfur (region in Western Sudan)
- Blue Nile State
- Abyei

Areas and Cities of Significance in South Sudan:
- Juba
- Jonglei State
- Malakal

https://aiusa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=1de5e466b5b6487580d5d95ea550ee59&webmap=44ceafa0b18b4228b593c308b16fcb29

# Timeline: Origins and History of the Sudan Crisis

Civil war and unrest has been ongoing in Sudan (and now South Sudan) since the 1950s and the cessation of British colonial rule. While there are many events that could be included in a timeline of Sudan’s continued conflict comprised of five civil wars, we focused ours on the contemporary issues, the most significant historical moments illuminating the origins of unrest and violence, and the region’s patterns of peace and conflict.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Sudan becomes independent</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>Sudanese civil war first begins in the South</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Oil discovered in South Sudan</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>Introduction of Sharia Islamic Law; outbreak of the Second Sudanese Civil War</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>U.S. launches strike in Khartoum; this act is the first of the United States’s military interference in Sudan</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Sudan begins to export oil</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Peace deal reached</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Rebel uprising begins, specifically in the West in the Darfur region</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Uprising in the West; U.S. interferes per Secretary of State Colin Powell while hundreds of thousands of refugees flee</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Sudan’s government and Southern rebels sign a peace deal; UN accuses Darfur of systematic abuses of power and the Security Council authorises sanctions against violators of Darfur’s ceasefire</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>New constitution gives autonomy to the south; South’s government dominated by former rebels</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Sudan rejects UN peacekeeping; fighting resumes; heavy fighting - focused on southern town Malakal - in which hundreds are believed to have died</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>UN peacekeepers deployed as well as UN force in Darfur; U.S. sanctions against Sudan; arrests Janjaweed leaders</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Sudan-Chad accord; intense fighting over oil-rich Abyei; arbitration over Abyei; President Bashir’s ceasefire in Darfur but rebels continue fighting</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Accept arbitration of Abyei; Darfur war over; reach referendum on independence due in South by 2011</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>President Bashir re-elected; International Criminal Court issues Bashir arrest on genocide charges but Kenya refuses</td>
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Timeline Cont.

2011 In January, people of the South vote in favour of full independence from the north

2011 In May, Northern troops overrun town of Abyei on disputed border between north and south; described as an "act of war" in the South and thousands flee
2011 In July, South Sudan gains independence

2011 In September, state of emergency declared in Blue Nile state, elected SPLM-N Governor Malik Agar sacked; approximately 100,000 fleeing unrest
2011 In December, Sudanese government forces kill key Darfur rebel leader Khalil Ibrahim

2012 In January, South Sudan halts oil production after breakdown of talks concerning fees for the export of oil via Sudan
2012 From February-April, Sudan and South Sudan sign non-aggression pact; but soon border fighting breaks out
2012 In May, Sudan pledges to pull its troops out of the border region of Abyei claimed by South Sudan; bilateral peace talks resume
2012 In August, approx. 655,000 have been displaced or severely affected by fighting between the army and rebels in states bordering on South Sudan, according to UN reports
2012 In September, presidents of Sudan and South Sudan agree on a demilitarised buffer zone and resuming oil sales after talks in Ethiopia, but fail to resolve border issues (including Abyei)

2013 In March, both states agree to resume pumping oil and to withdraw troops from their borders; form demilitarised zone
2014 In December, chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court halts investigations into war crimes in Darfur for lack of support from the UN Security Council
2015 President Bashir re-elected in Sudan

Human Rights Watch Video

Civilians Targeted in Sudan’s New War: https://youtu.be/vAkFRGMc1Cw
High tensions between Sudan and South Sudan continue to shake the region. These tensions exist mostly over issues of border and oil control. As the land holds the oil, disputes over land and oil overlap and continue to contribute to the economic origins and perpetuation of the conflict. Rooted in the development of the state, ethnic tensions additionally provide the foundation for political tensions between the Arab-Islamic North and the non-Arab-Islamic South. Ethnicity has provided political power to Sudanese leaders who’ve used techniques the UN initially hesitated to describe as genocide to promote their political agendas while murdering or displacing millions. In South Sudan, ethnic tensions have erupted in particular between the two ethnic groups: the Nuer and the Dinka. In the Nuer region, for example, groups of Christians, African Muslims, and traditionally religious people initially lived in peace together; however, their oil-rich land created conflict, disturbing the peace and murdering hundreds.

http://www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/sudan/conflict-profile/
http://jpr.sagepub.com/content/41/3/337.short

The Sudan and South Sudan refugee crisis has received less attention than most others by the United States media. Most of our information gathered from media outlets has come from European news sources like BBC and the UK Independent while few reporters in the United States continue to cover the ongoing civil conflict and crisis. The Lost Boys of Sudan - a group of approximately 20,000 young boys from southern Sudan who fled at the outbreak of the second civil war in 1987 - featured prominently in the news and became an award-winning documentary in 2003. This may though be a result of the close to 4,000 lost boys who came to the United States in 2001 for freedom and safety. However, the ongoing crisis plaguing hundreds of thousands of displaced people in the region has received little attention since. Accessibility has been an ongoing issue; most refugees from South Sudan remain in internal displacement camps, largely unknown to the majority population and hostile to reporters, or in countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Chad, and Egypt. The Non-profit Reporters Without Borders confirms the dangers and difficulty of accessibility of reporting in the Sudan region. A 2014 analysis of the media coverage in Darfur further reveals the difficulty of representing the conflict in Sudanese and non-Sudanese (Arab) media outlets. Issues of censorship additionally continue to block full coverage in Sudan and South Sudan.
The Lost Boys of Sudan

The trailer for the documentary Lost Boys of Sudan can be found here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4L7vFHco_E4

Check out the documentary website and full film here:
http://www.lostboysfilm.com

The transcript for a 60 minutes review of the situation of the Lost Boys of Sudan can be found here:
http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-lost-boys-of-sudan-12-years-later-02-04-2013/
Children in Sudan

The Lost Boys of Sudan were separated from their families by the Sudanese civil war. Suffering from the traumatic loss of family, these children fled to refugee camps, living in Ethiopia, Kenya, and the United States, and for the most part developed surrogate families. In the refugee camps, they fostered relationships while searching for surviving family members to hopefully re-establish relationships with in the future. Similarly, the protection of children in Darfur has been a major humanitarian concern. There is concern regarding the systematic features of the environment in Sudan - in particular in Darfur - that put children at risk and violate their right to protection from violence. Further, what resources must be provided to aid these children in coping with the tremendous trauma they’ve experienced and witnessed?

https://www.hrw.org/video-photos/photo-essay/2015/07/22/they-burned-it-all
What About the Lost Girls?

The women’s claim for equal treatment and human rights went unheard unlike that of the Lost Boys. The women are often sent to families for protection, but these families then sell the girls for a decent bride price. They are forced into young marriages and are at increased risk of rape, sexual abuse, beatings, forced marriages, and isolation. Unlike the more optimistic future the Lost Boys were given, the Lost Girls have been largely forgotten and continue to be hopelessly dominated by men. A further indication of the lack of attention women receive: of approximately 3,700 refugees in the U.S. in 2002, only 89 were women.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/2031286.stm
http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/foreigners/2003/10/where_are_the_lost_girls.html
http://www.unicef.org/protection/sudan_71891.html
http://www.womenforwomen.org/what-we-do/countries/south-sudan
https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/08/05/south-sudans-war-women
Humanitarian Aid and the UN Response

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs:

In Sudan, there are:
- 5.4 million people targeted for humanitarian assistance in 2015
- 4.2 million people targeted for food and livelihoods interventions
- 1.2 million malnourished children under 5

In South Sudan, there are:
- 5.1 million people targeted for humanitarian assistance in 2016
- Approaching 2 million people internally displaced by violence
- 4.5 million people reached by humanitarian assistance in 2015

http://www.unocha.org/sudan/
http://www.unocha.org/south-sudan

The following two links contain detailed maps of humanitarian organizations operating in Sudan and South Sudan:
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/south-sudan-field-presence-map-july2015_0.pdf
In Sudan, the humanitarian environment deteriorated, often hampering access and restricting some areas in the region. In order to implement their response strategies, the UN is monitoring the situations and continuing to coordinate with government in Sudan, especially in Khartoum and Darfur. Eritrean and South Sudanese (at risk of stateless) refugees are people of concern in Sudan. Some organizations at work in Sudan include: the Humanitarian Aid Commission, Darfur Regional Authority and the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID), and UN Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team.

South Sudan is still hosting refugees: 250,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia and Sudan, according to the UN. The UN is working with the Government of South Sudan to sign and ratify relevant international conventions and treaties related to the protection of refugees and the prevention of statelessness. According to the UN, needs and goals in 2016 include: “priority will be to upgrade emergency structures in all camps and enhance the shelter, health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene sectors to improve the current standards.”
Humanitarian Aid and the UN Response

UN humanitarian efforts are underfunded in these regions, some lacking nearly 50% of the necessary finances to complete the humanitarian work they explain is required. Detailed breakdowns of funds and plans are available in the UN links below. The U.S.hearing and strategy for responding to the humanitarian conflict in the area are further included in the syllabus below.

http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e483b76.html
http://lawcat.berkeley.edu/search/?Xsudan&SORT=D/Xsudan&SORT=D&SUBKEY=sudan/1%2C403%2C403%2CE/frameset&FF=Xsudan&SORT=D&3%2C3%2C
http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4e43cb466.html
http://origins.osu.edu/article/worlds-worst-humanitarian-crisis-understanding-darfur-conflict
http://odihpn.org/magazine/have-we-lost-the-ability-to-respond-to-refugee-crises-the-maban-response/
http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/Lnacademic/?verb=sr&csi=254934
Internally Displaced People

In December 2015, an estimated 2,174,000 IDPs and 93,500 people in IDP-like situations in Sudan and 1,000,000 IDPs and 110,000 in IDP-like situations in South Sudan. By the end of 2014, about 1.4 million people were uprooted and forced to leave their homes. Nearly 10% of IDPs are found in the 9 United Nations Missions in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) Protection of Civilians sites, but the overwhelming majority live in remote and often inaccessible locations. Sudan also hosts at least 250,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia and South Sudan. The Sudanese government has been working with the Government of South Sudan to sign and ratify relevant international conventions and treaties related to the protection of refugees and the prevention of statelessness. However, there is a very urgent need to prioritize emergency structures in all camps and enhance the shelter, health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene sectors to improve the current standards.

http://www.lexisnexis.com/Inacui2api/results/docview/docview.do?docLinkInd=true&risb=21_T23617484220&format=GNBFI&sort=RELEVANCE&startDocNo=1&resultsUrlKey=29_T23617484228&cisb=22_T23617484224&treeMax=true&treeWidth=0&csi=254934&docNo=1
http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opendocPDFViewer.html?docid=54919e999&query=sudan
http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e483b76.html
http://www.unhcr.org/55e052956.html
http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4e43cb466.html
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/interactives/sudan/?hpid=artslot
Environmental Impact

Four years ago, UN environment researchers in Nairobi reported that the conflict in Darfur, which has caused more than 200,000 Sudanese deaths, was driven by climate change and environmental degradation. Desertification, drought, scarce resources, crop failure, and starvation in Sudan have encouraged conflict to continue, which in turn results in increasingly dire environmental conditions. In the past few years, there have been unpredictable rains, late harvests and severe crop losses. Changing rainfall patterns in South Sudan threaten crops and livestock, which thus threaten the region’s farmers, comprising 80% of the population. Still, 4 million people require food aid. As a further result of the conflict, farmers are fleeing intense fighting between North and South Sudan in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan provinces. If temperatures continue to rise, Sudan can expect more desertification, which will in turn lead to more tension between already hostile groups. With the Sahara desert advancing a mile or more a year in places, and rainfall down 30-40% over just a few decades, a UN study suggests shifts in climatic patterns threaten to trigger a succession of new wars across Africa. Conditions in Refugee Camps are additionally much worse, as the climate hugely taxes water and food supplies for immense populations with no means of supporting themselves.

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2011/nov/21/sudan-civil-war-climate-change/

http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/G02389.pdf
http://www.irinnews.org/news/200
Efforts to Highlight Sudanese Crisis and Create Change

Professor Greg Miller and his course at Millsaps College compiled a pamphlet of interview and stories of Sudanese refugees in Jackson, Mississippi entitled “The Long Journey: Sudanese Refugees in Mississippi Tell Their Stories.” The pamphlet is a compilation of narratives composed by refugees in Jackson in collaboration with Mr. Miller’s students. The link to the pamphlet is as follows: http://www.millsaps.edu/_resources/author_files/academics_thelongjourneycompletecolor.pdf. Further information about the project can be found on the website: http://www.millsaps.edu/sudan/.

Such work as that of Mr. Miller and Millsaps College is exemplary of the work we must initiate at Vassar College, giving a voice to refugees and bringing awareness to the ongoing refugee crisis in Sudan, South Sudan, and around the world.