

**Committee: DISEC 1**

**Topic: .The question of Sudan**

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## Summary

The issue of Sudan has been heightened due its geographical location and political / economic difficulties. Sudan, located in North-East Africa, has a history of armed civil conflicts, political instability and human rights issues. One of the most contributing factors to the question of Sudan is the Darfur Conflict. Throughout the beginning of the 2000s the conflict developed into a conflict between multiple armed groups. The conflict divided the country with the government and government backed militias fighting against armed rebel forces in the Darfur region. This conflict led to mass displacement of citizens and human right violations. Sudan in 2011 also suffered an internal divide where the southern region of Sudan gained independence. The Republic of South Sudan split from Sudan after a referendum. This created a mass political divide between the two nations which have led to disputes over oil revenues and border control.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Arab League** - the biggest Arab speaking international union

**Sudan People's Liberation Movement–North** - is a political party and militant organisation in the Republic of Sudan, based in the states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan. As of 2017, its two factions, SPLM-N (Agar) and SPLM-N (al-Hilu) were engaged in fighting each other and against the government of Sudan.

**Rapid Support Forces** - are paramilitary forces formerly operated by the Government of Sudan. It grew out of, and is primarily composed of, the Janjaweed militias which fought on behalf of the Sudanese government during the War in Darfur, and was responsible for atrocities against civilians. Its actions in Darfur qualify as crimes against humanity according to Human Rights Watch.

**Sudan Liberation Movement/Army** - is a Sudanese rebel group active in Darfur, Sudan. It was founded as the **Darfur Liberation Front** by members of three indigenous ethnic groups in Darfur: the Fur, the Zaghawa, and the Masalit, among whom were the leaders Abdul Wahid al Nur of the Fur and Minni Minnawi of the Zaghawa.

**Wagner Group** - is a Russian state-funded private military company (PMC) controlled until 2023 by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a former close ally of Russia's president Vladimir Putin. The Wagner Group has used infrastructure of the Russian Armed Forces.

## Background Information

History then repeated itself in 2021 during the coup d'Etat in October. The Coup led by Sudanese military General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan took control of the Government of Sudan. This coup led to Abdel Fattah asserting his rule into 2023 and has led to Militias group challenging his power struggle. The key aspect of this power struggle has been between Abdel Fattah and his Vice President Mohamed Hamden Dagalo (Hamedti) leader of the Rapid Support Forces, which has expanded to a full conflict between the RSF and the Army over the role of the Army and the RSF. Whilst efforts have been made to try and achieve peace in Sudan, the process seeks to address the listed underlying causes of conflicts in different regions of the country and promote peaceful reconciliation. This has been supported by the international community, the international community has provided humanitarian aid, supported peace negotiations and advocated for human rights and democratic reforms.

## Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Major geopolitical dimensions are also at play, with Russia, the US, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other powers battling for influence in Sudan.

The Saudis and the UAE have seen Sudan's transition as an opportunity to push back against Islamist influence in the region. They, along with the US and Britain, form the "Quad", which has sponsored mediation in Sudan along with the UN and the African Union. Western powers fear the potential for a Russian base on the Red Sea, to which Sudanese military leaders have expressed openness.

## Timeline of Events

**1956** - Sudan gained independence from British-Egyptian Rule

**1983 - 2005**: Second Sudanese Civil War

**2003** - Darfur Conflict

**2005** - Signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement

**2011** - South Sudanese independence

**2011** - Signing of the Doha Document

**2013** - South Sudanese Civil War

**2019** - Ousting of President Omar al-Bashir and the formation of civilian and military transitional government

**2021** - Coup of transitional government with military General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan taking control of the Government of Sudan

**2021** - Prime Minister reinstated to allow civilian government to take place

**2022** - Prime Minister Resigns after bloodshed in protests

**2022** - Military quits in government to allow civilian groups to form government

**2023** - Negotiations to discuss the issues of transitional government, accountability and the integration of the RSF into the military

**2023** - Tensions erupt between President and Vice-President over integration of RSF

**2023** - RSF and Army conflict erupts in Capital

**2023** - Sudan Government, African Union and United Nations calls for cease fires

## Relevant UN Treaties and Events

**Comprehensive Peace Agreement 2005** - The CPA ended the Second Sudanese Civil War which had lasted for over 20 years. It created a framework for peace and governance arrangements between the government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

**UN Mission in Sudan 2005 – 2011** - The mission was established in March 2005 to support the implementation of the 2005 CPA. This was intended to assist the transition from a country facing conflict to a democratic nation. It aimed to create total self-determination and focussed on making sure the ceasefire stayed in place.

**Referendum on South Sudanese Independence 2011** - The UN supported the referendum on the independence and self-governance in the southern region of Sudan. The outcome of the referendum was that the majority of people wanted independence. As a result, the Republic of South Sudan was ratified in July 2011.

**UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan 2011 – Present** - As a result of South Sudan being granted independence, the UN set up a mission to maintain peace and security and to get development started. It also aimed to address its humanitarian needs which was under significant spotlight in the lead up to the independence referendum. However, the mission struggled due to the emergence of a new conflict as a result of political instability in South Sudan.

**UN-African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur 2007-2020** - The UNAMID was a joint mission intended to keep the peace in Darfur and aimed to protect civilians and facilitate humanitarian assistance. The mission's role was to stabilise the Darfur region and support its peace efforts.

## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

As listed above the; Comprehensive Peace Agreement 2005, Referendum on South Sudanese independence, UN Missions have all been contributing attempts and resolving the issue and creating peace in the region. However, there are also other factors.

**The Darfur Peace Agreements: 2006 – 2011** - The 2006 Darfur peace agreement was signed between the Sudanese Government and Rebel groups. However it failed in its aims to bring about peace. The 2011 Darfur peace agreement (the Doha Document) was signed by the government and rebel factions reestablishing their aims to address the root causes of the conflict and create peace that the 2006 failed agreement could not do.

Economic and Humanitarian Support - The international community has provided economic support and humanitarian aid to Sudan to help alleviate the pressure and allow the peace process to ensue. This elevated the pressure on vulnerable populations affected by the conflict and its mass displacement. In 2023 alone the EU committed 190 million Euros in additional humanitarian and development aid. This gave 52 Million Euros in Humanitarian aid, 8 Million Euros in Neighbour Support and 130 Million Euros in Development and Resilience support.

## Possible Solutions

### Promoting Rule of Law

By strengthening the government and their rule of law through transparency and a crackdown on scrutiny and corruption would allow institutions such as the judiciary and security forces to ensure the protection of rights and law.

### Regional Cooperation

By encouraging regional cooperation to support Sudan in a mutual need for stabilisation and peace, it would create a sense of self-determination for the country to prosper without the remit of the international community.

### Diversity and Inclusion

By promoting diversity and inclusion amongst women and the youth in Sudanese life it would help to modernise the war post conflict and help with the efforts in reconstructing Sudan with new found equality and representation.

### Extending peace efforts

By extending peace efforts beyond the 2011 Doha Document, it would allow for an up to date and more inclusive peace process to take place.

## Bibliography

(Title of source, author, date of publication – you may also wish to list some useful websites)

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Wikipedia page of Sudan

The Sudan conflict 2023 Wikipedia page

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