

Forum: Security Council

Issue: The Situation in Sudan

Student Officer: Anna Mamrych

Position: President of the Security Council

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegate,

I welcome you to the security council, my name is Anna and I'm extremely excited to be your chair in QE's 3rd MUN. I participated in the very first MUN here and I never would have thought I was going to love it as much as I did. I really hope a few of you will get to experience that as well.

It doesn't matter if you're a year 9 delegate or year 13, you all have the potential to succeed at the conference, what defines it is how much you just throw yourself in. It's perhaps my only advice for you- I hope you can come out of the conference having achieved something you never thought you could and perhaps in the process win some nominations.

I would like to wish you huge amounts of luck for the two day conference where I will do my very best to make it an enjoyable time for you. I hope this study guide helps with your research but don't also forget to top it up with your own.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the topic or the conference. Once again good luck and see you in October!

Anna Mamrych



TOPIC INTRODUCTION

In April 2023, fighting between rival armed factions broke out in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, raising fears of a return to full-scale civil war. The conflict is primarily a power struggle between the leaders of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and a powerful paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The two groups, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan “Hemedti” Dagalo, respectively, are battling one another for control of the state and its resources. As the conflict deepens, humanitarian conditions are declining, and the promise of a long-awaited democratic transition diminishes.

The civil war enters its second year, and Sudan’s two warring factions remain locked in a deadly power struggle. Since the conflict began, almost 15,000 people have been killed, and more than 8.2 million have been displaced, giving rise to the worst displacement crisis in the world.

The displaced Sudanese have fled to unstable areas in Chad, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, overrunning refugee camps and prompting concerns that Sudanese refugees could soon attempt to enter Europe. The UN continues to plead for more support as more than 25 million need humanitarian assistance, and deteriorating food security risks triggering the “world’s largest hunger crisis.”

Meanwhile, mediation efforts have failed to produce results as the leaders of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) refuse to halt their violence, and regional and international actors have taken sides in the war.

The root causes of the Sudan Civil War are deeply embedded in historical, social, and economic factors. Issues of governance, religious identity, and resource allocation have fueled and perpetuated conflicts. Persistent challenges in Sudan in every area of life including the lack of an inclusive and comprehensive government, economic disparity, fair resource distribution and much more.

Divisions throughout Sudan have fractured the society into rivalling sections from political, economic and social factors. Sudan is characterised by a diverse population with various ethnicities and religious affiliations where economic disparities that have come from the discovery of oil in Sudan added a new dimension to the conflict, as competition for control over oil-rich regions intensified. Disputes over resource allocation further fueled hostilities.

The path forward requires a holistic approach that addresses the root causes, promotes inclusive governance, and fosters reconciliation among Sudan’s diverse population.

KEY TERMS

SAF (The Sudanese Armed Forces): The military forces of the Republic of the Sudan. The CIA estimates that the SAF may have up to 200,000 personnel. The SAF is responsible for carrying out the government's counterinsurgency strategy in Darfur. With the aid of their proxy militias, the Janjaweed, they have orchestrated a campaign of mass murder, rape, forced displacement, and destruction of livelihood in Darfur.

Rapid Support Forces (RSF): The Rapid Support Forces is a paramilitary force formerly operated by the Government of Sudan. The RSF grew out of, and is primarily composed of, the Janjaweed militias which previously fought on behalf of the Sudanese government

Janjaweed: Nomadic Arabic-speaking African tribes organised by the Sudanese government to attack sedentary African tribes in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Justice and Equality Movement (JEM): A significant rebel group in Darfur, whose goal is regime change in Sudan. JEM began their rebellion against the Sudanese government in 2003, claiming marginalisation of the Darfur region. Covert Chadian government support for JEM became overt in late 2005 after Chadian rebels backed by Khartoum attacked a strategic border post in Chad, thus beginning the proxy war between Chad and Sudan.

Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A): A major rebel group in Darfur, who, along with JEM, has fought against the Sudanese government since 2003. As of the end of 2007, the SLM/A had split into three main factions, and several other smaller splinter groups

Civil war: A war between organised groups within the same state. The aim of one side may be to take control of the country or a region, to achieve independence for a region, or to change government policies.

Sudan: Sudan, or North Sudan officially the Republic of the Sudan, is a country in Northeast Africa. It borders the Central African Republic to the southwest, Chad to the west, Egypt to the north, Eritrea to the northeast, Ethiopia to the southeast, Libya to the northwest, South Sudan to the south, and the Red Sea.

Abyei: An oil-rich area region on the boundary between north and south Sudan, roughly 500 miles southwest of the capital, Khartoum. A volatile region with a history of conflict, Abyei played a key role in the north-south civil war in Sudan. In May 2008, the town of Abyei was destroyed by the Sudanese Armed Forces who displaced the entire civilian population and burned Abyei's market and housing to the ground.

Chad: Nation bordering Sudan to the west. Approximately 2 million Darfurian refugees currently live in eastern Chad. Chad and Sudan are also engaged in an ongoing proxy war.

Darfur: Western region of Sudan, approximately the size of Texas; comprised of the states of North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur.

al-Bashir, Omar: Current President of Sudan. Took power in 1989 after leading a coup d'état against the democratically elected government. In July 2008, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, or ICC, requested an arrest warrant for Bashir accusing him of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Colonial past

For the first half of the twentieth century, Sudan was a joint protectorate of Egypt and the United Kingdom. Known as the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium, the arrangement granted the British primary political and military power. Egypt and the United Kingdom signed a treaty relinquishing sovereignty to the independent Republic of Sudan in 1956. The new republic immediately faced major challenges: it spanned nearly one million square miles and was situated directly between some of Africa's most violent states and regions. Even more concerning was the stark internal divide between the country's wealthier northern region, which was majority Arab and Muslim, and its less-developed southern region, where most people were Christian or animist. This divide was at the center of two civil wars, the second of which would see the country split into two states in 2011.

In addition to internal conflict, Sudan's post-colonial period was also marked by the dictatorship of Omar al-Bashir. Bashir seized power in a 1989 coup following his service in the Egyptian military during condominium rule and later served as an SAF officer. As president, Bashir oversaw most of the civil war, the secession of South Sudan, and the conflict in Darfur. The Darfur war broke out in 2003 and would later be condemned as a genocide against non-Arab populations such as the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masalit peoples in western Sudan by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Renewed tensions

By the final decade of his presidency, Bashir was facing increasing popular protests calling for democracy, access to basic services, and a new system of governance. The revolution culminated in an April 2019 coup, which was carried out jointly by the SAF—under the leadership of General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan—and the RSF, a militia led by Mohamed Hamdan.

The RSF is the most powerful paramilitary group to come out of the Bashir era. The RSF was created from the Janjaweed militia, an Arab-majority armed group funded by Bashir to repress southern Sudanese rebels and, most notably, to fight in the Darfur War. The group carried out brutal attacks across the Darfur region and is responsible for mass displacement, sexual violence, kidnapping, and other crimes.

Negotiations throughout 2022 over the future of Sudanese governance culminated in a December 2022 deal laying the groundwork for a two-year transition to civilian leadership and national elections. In addition to the contested time frame, many citizens rejected the plan for allowing the security sector to retain some state powers post-transition

Sudan war 2023

Despite the secession of South Sudan, internal conflicts persisted in the Sudan War 2023. The Darfur region, situated in the west, has been a focal point of violence and mass displacement. The Darfur conflict, which gained international attention in the early 2000s, is rooted in disputes over resources, ethnicity, and political power.

The Sudanese government's response to rebel movements in Darfur escalated into a humanitarian crisis characterized by allegations of genocide, displacement, and widespread atrocities. The conflict, though distinct in dynamics from the north-south struggle, underscores the deep-seated challenges of governance, resource distribution, and identity that continue to plague Sudan.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

The revolution of 2019 — in which tens of thousands of protesters ended the three-decade dictatorship of President Omar al-Bashir — was supposed to usher in a bright and democratic future.



But it also spelled new opportunities for outside powers to pursue their own interests in Africa's third-largest country — a nation strategically perched on the Nile and the Red Sea, with vast mineral wealth and agricultural potential that only recently emerged from decades of sanctions and isolation.

UAE & Saudi Arabia

Among the most important foreign players in Sudan is the United Arab Emirates, the oil-rich Persian Gulf country that has aggressively expanded its influence in the Horn of Africa in recent years. Its interest in Sudan goes back more than a decade, starting with the country's vast agricultural potential, which the Emiratis hope can ease their food supply worries. But the Emiratis fell out with al-Bashir after he refused to back them in their dispute with their neighbour, Qatar. Once he was ousted, the Emirates and Saudi Arabia announced \$3 billion in aid and investment to help Sudan onto its feet. Publicly, the Emiratis have not taken a side in Sudan's power struggles and are part of a diplomatic group known as the Quad. The group, which includes the United States, Britain and Saudi Arabia, had until recently tried to push Sudan back to civilian rule.

But at the same time, officials say, the Emiratis also helped shore up Dagalo, the leader of a feared militia accused of atrocities in Darfur, Sudan. Over the years, he has expanded his war chest through business dealings channelled through Dubai.

In 2018, the Emiratis paid Dagalo to send thousands of troops to fight in Yemen — a conflict that, Sudanese officials said, enriched the general. The Emirati foreign ministry declined to comment.

Egypt

Egypt, a much bigger, if poorer, Arab nation, is on the other side of Sudan's military divide. As tensions grew inside Sudan in the past year, Egypt's president, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, openly sided with the army chief, Burhan. The pro-democracy revolution that toppled Sudan's president is inimical to el-Sissi, a military general who has ruled with an iron fist since coming to power in a coup in 2013. Egypt backed the other general, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, sending soldiers and warplanes in a highly contested show of support.

Earlier this year, Egypt launched a political initiative in Cairo to bring together the Sudanese factions. But foreign diplomats in Khartoum, who were trying to work out a compromise between Dagalo and Burhan, saw the Egyptians as spoilers, acting in favour of the Sudanese military — and against Dagalo.

Tensions over Egypt's role in Sudan helped propel the generals to war. On April 12, three days before the fighting erupted, Dagalo's paramilitaries surrounded a military base in Merowe, over 300 kilometres from Khartoum, where Egyptian soldiers and about a dozen Egyptian warplanes were stationed. From the humanitarian side, Egypt has received over 500,000 refugees in the last year of the conflict escalation.

The move set off a public riposte from the Sudanese military, which insisted the Egyptians were there on a training exercise. Dagalo evidently feared the Egyptians had come to provide air support to his enemy, Sudan's military, in the event of a fight. When the conflict erupted, Dagalo's forces captured at least 27 Egyptians from the base — prompting an intensive effort by Western officials to defuse the crisis and avoid the prospect of a widening, regional conflict.

Russia

Russia sought naval access for its warships in Sudan's Red Sea ports. Wagner gave armoured vehicles and training in return for lucrative gold mining concessions. Russia has had a long-standing relationship with Sudan's military, and since 2019, Wagner has expanded its activities in the country, mining for gold, exploring for uranium and supplying mercenaries to the restive region of Darfur.



United States

The US has been a growing influence in Sudan and all interventions have a ceasefire at the core of all its intentions. The United States began imposing sanctions on companies related to the RSF which they believed to have been against actors who are perpetuating the violence. However some have argued that these have only escalated the conflict. The US, alongside the UK, UAE and Saudi Arabia, 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.

United Kingdom

Well it needs mentioning that Sudan used to be a colony of the UK and between 1899 and the country's independence in 1956, Sudan was known as "Anglo-Egyptian Sudan" because of the shared sovereignty between the UK and Egypt over the state. Sudan set out almost immediately to broaden its relations with Arab and African states and then the Soviet Union, China, Eastern Europe, and Yugoslavia after they gained independence. Britain continued to provide considerable assistance, including military aid. As the civil war in the South grew in intensity, Sudan routinely blamed "evil colonial policies" as one of the causes. Relations with Britain decreased in importance as those with the Middle East and Africa increased. By the late 1970s, the United States had replaced Britain as the predominant Western influence in Khartoum, a situation that continued until the overthrow of the Sadiq al-Mahdi government in 1989. Britain remained important for historical reasons and retained strong trade links but a small sense of resentment still remains. Together with the United States and Norway, Britain strongly supported the IGAD peace process that resulted in an end to conflict between Khartoum and the SPLM/A.

MINOR COUNTRIES

Ethiopia

Sudan's relationship with Ethiopia, in particular, has been strained over issues including disputed farmland along their border.

Israel

On 16 April 2023, it was announced that Israel, through the Mossad and the Israeli Foreign Ministry, is participating in the mediation and calming efforts between the RSF and the army following the outbreak of fighting between the two groups. Against the background of the peace agreement that is taking shape with Sudan, Israel is in contact with the two leaders of the factions in the conflict. However in the early days of the conflict, Israel was involved in selling arms to Sudan. This sale, like all legal sales of arms from Israel, was authorised by the Israeli ministry of defence. The Israeli assault rifles sold to South Sudan were used by Mathiang Anyoor to kill dozens of people, mostly from the Nuer tribe, in December 2013 in what became the beginning of the bloody civil war in the country.

South Sudan

South Sudan gained independence in 2011 after a referendum in which its people voted overwhelmingly to secede from Sudan. Independence was the culmination of a long armed struggle waged by South Sudanese starting in the mid 1950s. There are two phases of the armed struggle. The first one started in 1955 and lasted until 1972. The Addis Ababa Agreement of 1972, which ended the first phase of the armed struggle, granted self-government to the South Sudanese within the Sudanese state. Relative peace returned to the South during this period. However, in 1983, the second phase of



the conflict was launched when two predominantly South Sudanese battalions of the Sudanese army mutinied in the towns of Bor and Ayod.

Chad

Chad has received the largest number of refugees (571,815) however tensions are continuously growing as a result of the battle for resources. As refugee numbers grow, their integration is becoming more and more difficult and their presence has fanned tensions as local resentment builds. United Nations agencies built the refugee camp, but they put it on a large swath of farmland they need for growing food and accessing water.

After taking their farmland and making it difficult for them to support themselves, these same agencies are not giving their community enough food rations to survive.

Past and possible solutions

Current situation:

The conflict between the two sides has spread rapidly throughout the country – from Darfur in the west to the Gedaref in the east – and is incorporating the capital Khartoum, neighbouring Omdurman, and several other major cities.

Much of the fighting is in urban areas with the army and RSF striking to control each other's facilities and camps, many of which are close to residential zones. Days of airstrikes by SAF on RSF-controlled areas have escalated the conflict and civilian casualties are steadily rising with critical infrastructure being destroyed.

Past solutions:

Any past intervention from international bodies or diplomats have tended to fail. Talks have given a disproportionate role to violent players in the conflict and have only escalated this further. Rebel groups have instead learnt that increasing violence gives an even bigger voice at the negotiation table.

It is no wonder that former international diplomats, such as the former US special envoy to the Horn of Africa, Jeffrey Feltman, now reject this supposedly pragmatic approach. It presumes that the generals are well-intentioned actors who abide by agreements.

Diplomats usually justify their approach to these perpetrators with pragmatism and realpolitik, believing that any agreement is better than war and violence. Sudan is a good example of the flaws in this argument. Conflict-related violence in Darfur increased after the **Juba 2020 peace agreement**; the deal revitalised rebel groups that no longer had troops or relevant constituencies in Sudan itself, and it brought them into the transitional government.

Possible solutions:

The entire international and regional community needs to act to prevent the conflict from worsening. This requires a collective approach and unified diplomatic bloc capable of pressuring the parties to stop fighting – including the US, UK, Norway (Troika), and the European Union (EU), key influential players in the Gulf, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, Egypt, and other influential states such as China.



Crucially, international efforts should connect with continental and regional mediation efforts by the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), to ensure that efforts are not duplicated or diluted.

This conflict also has to be considered through the humanitarian damage it has caused. Famine and hunger spreading is a huge concern with this conflict and has to be taken with utmost priority which should be implemented when finding solutions. It has also caused a huge refugee outbreak in neighbouring states that is increasing tension in local communities as the battle for resources rises.

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

Event	Date
Sudan becomes independent.	1956
General Ibrahim Abboud leads a military coup against the civilian government elected earlier in the year. Civil war begins in the south, led by the Anya Nya movement.	1958- 1962
A career army officer, al-Bashir assumes a leading role in the war against rebels in the south.	1980s
Sudanese army overthrows former President Jaafar al-Nimeiri in a bloodless coup. The army quickly hands power to an elected government, which proves dysfunctional and only rules for a few years.	1985
Leading an alliance of the army and Islamist hard-liners, al-Bashir stages a coup against Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi, dissolving the government and all political parties. He appoints himself chair of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, which rules the country, and is named defence minister	1989
Al-Bashir and his Islamist allies impose Islamic or Sharia law, fueling the division between the country's Muslim, Arabized north and the mainly animist and Christian south.	1991
The U.S. State Department lists Sudan as a state sponsor of terrorism. Al-Bashir is appointed president.	1993
Al-Bashir wins another presidential election with over 85% of the vote.	2000
Under international pressure, a peace deal is reached between al-Bashir and the southern Sudanese rebel group, the Sudan People's Liberation Army. The agreement gives southern Sudanese the right to determine whether the south would remain part of Sudan.	2005
South Sudan gained independence after a referendum in January. South Sudan's independence causes economic difficulties in Sudan as the new country gains control over the southern oil fields, which had accounted for three-quarters of the country's oil production.	July 2011

<p>SAF-RSF fighting continues unabated in Khartoum. Clashes are also reported from places west of the capital. After army troops withdraw from Nyala and Zalingei, the RSF take control of South and Central Darfur, triggering fears that the militia will seize all five states in the western region. Reports about sexual violence in areas controlled by the RSF continue. About 19 million children are out of school. Thousands of them may die by the end of this year due to the scarcity of food and health services. Cholera and dengue fever spread rapidly in the country. The Sudanese Pound continues to fall. A new round of SAF-RSF negotiations begins in the Saudi city of Jeddah. Pro-democratic Sudanese groups form the Civil Front to Stop the War, with former PM Abdallah Hamdok elected as chair.</p>	<p>October 2023</p>
<p>The SAF and RSF delegations in Jeddah agree to facilitate the delivery of aid, not on a ceasefire. The acting government in Port Sudan unilaterally terminates the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS)</p>	<p>November 2023</p>
<p>The RSF takes control of El Gezira's capital Wad Madani, triggering fears of RSF raiding northern and eastern Sudan. The air force intensifies attacks on Khartoum. Hate speech, detentions, and also army mobilisation are openly based on ethical motives. Hunger levels are the 'highest ever recorded' in Sudan. US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken accuses both warring parties of 'horrific' war crimes.</p>	<p>December 2023</p>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mahgoub, Omer K. "Sudan Civil War: History & Implications [6 Root Causes]." *Sudanese American Physicians Association*, 22 January 2024, <https://sapa-usa.org/sudan-civil-war/>. Accessed 13 June 2024.

Tito, Josip Broz. "Insignia of the Sudanese Armed Forces." *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_Armed_Forces. Accessed 13 June 2024.

Griffiths, Martin. "Sudan | Situation Reports." *Situation Reports*, 27 June 2024, <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/sudan/>. Accessed 7 July 2024.

Fearon, James, and David Laitin. "Civil war." *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_war. Accessed 7 July 2024.

"Sudan–United Kingdom relations." *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan%E2%80%93United_Kingdom_relations. Accessed 7 July 2024.

Walsh, Declan. "As war rages in Sudan, countries angle for advantage." *The Japan Times*, 23 April 2023, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/04/23/world/sudan-clashes-countries-diplomacy/>. Accessed 7 July 2024.

"South Sudan." *The Enough Project*, <https://enoughproject.org/conflicts/south-sudan>. Accessed 7 July 2024.

Nashed, Mat. "Tensions bubble as Sudanese refugees feel resentment from Chadian hosts." *Al Jazeera*, 20 June 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/6/20/tensions-bubble-as-sudanese-refugees-feel-resentment-from-chadian-hosts>. Accessed 7 July 2024.

Sudan timeline October-December 2023: War deepens Sudan's suffering - Dabanga Radio TV Online, 19 January 2024, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-timeline-october-december-2023-war-deepens-sudans-suffering-fears>. Accessed 7 July 2024.

"Stopping the War in Sudan." *Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik*, 22 May 2023, <https://www.swp-berlin.org/10.18449/2023C28/>. Accessed 7 July 2024.

https://enoughproject.org/files/pdf/key_terms_sudan.pdf