**Sudan**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*This article is about the country. For the geographical region, see* [*Sudan (region)*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_%28region%29)*.*

*For other uses, see* [*Sudan (disambiguation)*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_%28disambiguation%29)*.*

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| **Republic of the Sudan****جمهورية السودان*Jumhūrīyat as-Sūdān*** |
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| [Flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Sudan) | [Emblem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emblem_of_Sudan) |

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| **Motto:** النصر لنا ([Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language))"An-Naṣar li-nā""Victory is ours" |
| **Anthem:** * نحن جند الله جند الوطن
* [*Naḥnu Jund Allah, Jund Al-waṭan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nahnu_Jund_Allah_Jund_Al-watan) ([transliteration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transliteration))
* *We are the Soldiers of God, the Soldiers of the Motherland*

 |
| Location of **Sudan** (dark blue)– in [Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa) (light blue & dark grey)– in the [African Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Union) (light blue) |
| **Capital** | [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum)[15°38′N 032°32′E﻿ / ﻿15.633°N 32.533°E﻿ / 15.633; 32.533](https://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Sudan&params=15_38_N_032_32_E_type:country) |
| **Largest city** | [Omdurman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omdurman)  |
| **Official languages** | * [Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language)
* [English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language)
 |
| [**Demonym**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonym) | [Sudanese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_Arabs) |
| [**Government**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Sudan) | [Federal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_republic) [presidential](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_system) [republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic) |
| -  | [President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_Sudan) | [Omar al-Bashir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar_al-Bashir) ([NCP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Congress_%28Sudan%29)) |
| -  | [Vice President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Vice_Presidents_of_Sudan) | * [Ali Osman Taha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali_Osman_Taha) ([NCP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Congress_%28Sudan%29))
* Adam Yousef ([NCP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Congress_%28Sudan%29))
 |
| **Legislature** | [National Legislature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Legislature_%28Sudan%29) |
| -  | [Upper house](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_house) | [Council of States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_States_%28Sudan%29) |
| -  | [Lower house](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_house) | [National Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Assembly_%28Sudan%29) |
| [**Establishment**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Sudan) |
| -  | [Nubian kingdoms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubia) | 3500 BC  |
| -  | [Sennar dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sennar_%28sultanate%29) | 1504 |
| -  | [Unified with Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Sudan_%281821%E2%80%931885%29) | 1821  |
| -  | [Anglo-Egyptian Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Egyptian_Sudan) | 1899  |
| -  | Independence (from the United Kingdom and Egypt) | 1 January 1956  |
| -  | [Current constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comprehensive_Peace_Agreement) | 9 January 2005  |
| [**Area**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Sudan) |
| -  | Total | 1,886,068 km2 ([16th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area))728,215 sq mi  |
| [**Population**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Sudan) |
| -  | 2008 census | 30,894,000 *(disputed)* ([40th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population)) |
| -  | Density | 16.4/km242.4/sq mi |
| [**GDP**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_domestic_product) ([PPP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity)) | 2012 estimate |
| -  | Total | $85.272 billion |
| -  | Per capita | $2,544 |
| [**GDP**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_domestic_product) (nominal) | 2012 estimate |
| -  | Total | $59.941 billion |
| -  | Per capita | $1,788 |
| [**HDI**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Development_Index) (2011) | 0.408low **·** [169th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Human_Development_Index) |
| **Currency** | [Sudanese pound](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_pound) ([SDG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_4217)) |
| **Time zone** | [East Africa Time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Africa_Time) ([UTC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordinated_Universal_Time)+3) |
| -  | Summer ([DST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time)) | not observed ([UTC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordinated_Universal_Time)+3) |
| **Date format** | dd/mm/yyyy |
| **Drives on the** | right |
| [**Calling code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_numbers_in_Sudan) | [+249](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%2B249) |
| [**ISO 3166 code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166) | [SD](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-2%3ASD) |
| [**Internet TLD**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Country_code_top-level_domain) | [.sd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.sd) |

**Sudan** ([Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): السودان‎ *as-Sūdān* [**i**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File%3AEn-us-Sudan.ogg)[/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)[suːˈdæn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key)[/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English) or [/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)[suːˈdɑːn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key)[/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English);), officially the **Republic of the Sudan** ([Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): جمهورية السودان‎ *Jumhūrīyat as-Sūdān*) and sometimes called **North Sudan**, is an [Arab state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_world) in [North Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Africa) and the [Middle East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East) bordered by [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) to the north, the [Red Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Sea) to the northeast, [Eritrea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eritrea) and [Ethiopia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia) to the east, [South Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudan) to the south, the [Central African Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_African_Republic) to the southwest, [Chad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad) to the west and [Libya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libya) to the northwest. Internally, the [Nile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nile) divides the country into eastern and western halves. The population of Sudan is a combination of indigenous inhabitants of the [Nile Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nile_Valley) and descendants of migrants from the [Arabian Peninsula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Peninsula). The overwhelming majority of the population today adhere to [Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam).

The people of Sudan have a long history extending from [antiquity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_history) that is intertwined with the [history of Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Egypt). Sudan suffered seventeen years of [civil war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_war) during the [First Sudanese Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Sudanese_Civil_War) (1955–1972) followed by the Second Sudanese Civil War between central government of Northern Sudan and the SPLA/M of Southern Sudan. This led to the [Second Sudanese Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Sudanese_Civil_War) in 1983. Because of continuing political and military struggles, Sudan was seized in a bloodless [coup d'état](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1989_Sudanese_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat) by colonel [Omar al-Bashir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar_al-Bashir) in 1989, who thereafter proclaimed himself [President of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_Sudan). The civil war ended with the signing of a [Comprehensive Peace Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comprehensive_Peace_Agreement) which granted [autonomy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autonomous_Government_of_Southern_Sudan) to what was then the southern region of the country. Following a [referendum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Sudan_independence_referendum%2C_2011) held in January 2011, [South Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudan) seceded on 9 July 2011 with the consent of Sudan.

A member of the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations), Sudan also maintains membership with the [African Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Union), the [Arab League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_League), the [Organization of Islamic Cooperation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation), and the [Non-Aligned Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement), as well as serving as an observer in the [World Trade Organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Organization). Its capital is [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum), which serves as the political, cultural and commercial center of the nation. Officially a [federal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_republic) [presidential](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_system) [representative democratic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representative_democracy) [republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic), the [politics of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Sudan) are widely considered by the international community to take place within an [authoritarian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authoritarianism) system because of the control of the National Congress Party ([NCP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Congress_%28Sudan%29)) of the [judiciary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judiciary), [executive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_%28government%29) and [legislative](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legislative) branches of government.

**History**

Main article: [History of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Sudan)

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| Part of [**a series**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category%3AHistory_of_Sudan) on the |
| [**History of Sudan**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Sudan) |
|  |
| **Chronological** |
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| --- | --- |
| [Early Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Sudan#Prehistory) | to [c.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circa) 650 |
| [Islamization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamization_of_Sudan) | c. 650 – 19th century |
| [Ali dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Sudan_%281821%E2%80%931885%29) | 1821–1885 |
| [The Mahdiyah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Mahdist_Sudan) | 1885–1899 |
| [Anglo-Egyptian rule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Anglo-Egyptian_Sudan) | 1899–1956 |
| [Independent Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Sudan_%281956%E2%80%931969%29) | 1956–present |

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| [First Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Sudanese_Civil_War) | 1955–1972 |
| [Nimeiri era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Sudan_%281969%E2%80%931985%29) | 1969–1985 |
| [Revolutionary Command](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Revolutionary_Command_Council_%28Sudan%29) | 1969–1971 |
| [Second Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Sudanese_Civil_War) | 1983–2005 |
| [Military Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transitional_Military_Council) | 1985–1986 |
| [Coalitions / al-Bashir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Sudan_%281986%E2%80%93present%29) | 1986–present |

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| [Salvation Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutionary_Command_Council_for_National_Salvation) | 1989–1993 |

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| **By region** |
| * [Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Darfur)
 |
| **By topic** |
| * [Economic](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Economic_history_of_Sudan&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Military](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Military_history_of_Sudan&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Social](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Social_history_of_Sudan&action=edit&redlink=1)
 |
| [**Timeline**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Sudanese_history) |
| [**Sudan portal**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal%3ASudan) |
|  |

**Prehistoric Sudan**

By the eighth millennium BC, people of a [Neolithic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neolithic) culture had settled into a sedentary way of life there in fortified [mud-brick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mud-brick) villages, where they supplemented [hunting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunting) and [fishing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishing) on the Nile with [grain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grain) gathering and [cattle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cattle) herding. 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. Together with other countries lies on [Red Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Sea), Sudan is considered the most likely location of the land known to the ancient [Egyptians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptians) as [*Punt*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_of_Punt) (or "Ta Netjeru", meaning "God's Land"), whose first mention dates to the 25th century BC.

**Kingdom of Kush**

[Nubian pyramids](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubian_pyramids) in [Meroe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meroe).

The [Kingdom of Kush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kush) was an ancient [Nubian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubian_people) state centered on the confluences of the [Blue Nile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Nile), [White Nile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Nile) and River Atbara. It was established after the [Bronze Age](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronze_Age) collapse and the disintegration of the [New Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Kingdom) of Egypt, centered at Napata in its early phase. After King Kashta ("the Kushite") invaded Egypt in the 8th century BC, the Kushite kings ruled as Pharaohs of the Twenty-fifth dynasty of [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) for a century before being defeated and driven out by the [Assyrians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyrians). At the height of their glory, the Kushite conquered an empire that stretched from what is now known as South Kordofan all the way to The Sinai. King [Piye](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piye) attempted to expand the empire into the Near East, but was thwarted by the Assyrian king [Sargon II](https://en.wikipedia.org/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 failing to take the city. The war that took place between King [Taharqa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taharqa) and the Assyrian King [Sennacherib](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near_East) by Assyria. Sennacherib's successor [Esarhaddon](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tantamani), after succeeding Taharqa, made a final determined attempt to regain Egypt. Esarhaddon died whilst preparing to leave the Assyrian capital of [Nineveh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineveh) in order to eject him. However his successor [Ashurbanipal](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mero%C3%AB). In early [Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece) geography, the Meroitic kingdom was known as [Ethiopia](https://en.wikipedia.org/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 Meroe persisted until the 4th century AD. After the collapse of the Kushite empire several states emerged in its former territories, among them Nubia.

**Christianity and Islam**

Ruins of [Old Dongola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Dongola).

By the 6th century, fifty states had emerged as the political and cultural heirs of the Meroitic Kingdom. Nobatia in the north, also known as Ballanah, had its capital at Faras, in what is now Egypt; the central kingdom, Muqurra (Makuria), was centered at Dunqulah, about 13 kilometers (10 miles) south of modern Dunqulah; and Alawa ([Alodia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alodia)), in the heartland of old Meroe, which had its capital at Sawba (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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine) court. A missionary sent by Byzantine empress [Theodora](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodora_%28wife_of_Justinian_I%29) arrived in Nobatia and started preaching [Christianity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity) about 540 AD. The [Nubian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubia) kings became [Monophysite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monophysite) Christians. However, [Makuria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makuria) was of the [Melkite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melkite) Christian faith, unlike [Nobatia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobatia) and Alodia.

After many attempts at military conquest failed, the Arab commander in Egypt concluded the first in a series of regularly renewed treaties known as *Albaqut al-sharim* (pactum) with the Nubians that governed relations between the two peoples for more than 678 years. Islam progressed in the area over a long period of time through intermarriage and contacts with Arab merchants and settlers, particularly the Sufi nobles of Arabia. Additionally, exemption from taxation in regions under Muslim rule were also a powerful incentive for conversion. 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 [Jaali](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ja%27Alin) and the Juhayna. Today's northern Sudanese culture often combines Nubian and Arabic elements.

During the 16th century, a people called the [Funj](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funj), under a leader named [Amara Dunqus](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Amara_Dunqus&action=edit&redlink=1), appeared in southern Nubia and supplanted the remnants of the old Christian kingdom of [Alwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alwa), establishing As-Saltana az-Zarqa (the Blue Sultanate), also called the [Sultanate of Sennar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sennar_%28sultanate%29). 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_of_Egypt) sent 4,000 troops to invade Sudan. His forces accepted Sennar's surrender from the last Funj [sultan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultan), [Badi VII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Badi_VII).

**Egyptian Turks Period**

Main articles: [History of Sudan (1821–1885)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Sudan_%281821%E2%80%931885%29) and [Mahdist War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahdist_War)

Ismail Pacha Sultan of Egypt & Sudan

In 1821, the Albanian-Ottoman ruler of Egypt, Muhammad Ali, had invaded and conquered northern Sudan. Although technically the [Wāli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W%C4%81li) of Egypt under the [Ottoman Sultan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire), Muhammad Ali styled himself as [Khedive](https://en.wikipedia.org/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 [Ismail the Magnificent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ismail_Pasha) mentioned later) to conquer the country, and subsequently incorporate it into Egypt. This policy was expanded and intensified by [Ibrahim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibrahim_Pasha_of_Egypt)'s son, [Ismail I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ismail_Pasha), 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Powers) forced the removal of Ismail and established his son [Tewfik I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tewfik_Pasha) in his place. Tewfik's corruption and mismanagement resulted in the [Orabi Revolt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orabi_Revolt), which threatened the Khedive's survival. Tewfik appealed for help to the [British](https://en.wikipedia.org/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. During the 1870s, European initiatives against the [slave trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slave_trade) caused an economic crisis in northern Sudan, precipitating the rise of [Mahdist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Ahmad) forces.

Eventually, a revolt broke out in Sudan, led by [Muhammad Ahmad ibn Abd Allah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Ahmad), the [*Mahdi*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahdi) (Guided One), who sought to end foreign presence in Sudan. Mahdi revolution succeed in January 1885. Later that year, the Mahdi's forces attacked and entered [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum), which had been defended by the British [Governor-General](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governor-General), [Charles George Gordon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_George_Gordon) (also known as Gordon of Khartoum), who was killed. Egypt and Britain subsequently withdrew forces from Sudan leaving the Mahdi and his successor to form a 14 year rule of Sudan.

**Mahdist Sudan**

Main article: [History of Mahdist Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Mahdist_Sudan)

[Muhammad Ahmad al-Mahdi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Ahmad) ruler of Sudan.

Al Mahdi who set out from Aba Island with a few followers armed with sticks and spears ended by making himself master of almost all the territory formerly occupied by the Egyptian government. His main aim was to conquer Egypt and to follow his conquests by attacking Europe.

The Muslim religion was engrained in him. He offered to the ansars (his followers) and those who surrendered to him a choice between adopting Islam or being killed. The following proclamation was published by the Mahdi: Let all show penitence before God, and abandon all bad and forbidden habits, such as the use of wine and tobacco, lying, degrading acts of the flesh etc. All those who do not pay attention to these principles disobey God and his Prophet and they shall be punished in accordance with the law. These precepts were ferociously enforced. Flogging to death and the cutting off of the hands were the penalties enforced as according to Islamic law.

During the month of Ramadan when absolute austerity was enforced upon his followers, huge crowds awaited the master’s appearance at prayers but they had little notion on what was going on inside the Mahdi’s house. There were several different accounts of his death. Some say that he was poisoned while others assert that typhus or small pox were the cause of his death. He died on 22 June 1885 exactly 5 months after the killing of Gordon.

After a power struggle amongst his deputies, [Abdallahi ibn Muhammad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdallahi_ibn_Muhammad), with the help primarily of the [Baqqara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baqqara) Arabs 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khalif) (successor) of the Mahdi, instituted an administration, and appointed [Ansar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ansar_%28Sudan%29) (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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia), penetrating as far as [Gondar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gondar). In March 1889, king [Yohannes IV of Ethiopia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yohannes_IV_of_Ethiopia), marched on [Metemma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metemma); however, after Yohannes fell in battle, the Ethiopian forces withdrew. [Abd ar Rahman an Nujumi](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Abd_ar_Rahman_an_Nujumi&action=edit&redlink=1), 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgium) prevented the Mahdi's men from conquering [Equatoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equatoria), and in 1893, the [Italians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy) repelled an Ansar attack at [Akordat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akordat) (in [Eritrea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eritrea)) and forced the Ansar to withdraw from Ethiopia.

**Anglo-Egyptian Sudan**

Main article: [Anglo-Egyptian Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Egyptian_Sudan)

Muhammad Ali, [Khedive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khedive) of Egypt & Sudan

Plaque in the Cloisters of Westminster Abbey, London, UK, to commemorate the British in Anglo-Egyptian Sudan 1898-1955

In the 1890s, the [British](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France) and [Belgian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgium) claims had converged at the [Nile](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aswan).

[Lord Kitchener](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbert_Kitchener%2C_1st_Earl_Kitchener) led military campaigns against the [Mahdists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahdists) from 1896 to 1898. Kitchener's campaigns culminated in a decisive victory in the [Battle of Omdurman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Omdurman) on 2 September 1898. Following this, 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, much to the revulsion of Egyptian and Sudanese [nationalists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nationalists), Sudan was effectively administered as a [British colony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_colony). The British were keen to reverse the process, started under [Muhammad Ali Pasha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_of_Egypt), of uniting the [Nile Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nile_Valley) under Egyptian leadership, and sought to frustrate all efforts aimed at further uniting the two countries. During [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II), Sudan was directly involved militarily in the [East African Campaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_African_Campaign_%28World_War_II%29). Formed in 1925, the [Sudan Defense Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_Defence_Force) (SDF) played an active part in responding to the early incursions (occupation by Italian troops of [Kassala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kassala) and other border areas) into the Sudan from [Italian East Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/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 (Muslim) and south (Christian). The last British [Governor-General](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governor-General) was [Sir Robert Howe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_George_Howe).

**Independence and National Rule**

Main article: [History of Sudan (1956–1969)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Sudan_%281956%E2%80%931969%29)

The continued British occupation of Sudan fueled an increasingly strident nationalist backlash in Egypt, with Egyptian nationalist leaders determined to force Britain to recognize a single independent union of Egypt and Sudan. With the formal end of Ottoman rule in 1914, [Hussein Kamel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussein_Kamel_of_Egypt) was declared [Sultan of Egypt and Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultan_of_Egypt), as was his brother and successor [Fuad I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuad_I). They continued their insistence of a single Egyptian-Sudanese state even when the [Sultanate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultanate_of_Egypt) was retitled as the [Kingdom of Egypt and Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Egypt), but the British continued to frustrate such reaches for independence.

The [Egyptian Revolution of 1952](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Naguib), whose mother was Sudanese, and later [Gamal Abdel-Nasser](https://en.wikipedia.org/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.

The British on the other hand continued their political and financial support for the Mahdi successor [Sayyid Abdel Rahman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sayyid_Abdel_Rahman) 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.

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

A polling process was carried out resulting in composition of a democratic parliament and [Ismail al-Azhari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ismail_al-Azhari) was elected first Prime Minister and led the first modern Sudanese government. 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 white stripes, was raised in their place by the prime minister Ismail al-Azhari.

**Coup d'état**

Main articles: [War in Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Darfur), [Civil war in Chad (2005–2010)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_war_in_Chad_%282005%E2%80%932010%29), and [Eastern Front (Sudan)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Front_%28Sudan%29)

On 30 June 1989, Colonel [Omar al-Bashir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar_al-Bashir) led a group of army officers in ousting the unstable coalition government of Prime Minister [Sadiq al-Mahdi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadiq_al-Mahdi) in a bloodless [military coup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coup_d%27%C3%A9tat). Under al-Bashir's leadership, the new military government suspended political parties and introduced an Islamic legal code on the national level. He then became Chairman of the [Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutionary_Command_Council_for_National_Salvation) (a newly established body with legislative and executive powers for what was described as a transitional period), and assumed the posts of [chief of state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_of_state), [prime minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_minister), chief of the armed forces, and [minister of defense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minister_of_defense). Subsequent to al-Bashir's accession as Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, he allied himself with [Hassan al-Turabi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hassan_al-Turabi), the leader of the [National Islamic Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Islamic_Front) (NIF), who, along with al-Bashir, began institutionalizing [Sharia law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia) in the northern part of Sudan. 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.

On 16 October 1993, al-Bashir's powers increased when he appointed himself "[President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_Sudan)" of the country, after which he disbanded the Revolutionary Command Council and all other rival political parties. The executive and legislative powers of the council were taken by al-Bashir. In the 1996 national election, where he was the only candidate by law to run for election, al-Bashir transformed Sudan into a [single-party state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single-party_state) and created the [National Congress Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Congress_%28Sudan%29) (NCP) with a new parliament and government consisting solely of members of the NCP. During the 1990s, Hassan al-Turabi, then Speaker of the National Assembly, reached out to [Islamic fundamentalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_fundamentalism) groups, as well as allowing them to operate out of Sudan, even personally inviting [Osama bin Laden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osama_bin_Laden) to the country.

The [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) subsequently listed Sudan as a [state sponsor of terrorism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Sponsors_of_Terrorism). The U.S [bombed Sudan in 1998](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cruise_missile_strikes_on_Afghanistan_and_Sudan_%28August_1998%29) and U.S. firms were barred from doing business in Sudan. Later, al-Turabi's influence and that of his party's "'internationalist' and ideological wing" waned, "in favor of the 'nationalist' or more pragmatic leaders who focus on trying to recover from Sudan's disastrous [international isolation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_isolation) and economic damage that resulted from ideological adventurism." At the same time Sudan worked to appease the United States and other international critics by expelling members of the [Egyptian Islamic Jihad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_Islamic_Jihad) and encouraging bin Laden to leave. Prior to the [2000 presidential election](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_People%27s_Liberation_Army), al-Bashir suspected they were plotting to overthrow him and the government, which resulted in the jailing of Hassan al-Turabi that same year. Because of significant cultural, social, political, ethnic and economic changes occurring in a short period of time, conflicts evolved in western and eastern provinces of Sudan, in addition to an escalating conflict in [Southern Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Sudan). Since the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), several violent struggles between the [Janjaweed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janjaweed) militia and rebel groups such as the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the [Sudanese Liberation Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_Liberation_Movement/Army) (SLA) and the [Justice and Equality Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_and_Equality_Movement) (JEM) in the form of [guerilla warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerilla_warfare) in the [Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur), [Red Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Sea%2C_Sudan) and [Equatoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equatoria) regions had occurred. These conflicts resulted in death tolls between 200,000 and 400,000, over 2.5 million [people being displaced](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Displaced_person) and [diplomatic relations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad%E2%80%93Sudan_relations) between Sudan and [Chad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad) being put under very great strain.

The Sudanese government supported the use of recruited Arab militias in [guerrilla warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerrilla_warfare), such as in the ongoing [conflict in Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Darfur). Since then thousands of people have been displaced and killed, and the need for humanitarian care in Darfur has attracted worldwide attention. The conflict has since been described as a [genocide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocide), and the [International Criminal Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Criminal_Court) (ICC) has issued two [arrest warrants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arrest_warrant) for al-Bashir, the current President of Sudan.

Sudan has also been the subject of severe sanctions because of alleged ties with Egyptian Islamic Jihad and [al-Qaeda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Qaeda). Sudan has scored medium in [human development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Development_Index) in the last few years, ranking number 150 in 2009, between [Haiti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haiti) and [Tanzania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanzania). Statistics indicate that about seventeen percent of the population live on less than US $1.25 per day. Among Sudan's population of 30 million people, nearly all follow [Sunni Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni_Islam), while [Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language) is the Lingua franca spoken by all Sudanese, and [English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language) is also an official language.

Sudan has achieved great [economic growth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_growth) by implementing [macroeconomic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macroeconomics) reforms. Rich in natural resources such as [petroleum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petroleum), Sudan's economy is amongst the fastest growing in the world. The [People's Republic of China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China) and [Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan) are the main export partners of Sudan.

**Civil wars and secession of South Sudan**

Main articles: [First Sudanese Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Sudanese_Civil_War), [Second Sudanese Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Sudanese_Civil_War), and [South Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudan)

In 1955 a [civil war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Sudanese_Civil_War) began between Northern and Southern Sudan. The southerners, anticipating independence, feared the new nation would be dominated by the north. Historically, the north of Sudan had closer ties with Egypt and was predominantly Arab or Arabized and [Muslim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim) while the south was predominantly non-Arabized and animist or Christian. It had been illegal for people living north of the [10th parallel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10th_parallel_north) to go further south and for people south of the [8th parallel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/8th_parallel_north) to go further north since 1924. The law was ostensibly enacted to prevent the spread of [malaria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaria) and other [tropical diseases](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropical_diseases) that had ravaged British troops, and to facilitate spreading Christianity among the predominantly animist population while stopping the Arabic and Islamic influence from advancing south. The result was increased isolation between the already distinct north and south and arguably laid the seeds of conflict in the years to come.

The resulting conflict lasted from 1955 to 1972. The 1955 war began when Southern army officers mutinied and then formed the Anya-Nya guerilla movement. A few years later the first Sudanese military regime took power under Major-General Abboud. Military regimes continued into 1969 when General [Gaafar Nimeiry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaafar_Nimeiry) led a successful coup.

In 1972, a cessation of the north-south conflict was agreed upon under the terms of the [Addis Ababa Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Addis_Ababa_Agreement_%281972%29), following talks which were sponsored by the [World Council of Churches](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Council_of_Churches). This led to a ten-year hiatus in the national conflict with the south enjoying self-government through the formation of the [Southern Sudan Autonomous Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Sudan_autonomous_region_%281972%E2%80%931983%29).

In 1983, the civil war was reignited following President Nimeiry's decision to circumvent the Addis Ababa Agreement. Nimeiry attempted to create a federated Sudan including states in southern Sudan, which violated the Addis Ababa Agreement that had granted the south considerable autonomy. He appointed a committee to undertake "a substantial review of the Addis Ababa Agreement, especially in the areas of security arrangements, border trade, language, culture and religion". Mansour Khalid, a former foreign minister, wrote: "Nimeiri had never been genuinely committed to the principles of the Addis Ababa Agreement". When asked about revisions he stated "The Addis Ababa agreement is myself and Joseph Lagu and we want it that way... I am 300 percent the constitution. I do not know of any plebiscite because I am mandated by the people as the President". Southern troops rebelled against the northern political offensive, and launched attacks in June 1983.

In September 1983, the situation was exacerbated when Nimeiry imposed new Islamic Shari'a laws on all of Sudan, including the non-Muslim south, followed by the imposition of martial law in May 1984.

In 1995, former [U.S. President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) [Jimmy Carter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_Carter) negotiated the longest [ceasefire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceasefire) in the history of the war to allow humanitarian aid to enter Southern Sudan, which had been inaccessible owing to violence. This ceasefire, which lasted almost six months, has since been called the "[Guinea Worm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dracunculiasis) Ceasefire."

Since 1983, a combination of civil war and [famine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Famine) has taken the lives of nearly 2 million people in Sudan. It is estimated that as many as 200,000 people had been taken into [slavery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_modern_Africa) during the Second Sudanese Civil War. The war continued even after Nimeiry was ousted and a democratic government was elected with [Al Sadiq Al Mahdi's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadiq_al-Mahdi) [Umma Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umma_Party_%28Sudan%29) having the majority in the parliament. The leader of the SPLA [John Garang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Garang) refused to recognize the government and to negotiate with it as representative of Sudan but agreed to negotiate with government officials as representative of their political parties. The Sudanese Army successfully advanced in the south, reaching the southern borders with neighboring [Kenya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya) and [Uganda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uganda). The campaign started in 1989 and ended in 1994. During the fight the situation worsened in the tribal south causing casualties among the Christian and animist minority. Rebel leader [Riek Machar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riek_Machar) subsequently signed a peace agreement with the Sudanese government and became Vice President of Sudan. His troops took part in the fight against the SPLA during the government offensive in the 1990s. After the Sudanese army took control of the entire south with the help of Machar, the situation improved. In time, however, the SPLA sought support in the West by using the northern Sudanese government's religious propaganda to portray the war as a campaign by the Arab Islamic government to impose [Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) and the [Arabic language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language) on the animist and [Christian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian) south.

The war went on for more than twenty years, including the use of Russian-made combat [helicopters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mil_Mi-24) and military [cargo planes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonov_An-26) that were used as bombers to devastating effect on villages and tribal rebels alike. "Sudan's independent history has been dominated by chronic, exceptionally cruel warfare that has starkly divided the country on ethnic, racial, religious, and regional grounds; displaced an estimated four million people (of a total estimated population of thirty-two million); and killed an estimated two million people." It damaged Sudan's economy and led to food shortages, resulting in starvation and malnutrition. The lack of investment during this time, particularly in the south, meant a generation lost access to basic health services, education and jobs.

Peace agreement dancers in [Kapoeta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kapoeta), Eastern Equatoria

Peace talks between the southern rebels and the government made substantial progress in 2003 and early 2004. The peace was consolidated with the official signing by both sides of the [Nairobi Comprehensive Peace Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naivasha_Agreement) on 9 January 2005, granting Southern Sudan autonomy for six years, to be followed by a [referendum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Sudanese_independence_referendum%2C_2011) about independence. It created a co-vice president position and allowed the north and south to split oil deposits equally, but also left both the north's and south's armies in place. [John Garang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Garang), the south's peace agreement appointed co-vice president, died in a helicopter crash on 1 August 2005, three weeks after being sworn in. This resulted in riots, but peace was eventually restored. The [United Nations Mission in Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Mission_in_Sudan) (UNMIS) was established under the [UN Security Council Resolution 1590](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_1590) of 24 March 2005. Its [mandate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandate_%28international_law%29) is to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and to perform functions relating to [humanitarian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanitarian) assistance, and protection and promotion of [human rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights). In October 2007 the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) withdrew from government in protest over slow implementation of a landmark 2005 peace deal which ended the civil war.

The referendum was negotiated under the auspices of Intergovernmental Organization Authority for Development [IGAD](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IGAD), the regional organization of which Sudan is a member. Despite its role in finalizing the peace process, the debate around it increasingly became argumentative. According to a [Wikileaks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikileaks) cable, the Khartoum Government along with the [Egyptian government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_government) had been trying to delay or indefinitely adjourn the referendum. However, the southern leadership, the United Nations, and the whole region remained determined to hold vote as scheduled. As such, the vote continued. On 9 January 2011, the referendum was held worldwide; the South Sudanese diaspora who voted included those from the U.S., the U.K., Australia, Europe and East Africa. The result showed 98.9% in favor of secession.

The southern region became independent on 9 July 2011, with the name of [South Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudan). Despite this result, many crucial issues are yet unresolved. The threats to people of South Sudan after referendum are numerous, with security topping the list. Other threats include disputes over the region of [Abyei](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abyei), control over oil fields, the borders, and the issue of citizenship.

As of 23 April 2012, Omar al-Bashir, President of Sudan, has declared he is unwilling to negotiate with officials in South Sudan. After South Sudan took control of the territorially contested [Heglig](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heglig) for 10 days, Sudan forces pushed them out of the oil town, to the south. Even after South Sudan's withdrawal from Heglig, Sudanese MiG 29 fighter planes dropped three bombs in South Sudan. With Sudanese attacks as far as 10 km into South Sudan, South Sudanese officials cited this as both a "violation of the territory" and "clear provocation." Hostility is inflating as both nations scramble to bulk up their military forces. President Bashir stated: "We will not negotiate with the South's government, because they don't understand anything but the language of the gun and ammunition...Our talks with them were with guns and bullets."

**Conflict in Abyei**

The issue of [Abyei](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abyei) is a grave matter in terms of bringing lasting peace to the country. According to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the region of Abyei must hold its own referendum, and decide whether to go with the south, or remain with Sudan. As such, the CPA set forth two [referenda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Referenda) in Sudan, the South Sudan referendum as to whether to split from Sudan and the Abyei referendum as to whether to join South Sudan in its secession. Nevertheless, the voting in Abyei did not happen as stipulated largely because of the dispute over who has the right to vote in the region. Until now the referendum on Abyei is yet to be rescheduled, and the tension is rising in the region. The Government of Sudan is calling for all the residents of Abyei to take part in the referendum while the SPLA/M wants to exclude non-Dinka residents. Recently, the standing Abyei Committee has formed a new committee called the [Joint Technical Committee](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Joint_Technical_Committee&action=edit&redlink=1) to look at the case again, as well as the case of Kadugli.

Many humanitarian aid and relief services, such as the [World Food Program](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Food_Program), [World Vision](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Vision), [Oxfam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxfam), [Cordaid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cordaid) and [Care International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Care_International), have a presence in the area. Secession from Sudan will not necessarily solve the economic problems for Abyei. Further, the situation in Abyei is worsening in terms of security and disputes over land now that South Sudan has become independent.

**War in Darfur**

Main article: [War in Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Darfur)

Map highlighting the [Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur) region of Sudan

Just as the long north-south [civil war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_war) was reaching a resolution, some clashes occurred in the Muslim western region of [Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur) in the early 1970s between the [pastoral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pastoralism) tribes. The rebels accused the central government of neglecting the Darfur region economically. Both the government and the rebels have been accused of atrocities in this war, although most of the blame has fallen on Arabic speaking nomads militias known as the [Janjaweed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janjaweed), which are armed men appointed by the [Al Saddiq Al Mahdi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadiq_al-Mahdi) administration to stop the longstanding chaotic disputes between Darfur tribes. According to declarations by the U.S. government, these militias have been engaging in [genocide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocide), the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) and [African Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Union) does not agree with the genocide label; the fighting has displaced hundreds of thousands of people, many of them seeking refuge in neighboring [Chad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad). The government claimed victory over the rebels after capturing a town on the border with Chad in early 1994. However, the fighting resumed in 2003.

On 9 September 2004, [U.S. Secretary of State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Secretary_of_State) [Colin Powell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colin_Powell) termed the Darfur conflict a genocide, claiming it as the worst [humanitarian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanitarianism) [crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crisis) of the 21st century. There have been reports that the Janjaweed has been launching raids, bombings, and attacks on villages, killing civilians based on ethnicity, raping women, stealing land, goods, and herds of livestock. So far, over 2.5 million civilians have been displaced and the death toll is variously estimated from 200,000 to 400,000 killed. These figures have remained stagnant since initial UN reports of the conflict hinted at genocide in 2003/2004. Genocide has been considered a criminal offense under international humanitarian law since the 1948 [Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention_on_the_Prevention_and_Punishment_of_the_Crime_of_Genocide).

On 5 May 2006, the Sudanese government and Darfur's largest rebel group, the SLM (Sudanese Liberation Movement), signed the [Darfur Peace Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur_Peace_Agreement), which aimed at ending the three-year-long conflict. The agreement specified the disarmament of the Janjaweed and the disbandment of the rebel forces, and aimed at establishing a temporal government in which the rebels could take part. The agreement, which was brokered by the [African Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Union), however, was not signed by all of the rebel groups. Only one rebel group, the SLA, led by Minni Arko Minnawi, signed the agreement.

Since the agreement was signed, however, there have been reports of widespread violence throughout the region. A new rebel group has emerged called the National Redemption Front, which is made up of the four main rebel groups that refused to sign the May peace agreement. Recently, both the Sudanese government and government-sponsored militias have launched large offensives against the rebel groups, resulting in more deaths and more displacements. Clashes among the rebel groups have also contributed to the violence. Recentfighting along the Chad border has left hundreds of soldiers and rebel forces dead and nearly a quarter of a million refugees cut off from aid. In addition, villages have been bombed and more civilians have been killed. [UNICEF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNICEF) recentlyreported that around eighty infants die each day in Darfur as a result of [malnutrition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malnutrition). The hunger in the Darfur region is still concerning many developed countries in the world.

The people in Darfur are predominantly non-Arabized members of the Darfur tribe who adhere to Islam. While the [Janjaweed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janjaweed)/[Baggara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baggara) [militia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militia) is made up of [Arabized](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabization) indigenous Africans and few Arab [Bedouin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bedouin); the majority of other Arab groups in Darfur remain uninvolved in the conflict.

On April 27, 2007, the [International Criminal Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Criminal_Court) warrant for the arrest of Ahmad Muhammad Harun, charging him with 20 counts of crimes against humanity and 22 counts of war crimes. Harun is accused of recruiting, funding and arming the Janjaweed militia. Haurn is currently the governor of South Kordofan, which borders South Sudan, where a brutal counterinsurgency campaign is raging, most severely in the Nuba mountains. Additionally, on the same day, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, one of the most senior leaders in the Janjaweed militia and a member of the Popular Defense Force. He is charged with 22 counts of crimes against humanity and 28 counts of war crimes. Ali Kushayb is accused of issuing orders to the Janjaweed militia and the armed forces including mass rape, killings, torture, inhumane acts, pillaging and looting of residences and marketplaces, and the displacement of the resident community.

On March 1, 2012, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein, who is one of Bashir's closest allies and currently serves as the Minister of National Defense of the Sudanese Government. Reports indicate that Hussein has recruited, armed and funded police forces and the Janjaweed militia in Darfur.

**Conflict with Chad**

Main article: [Civil war in Chad (2005–2010)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_war_in_Chad_%282005%E2%80%932010%29)

The Chad-Sudan Conflict (2005–2007) officially started on 23 December 2005, when the [government of Chad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Chad) declared a [state of war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War) with Sudan and called for the citizens of [Chad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad) to mobilize themselves against the "common enemy"—the [United Front for Democratic Change](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Front_for_Democratic_Change), a coalition of rebel factions dedicated to overthrowing Chadian President [Idriss Déby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idriss_D%C3%A9by) (and who the Chadians believe are backed by the Sudanese government), and Sudanese janjawid, who have been raiding refugee camps and certain tribes in eastern Chad. Déby accuses Sudanese President [Omar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar_Hasan_Ahmad_al-Bashir) of trying to "destabilize our country, to drive our people into misery, to create disorder and export the war from Darfur to Chad."

The problem prompting the declaration of war was an attack on the Chadian town of [Adré](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adr%C3%A9) near the Sudanese border that led to the deaths of either one hundred rebels (as most news sources reported) or three hundred rebels. The Sudanese government was blamed for the attack, which was the second in the region in three days, but Sudanese foreign ministry spokesman [Jamal Mohammed Ibrahim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamal_Mohammed_Ibrahim) denied any Sudanese involvement, "We are not for any escalation with Chad. We technically deny involvement in Chadian internal affairs." The [Battle of Adré](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Adr%C3%A9) led to the declaration of war by Chad and the alleged deployment of the Chadian air force into Sudanese airspace, which the Chadian government denies. The leaders of Sudan and Chad signed an agreement in [Saudi Arabia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia) on 3 May 2007 to stop fighting from the [Darfur conflict](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur_conflict) along their countries' 1,000-kilometre (600 mi) border.

**Eastern Front**

[Beja](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beja_people) nomads

[Rashaida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashaida) in the east

Main article: [Eastern Front (Sudan)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Front_%28Sudan%29)

The Eastern Front, whose chairman is the current presidential adviser Mr. [Musa Mohamed Ahmed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musa_Mohamed_Ahmed), was a coalition of rebel groups operating in eastern Sudan along the border with [Eritrea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eritrea), particularly the [states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/States_of_Sudan) of [Red Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Sea%2C_Sudan) and [Kassala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kassala_%28state%29). While the [Sudan People's Liberation Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_People%27s_Liberation_Army) (SPLA) was the primary member of the Eastern Front, the SPLA was obliged to leave by the January 2005 agreement that ended the [Second Sudanese Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Sudanese_Civil_War). Their place was taken in February 2004 after the merger of the larger [Hausa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hausa_people) and [Beja Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beja_Congress) with the smaller [Rashaida Free Lions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashaida_Free_Lions), two tribal-based groups of the Arabized [Beja](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beja_people) and the Arab [Rashaida people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashaida_people), respectively.

Both the Free Lions and the Beja Congress stated that government inequity in the distribution of oil profits, and for the [Beja](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beja_%28Portugal%29) the often uncompromising Arabization campaign of the central government, was the cause of their rebellion. They demanded to have a greater say in the composition of the national government, which has been seen as a destabilizing influence on the agreement ending the conflict in [Southern Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Sudan).

The Eritrean government in mid-2006 dramatically changed its position on the conflict. From being the main supporter of the Eastern Front, it decided that bringing the Sudanese government around the negotiating table for a possible agreement with the rebels would be in its best interests.

It was successful in its attempts and on 19 June 2006, the two sides signed an agreement on declaration of principles. This was the start of four months of Eritrean-mediated negotiations for a comprehensive peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the Eastern Front, which culminated in signing of a peace agreement on 14 October 2006, in Asmara. The agreement covers security issues, power sharing at a federal and regional level, and wealth sharing in regards to the three Eastern states [Kassala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kassala_%28state%29), [Red Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Sea%2C_Sudan) and [Al Qadarif](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Qadarif). One of the agreements made between the [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum) government and the Eastern Front was that [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum) would push for [international arbitration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_arbitration) to solve the situation in the disputed [Hala'ib Triangle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hala%27ib_Triangle) which has been under [Egyptian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) military annexation since 1995.

In July 2007, many areas in the western and southern parts of the country were devastated by [flooding](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007_Sudan_floods), prompting an immediate humanitarian response by the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) and partners, under the leadership of acting [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) [Resident Coordinators](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resident_Coordinator) [David Gressly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Gressly) and [Oluseyi Bajulaiye](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oluseyi_Bajulaiye). Over 400,000 people were directly affected, with over 3.5 million at risk of epidemics. The United Nations allocated US$ 13.5 million for the response from its pooled funds, and launched an appeal to the international community to cover the gap. The humanitarian crisis is in danger of worsening. Following attacks in Darfur, the [U.N. World Food Program](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Food_Programme) announced it could stop food aid to some parts of Darfur. Banditry against truck convoys is one of the biggest problems, as it impedes the delivery of food assistance to war-stricken areas and forces a cut in monthly rations.

**Government and politics**

Main articles: [Politics of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Sudan), [List of Presidents of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_Sudan), [List of Presidents of the Government of Southern Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_the_Government_of_Southern_Sudan), [National Legislature of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Legislature_of_Sudan), [List of Vice Presidents of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Vice_Presidents_of_Sudan), and [List of political parties in Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_political_parties_in_Sudan)

[Sudan President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_heads_of_state_of_Sudan) [Omar al-Bashir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar_al-Bashir) (January 2009)

Officially, the [politics of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Sudan) takes place in the framework of a [federal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_republic) [presidential](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_system) [representative democratic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representative_democracy) [republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic), where the [President of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_heads_of_state_of_Sudan) is [head of state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_state), [head of government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_government) and [commander-in-chief](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commander-in-chief) of the [Sudan People's Armed Forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_People%27s_Armed_Forces) in a [multi-party system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multi-party_system). Legislative power is vested in both the government and the [bicameral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameralism) [parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament) — the [National Legislature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Legislature_of_Sudan), with its [National Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Sudan) (lower chamber) and the [Council of States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_States_of_Sudan) (upper chamber). The [judiciary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judiciary) is independent and obtained by the [Constitutional Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_Court).

However, following the [Second Sudanese Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Sudanese_Civil_War) (1983–2005) and the now-low-scale [war in Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Darfur), Sudan is widely recognized as an [authoritarian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authoritarianism) state where all effective political power is obtained by President [Omar al-Bashir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar_al-Bashir) and the ruling [National Congress Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Congress_%28Sudan%29) (NCP). The political system of the country was restructured following a military coup on 30 June 1989, when al-Bashir, then a [colonel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonel) in the [Sudanese Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_People%27s_Armed_Forces), led a group of officers and ousted the government of Prime Minister [Sadiq al-Mahdi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadiq_al-Mahdi). Under al-Bashir's leadership, the new military government suspended political parties and introduced an Islamic legal code on the national level.

He then became Chairman of the [Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutionary_Command_Council_for_National_Salvation) (a newly established body with legislative and executive powers for what was described as a transitional period), and assumed the posts of [chief of state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_state), [prime minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_minister), [chief of the armed forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commander-in-chief) and [minister of defense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defence_minister). Further on, after institutionalizing [Sharia law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia) in the northern part of the country along with [Hassan al-Turabi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hassan_al-Turabi), al-Bashir issued 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.

In 1993, Sudan was transformed into an [Islamic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic) [authoritarian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authoritarianism) [single-party state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single-party_state) as al-Bashir abolished the Revolutionary Command Council and created the [National Islamic Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governor), thus making Sudan a [federal republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_republic). As a result, the Second Sudanese Civil War with the [Sudan People's Liberation Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_People%27s_Liberation_Army/Movement) (SPLA) would only escalate in the following years.

Following the signing of the [2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comprehensive_Peace_Agreement) (CPA) between the government of al-Bashir and the SPLA, a [government of national unity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_national_unity) was installed in Sudan in accordance with the Interim Constitution whereby a co-[Sudan Vice President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Vice_Presidents_of_Sudan) position representing the south was created in addition to the northern [Sudanese Vice President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Vice_Presidents_of_Sudan). This allowed the north and south to split [oil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil) deposits equally, but also left both the north's and south's armies in place. Following the [Darfur Peace Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur_Peace_Agreement) in 2006, the office of senior presidential advisor was allocated to [Minni Minnawi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minni_Minnawi), a [Zaghawa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zaghawa_people) of the [Sudanese Liberation Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_Liberation_Movement/Army) (SLA), and, thus, became the fourth-highest constitutional post.

Executive posts are divided between the NCP, the SPLA, the [Sudanese Eastern Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Front_%28Sudan%29) and factions of the [Umma Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umma_Party_%28Sudan%29) and [Democratic Unionist Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Unionist_Party_%28Sudan%29) (DUP). This peace agreement with the rebel group SPLA granted [Southern Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Sudan) autonomy for six years, to be followed by a referendum about independence in 2011.

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.

Despite his international arrest warrant, al-Bashir was a candidate in the [2010 Sudanese presidential election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_general_election%2C_2010), the first [democratic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy) election with multiple political parties participating in twenty-four years. In the build-up to the vote, Sudanese pro-democracy activists say they faced intimidation by the government and the [International Crisis Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Crisis_Group) reported that the ruling party had [gerrymandered](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerrymandered) electoral districts. A few days before the vote, the main opposition candidate, Yasir Arman from the SPLM, withdrew from the race. The U.S.-based [Carter Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carter_Center), which helped monitor the elections, described the vote tabulation process as "highly chaotic, non-transparent and vulnerable to electoral manipulation." Al-Bashir was declared the winner of the election with sixty-eight percent of the vote. There was considerable concern amongst the international community of a return to violence in the run-up to the [January 2011 southern Sudan referendum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Sudanese_independence_referendum%2C_2011), with post-referendum issues such as oil-revenue sharing and border demarcation not yet resolved.

**Foreign relations**

Main article: [Foreign relations of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_relations_of_Sudan)

[Mohammed Ahmed Mustafa al-Dabi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammed_Ahmed_Mustafa_al-Dabi) head of Arab League monitors in Syria (January 2012)

Sudan has had a troubled relationship with many of its neighbors and much of the international community, owing to what is viewed as its radical Islamic stance. For much of the 1990s, [Uganda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uganda), [Kenya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya) and [Ethiopia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia) formed an ad-hoc alliance called the "Front Line States" with support from the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) to check the influence of the [National Islamic Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Islamic_Front) government. The Sudanese Government supported anti-Ugandan rebel groups such as the [Lord's Resistance Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord%27s_Resistance_Army) (LRA). But in the early 1980s, at the time of President [Gaafar Nimeiry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaafar_Nimeiry), who took power on 25 May 1969, Sudan had a good relationship with the West. In early 1983, South Sudanese revolted against the government and formed the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) movement. Like many other African nationalist movements, [SPLA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_People%27s_Liberation_Army/Movement) was initially tied with Cuba, Russia, and other communist states. For this reason, the Khartoum government used the links effectively to woo Western states for support in its war against the SPLA. Nevertheless, the relationship was short-lived. In 1998, the Khartoum government was sanctioned for collaborating with terrorist organizations. 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1998_United_States_embassy_bombings), in [Tanzania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanzania) and [Kenya](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hala%27ib_Triangle). Since 2003, the foreign relations of Sudan have centered on the support for ending the [Second Sudanese Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Sudanese_Civil_War) and condemnation of government support for militias in the [war in Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Darfur).

Shortly after the Islamic Conservatists seized power in a coup in 1989, Sudan increasingly became a fundamentalist Islamic state. In addition, the [National Islamic Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Islamic_Front) engaged in both regional and international terrorism. For example the NIF was accused of supporting Egyptian Jihad against former Egyptian president [Hosni Mubarak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hosni_Mubarak). The assassination attempt against the Egyptian president was largely blamed on the Khartoum government. Sudan's relation with its eastern neighbor Eritrea was very rocky for the same reason. In December 1995, Eritrea accused Khartoum of supporting its Islamic rebels. As a result, Eritrea severed ties with the Khartoum government. Other neighboring countries such as Uganda and Chad have taken the same course. Hence, the National Islamic Front ultimately stands alone in the region. In 1990s, Al Qaeda leader bin-Laden joined the regime and Sudan became a safe haven for terrorism. 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Sponsors_of_Terrorism). Before that, the Clinton administration bombed a Khartoum suspected site in 1998, known as [Al-Shifa pharmaceutical factory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Shifa_pharmaceutical_factory). The U.S. thought that the place was used for chemical weapons and thought it was connected with the Al Qaeda network. According to Bob Edward, the Secretary of State [Warren Christopher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warren_Christopher) has added Sudan to the list of countries that sponsor terrorist in the State Department. After the US listed Sudan as a state sponsor of terrorism, the [NIF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Islamic_Front) decided to develop relations with [Iraq](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq), and later [Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran), the two most controversial countries in the region: they were also in old with America. Accusations against the National Islam Front of Khartoum range from state sponsor terrorism to its affiliation with radical group such as Palestinian and Iranian regimes.

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.

On 23 December 2005, Sudan's neighbor to the west, [Chad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad), declared war on Sudan and accused the country of being the "common enemy of the nation *[Chad]*." This happened after the 18 December attack on [Adré](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adr%C3%A9), which left about one hundred people dead. A statement issued by Chadian government on 23 December accused Sudanese militias of making daily raids into Chad, thereby stealing cattle, killing people and burning villages on the Chadian border. The statement went on to call for Chadians to form a patriotic front against Sudan.

The [Organization of Islamic Cooperation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation) (OIC, formerly the Organization of the Islamic Conference) has called on Sudan and Chad to exercise self-restraint to defuse growing tensions between the two countries. On 11 May 2008, Sudan announced it was cutting diplomatic relations with Chad, claiming that it was helping rebels in [Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur) to attack the Sudanese capital [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum).

On 27 December 2005, Sudan became one of the few [states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereign_state) to recognize Moroccan sovereignty over [Western Sahara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Sahara).

On 20 June 2006, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir told reporters that he would not allow any UN [peacekeeping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peacekeeping) force into Sudan. He denounced any such mission as "colonial forces." On 17 November 2006, UN Secretary-General [Kofi Annan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kofi_Annan) announced that "Sudan has agreed in principle to allow the establishment of a joint [African Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Union) and UN peacekeeping force in an effort to solve the crisis in Darfur" — but had stopped short of setting the number of troops involved. Annan speculated that this force could number 17,000.

Despite this claim, no additional troops had been deployed as of late December 2006. On 31 July 2007, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1769, authorizing the deployment of UN forces. Violence continued in the region and on 15 December 2006, prosecutors at the [International Criminal Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Criminal_Court) (ICC) stated they would be proceeding with cases of human-rights violations against members of the Sudanese government. A Sudanese legislator was quoted as saying that Khartoum may permit UN peacekeepers to patrol Darfur in exchange for immunity from prosecution for officials charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity.

**Armed Forces**

Main article: [Sudan People's Armed Forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_People%27s_Armed_Forces)

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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_Air_Force), Border Patrol and the Internal Affairs Defense Force, totaling 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.

However, since the [Darfur crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_People%27s_Liberation_Army/Movement) (SPLA), the [Sudanese Liberation Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_Liberation_Army) (SLA) and the [Justice and Equality Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janjaweed), in executing a counter-insurgency war. Somewhere between 200,000 and 400,000 people have died in the violent struggles.

**International organizations in Sudan**

Several UN agents are operating in Sudan such as the World Food Program ([WFP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WFP)); the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation ([FAO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FAO)); the United Nations Development Program ([UNDP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNDP)); the United Nations Industrial Development Organizations ([UNIDO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNIDO)); the United Nations Children Fund ([UNICEF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNICEF)); Doctors Without Borders ([DWB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DWB));the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ([UNHCR](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank). Also present is the Intergovernmental Organization for Migration ([IOM](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Intergovernmental_Organization_for_Migration&action=edit&redlink=1));.

Since Sudan has experienced civil war for many years, many Non-Governmental Organizations (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. 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Lifeline_Sudan) (OLS) consortium.

Even though most of the international organizations are substantially concentrated in both South Sudan and [Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur) region, some of them are working in the northern part as well. For example the [United Nations Industrial Development Organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Industrial_Development_Organization) is successfully operating in [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/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 the northern Sudan.

**Legal system**

The legal system in Sudan is based on [English common law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_common_law) and Islamic [sharia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia). Islamic law was implemented in all of the north as of September 1983, by Jafar An-Numeri, the Second Sudanese Military Dictator; this applied to all residents of the Sudan regardless of their religion. The 2005 [Naivasha Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naivasha_Agreement), ending the civil war between north and south Sudan, established some protections for non-Muslims in Khartoum. [International Court of Justice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Court_of_Justice) jurisdiction is accepted, though with reservations. Under the terms of the Naivasha Agreement, Islamic law did not apply in the south. Since the secession of [South Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/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.

The [judicial branch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judicial_branch) of the Sudanese government consists of a Constitutional Court of nine justices, the National Supreme Court and National Courts of Appeal, and other national courts; the National Judicial Service Commission provides overall management for the judiciary.

**Human rights**

Main articles: [Human rights in Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Sudan) and [Slavery in Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_Sudan)

**Southern Sudan**

See also: [Human rights in South Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_South_Sudan)

As early as 1995, international rights organizations such as [Human Rights Watch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Watch) and [CASMAS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CASMAS) have reported that slavery in Sudan is a common fate of captives in the Second Sudanese Civil War and rebels fighting in the [Sudan People's Liberation Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_People%27s_Liberation_Army) in connections to the [war in Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Darfur), while the [2002 report](http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/11951.pdf) issued by the International Eminent Persons Group, acting with the encouragement of the [U.S. State Department](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_State), found the SPLA and pro-government militias guilty of abduction of civilians as well.

While the Sudanese government denies these allegations, [Rift Valley Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rift_Valley_Institute)'s [Sudan Abductee Database](http://www.riftvalley.net/?view=abductee) claim over 11,000 people were abducted in twenty years of slave-raiding in the southern regions, while SudanActivism.com mentions that hundreds of thousands have been abducted into [slavery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery), fled or are otherwise unaccounted for in a second genocide in southern Sudan.

Although [South Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudan) proper became independent in July 2011, allegations of human rights abuses continue to be made against the Sudanese government amidst its efforts to [pacify rebellion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Kordofan_conflict) in the southern state of [South Kordofan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Kordofan).

Darfur refugee camp in [Chad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad), 2005

According to the Annual Report 2011 of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint program [FIDH](http://www.fidh.org/-Africa-) (International Federation for Human Rights) and [OMCT](http://www.omct.org/) (World Organization Against Torture), in 2010–2011, in the run up to the referendum on Southern Sudan independence, repression intensified against all dissenting voices, largely conducted by the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS). As in previous years, crackdown on human rights activists aimed at preventing any independent reporting on the human rights situation in Darfur continued, and humanitarian workers working in that region were subjected to further attacks and restrictions on freedom of movement. Journalists reporting on human rights violations also faced censorship and harassment. Human rights defenders promoting fair, transparent and free electoral processes and a number of women’s rights defenders were also targeted.

**Darfur**

A letter dated 14 August 2006, from the executive director of [Human Rights Watch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Watch) found that the Sudanese government is both incapable of protecting its own citizens in [Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur) and unwilling to do so, and that its [militias](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militia) are guilty of [crimes against humanity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crimes_against_humanity). The letter added that these human-rights abuses have existed since 2004. Some reports attribute part of the violations to the rebels as well as the government and the [Janjaweed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janjaweed). The U.S. State Department's human-rights report issued in March 2007 claims that "all parties to the conflagration committed serious abuses, including widespread killing of civilians, rape as a tool of war, systematic torture, robbery and recruitment of child soldiers."

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](https://en.wikipedia.org/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.

**States and regions**

Main articles: [States of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/States_of_Sudan), [List of Sudan's state governors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Sudan%27s_state_governors), and [Districts of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sudan)

Political map of Sudan. The [Hala'ib Triangle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hala%27ib_Triangle) has been under Egyptian administration since 2000.

Sudan is divided into [seventeen states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/States_of_Sudan) ([*wilayat*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilaya), [sing.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammatical_number) [*wilayah*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilayah)). They are further divided into 133 [districts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sudan).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * [Al Jazirah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Jazirah%2C_Sudan)
* [Al Qadarif](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Qadarif_%28state%29)
* [Blue Nile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Nile%2C_Sudan)
* [Central Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Darfur)
* [East Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Darfur)
* [Kassala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kassala_%28state%29)
 |  | * [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum_%28state%29)
* [North Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Darfur)
* [North Kurdufan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Kurdufan)
* [Northern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern%2C_Sudan)
* [Red Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Sea%2C_Sudan)
* [River Nile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Nile%2C_Sudan)
 |  | * [Sennar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sennar_%28state%29)
* [South Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Darfur)
* [South Kurdufan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Kurdufan)
* [West Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Darfur)
* [White Nile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Nile%2C_Sudan)
 |

**Regional bodies and areas of conflict**

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

Central and northern states

[Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur)

[Eastern Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Front_%28Sudan%29)

[Abyei area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abyei)

[South Kurdufan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Kurdufan) and [Blue Nile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Nile_%28state%29) states

**Regional administrative bodies**

* The [Darfur Regional Authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur_Regional_Authority) was established by the [Darfur Peace Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur_Peace_Agreement) to act as a coordinating body for the states that make up the region of [Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur).
* The [Eastern Sudan States Coordinating Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Sudan_States_Coordinating_Council) was established by the [Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Sudan_Peace_Agreement) between the Sudanese Government and the rebel [Eastern Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Front_%28Sudan%29) to act as a coordinating body for the three eastern states.
* The [Abyei Area](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abyei_Area_Administration). It was due to hold a [referendum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abyei_status_referendum%2C_2011) in 2011 on whether to join an independent [South Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudan) or remain part of the Republic of the Sudan.

**Disputed areas and zones of conflict**

* The states of [South Kurdufan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Kurdufan) and [Blue Nile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Nile_%28state%29) are to hold "popular consultations" to determine their constitutional future within the Sudan.
* The [Hala'ib triangle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hala%27ib_triangle) is disputed region between Sudan and [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt). It is currently under Egyptian administration.
* The [Abyei Area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abyei_Area) is disputed region between Sudan and [South Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudan). It is currently under Sudan rule.
* [Bir Tawil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bir_Tawil) is a [terra nullius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terra_nullius) occurring on the border between Egypt and Sudan, claimed by neither state.
* [Kafia Kingi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kafia_Kingi) and [Radom National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radom_National_Park) was a part of [Bahr el Ghazal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bahr_el_Ghazal) in 1956. Sudan has recognized South Sudan independence according to the borders for January, 1st, 1956.
* In mid-April 2012, the South Sudanese army captured the [Heglig](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heglig) oil field from Sudan.

**Geography**

Main article: [Geography of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Sudan)

See also: [List of cities in Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Sudan)

[Jebel Barkal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jebel_Barkal) mountain in Nubia, a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site).

Satellite image of Sudan

Sudan is situated in northern Africa, with a 853 km (530 mi) coastline bordering the [Red Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Sea). With an area of 1,886,068 km2 (728,215 sq mi), it is the third largest country on the continent (after [Algeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria) and [DR Congo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo)) and the sixteenth largest in the world. Sudan lies between latitudes [8°](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/8th_parallel_north) and [23°N](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/23rd_parallel_north).

The terrain is generally flat plains, broken by several mountain ranges; in the west the [Deriba Caldera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deriba_Caldera) (3,042 m or 9,980 ft), located in the [Marrah Mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marrah_Mountains), is the highest point in Sudan; in the east are the [Red Sea Hills](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Red_Sea_Hills&action=edit&redlink=1).

The [Blue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Nile) and [White Nile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Nile) rivers meet in [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum) to form the [River Nile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Nile), which flows northwards through Egypt to the [Mediterranean Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea). The Blue Nile's course through Sudan is nearly 800 km (497 mi) long and is joined by the [Dinder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dinder_River) and [Rahad Rivers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rahad_River) between [Sennar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sennar) and [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum). The [White Nile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Nile) within Sudan has no significant tributaries.

The amount of rainfall increases towards the south. In the north there is the very dry [Nubian Desert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubian_Desert); 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dust_storm), known as [haboob](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nomad), travelling with their herds of [sheep](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheep) and [camels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camel). Nearer the River Nile, there are [well-irrigated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irrigation) farms growing [cash crops](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cash_crops).

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

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

[Desertification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertification) is a serious problem in Sudan. There is also concern over [soil erosion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soil_erosion). [Agricultural](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture) expansion, both public and private, has proceeded without [conservation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservation_movement) measures. The consequences have manifested themselves in the form of [deforestation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deforestation), soil desiccation, and the lowering of [soil fertility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soil_fertility) and the [water table](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_table).

The nation's wildlife is threatened by hunting. As of 2001, twenty-one [mammal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammal) species and nine bird species are endangered, as well as two species of plants. Endangered species include: the [waldrapp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Bald_Ibis), [Northern White Rhinoceros](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_White_Rhinoceros), [Tora Hartebeest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tora_Hartebeest), [Slender-horned Gazelle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhim_Gazelle), and [hawksbill turtle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawksbill_turtle). The Sahara [oryx](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oryx) has become extinct in the wild.

**Economy**

Main article: [Economy of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Sudan)

See also: [Communications in Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communications_in_Sudan) and [Transport in Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transport_in_Sudan)

In 2010, Sudan was considered the 17th-fastest-growing economy 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*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_York_Times) in a 2006 article. Because of the secession of [South Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudan), which contained over 80 percent of Sudan's oilfields, the economic forecast for Sudan in 2011 and beyond is uncertain.

Development in Khartoum.

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. In any case, the economy in the Sudan has been slowly growing over the last ten years, 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. This growth was sustained even during the [crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Darfur) in [Darfur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur) and [period of southern autonomy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Southern_Sudan_%282005-2011%29) preceding South Sudan's independence.

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. The program has been in place since early '90s, and also work-out exchange rate and reserve of foreign exchange. Since 1997, Sudan has been implementing the [macroeconomic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macroeconomics) reforms recommended by the [International Monetary Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund).

In 1999, Sudan began exporting crude oil and in the last quarter of 1999, recorded its first [trade surplus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balance_of_trade). Increased oil production (the currentproduction is about 520,000 barrels per day (83,000 m3/d)) revived light industry, and expanded export processing zones helped sustain [gross domestic product](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_domestic_product) (GDP) growth at 6.1 percent in 2003. These gains, along with improvements to monetary policy, have stabilized the exchange rate. The [People's Republic of China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China) is Sudan's largest economic partner, with a 40 percent share in its oil. The country also sells Sudan small arms, which have been used in military operations such as the conflicts in Darfur and [South Kordofan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Kordofan_conflict).

Oil 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. Sustained growth was expected the next year in 2008 because of not only increasing oil production, but also to the boost of [hydroelectricity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydroelectricity) (annual electricity yield of 5.5 TWh) provided by the [Merowe Dam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merowe_Dam). The independence of oil-rich South Sudan, however, placed most major [oilfields](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oilfield) out of the Sudanese government's direct control. In order to export oil, South Sudan must rely on a pipeline to [Port Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Sudan) on Sudan's [Red Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Sea) coast, as South Sudan itself is landlocked, as well as on Sudan's superior [refinery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil_refinery) infrastructure. The exact terms of a revenue-splitting agreement between [Juba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juba) and [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum) have yet to be established, but Sudan will likely receive a significant portion of the income from South Sudan's oil sales as a fee for the use of Sudanese pipelines, refineries, and port facilities, perhaps as much as 50 percent of the profits.

Agriculture production remains Sudan's most-important sector, employing eighty percent of the workforce and contributing thirty-nine percent of GDP, but most farms remain rain-fed and susceptible to [drought](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merowe_Dam), also known as Merowe Multi-Purpose Hydro Project or Hamdab Dam, is a large construction project in Northern Sudan, about 350 kilometers (220 mi) north of the capital, Khartoum. It is situated on the River Nile, close to the [Fourth Cataract](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cataracts_of_the_Nile) where the river divides into multiple smaller branches with large islands in between. [Merowe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merowe%2C_Sudan) is a city about 40 kilometers (25 mi) 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 ninety percent of the population with electricity. Other gas-powered generating stations are operational in Khartoum State and other States.

**Demographics**

A [Nubian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubian_people) wedding

[Sudanese Arab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_Arab) of Al-[manasir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manasir)

Sudanese writer [Leila Aboulela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leila_Aboulela)

Student from [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum)

[Bedouin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bedouin) in North

Main article: [Demographics of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Sudan)

In Sudan's 2008 [census](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Census), the population of Northern, Western and Eastern Sudan was recorded to be over 30 million. This puts present estimates of the population of Sudan after the secession of [South Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/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. The population of metropolitan Khartoum (including [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum), [Omdurman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omdurman), and [Khartoum North](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eritrea) (240,400 persons), [Chad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad) (45,000), [Ethiopia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia) (49,300) and the [Central African Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_African_Republic) (2,500). The Sudanese government [UN High Commissioner for Refugees](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention_Relating_to_the_Status_of_Refugees).

**Ethnic groups**

The [Arab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_Arabs) presence is estimated at 70% of the Sudanese population. Others include the Arabized ethnic groups of [Nubians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubian_people), [Copts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copts), and [Beja](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beja_people). Sudan has 597 tribes that speak over 400 different languages and dialects. Sudanese Arabs are by far the largest ethnic group in Sudan, they are almost entirely Muslims; while the majority speak [Sudanese Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_Arabic); some other Arab tribes speak different Arabic dialects like [Awadia and Fadnia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Awadia_and_Fadnia) and [Bani Arak](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Arakieen&action=edit&redlink=1) tribes who speak [Najdi Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Najdi_Arabic); [Rufa'a](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Rufa%27a&action=edit&redlink=1), [Bani Hassan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bani_Hassan), [Al-Ashraf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ashraf), [Kinanah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinanah) and [Rashaida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashaida) who speak [Hejazi Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hejazi_Arabic). In addition, the Western province comprise various ethnic groups, while few Arab [Bedouin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bedouin) of the northern [Rizeigat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rizeigat) and others who speak Sudanese Arabic and share the same culture and backgrounds of the Sudanese Arabs, The majority of Arabized and indigenous tribes like the [Fur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fur_people), [Zaghawa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zaghawa_people), [Masalit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masalit_people) and some [Baggara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baggara) ethnic groups, who speak [Chadian Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chadian_Arabic), show less cultural integration, not often included in Sudanese Arabs definition, because of cultural, linguistic and genealogical variations with other Arab and Arabized tribes. Sudanese Arabs of Northern and Eastern parts descend primarily from migrants from the [Arabian peninsula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_peninsula) and some of the pre-existing indigenous populations of Sudan, most predominately the [Nubian people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubia) who also share a common history with [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) and [Beja](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beja_people). 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. The vast majority of Arab tribes in Sudan migrated into the Sudan in the 12th century, intermarried with the indigenous Nubian and African populations and introduced Islam.

In common with much of the rest of the [Arab world](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_world), the gradual process of [Arabization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabization) in Sudan following these Arabian migrations after the 12th century led to the predominance of the [Arabic language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language) and aspects of [Arab culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_culture), leading to the shift among a majority of Sudanese today to an Arab [ethnic identity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_identity). This process was furthered both by the spread of Islam and an emigration to Sudan of genealogical Arabs from the Arabian Peninsula, and their intermarriage with the Arabized indigenous peoples of the country.

Sudan consists of numerous other non-Arabic tribes, such as the [Masaleet](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Masaleet&action=edit&redlink=1), [Zagawa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zagawa), [Fulani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fulani), [Northern Nubians](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Northern_Nubians&action=edit&redlink=1), [Nuba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuba), and [Bija](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bija).

**Religion**

[Minaret](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minaret) in [Port Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Sudan)

A [Coptic Orthodox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coptic_Orthodox) Cathedral in [Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum)

Main article: [Religion in Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Sudan)

*Further information:* [*Islam in Sudan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Sudan) *and* [*Christianity in Sudan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_in_Sudan)

97 percent of the population adheres to [Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam). Almost all Muslims are Sunni, although there are significant distinctions between followers of different Sunni traditions. Two popular divisions, the Ansar and the Khatmia, are associated with the opposition Umma and Democratic Unionist Parties, respectively. There are significant but long-established groups of [Coptic Orthodox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coptic_Orthodox_Church_of_Alexandria) and [Greek Orthodox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_Orthodox_Church) Christians in Khartoum and other northern cities.

There are also [Ethiopian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopian_Orthodox_Tewahedo_Church) and [Eritrean Orthodox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eritrean_Orthodox_Tewahedo_Church) communities in Khartoum and eastern Sudan, largely made up of refugees and migrants from the past few decades. Other Christian groups with smaller followings in the country include the Africa Inland Church, the [Armenian Apostolic Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_Apostolic_Church), the Sudan Church of Christ, the [Sudan Interior Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_Interior_Church), [Jehovah's Witnesses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses), the Sudan Pentecostal Church, the [Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamists), [Salafis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salafis)/[Wahhabis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wahhabis) and other conservative Arab Muslims in the north. The [Umma](https://en.wikipedia.org/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufi) sect.

**Tribes of Sudan**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * [Ababda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ababda_people)
* Abddallab
* Arakeien
* [Ashraf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashraf)
* [Baggara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baggara_Arabs)
* Bataheen
* [Beja](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beja_people)
* Bideiria Dahmshiia
* Danagla
* [Fulani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fulani_people)
* [Fur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fur_people)
* [Ga'alin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ga%27alin)
 |  | * Halaween
* Halfaween
* Hamar
* [Hasania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hasania)
* Hawara
* [Ja'Alin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ja%27Alin)
* Jamoi'a
* Jemi'ab
* [Kababish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kababish)
* [Kinanah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinanah)
* Kinouz
* [Kawahla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kawahla_people)
* Kazraj Ansar
* [Mahas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahas)
* Mahria
 |  | * [Manasir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manasir)
* [Mahas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahas)
* [Masalit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masalit_people)
* [Midob](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midob_people)
* [Nuba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuba)
* [Nubian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubian_people)
* [Rashaida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashaida_people)
* [Rubatab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rubatab)
* [Shaigiya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaigiya)
* [Shukria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shukria)
* [Sudanese Arabs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_Arabs)
* [Tama people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tama_people)
* [Zaghawa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zaghawa_people)
* [Zubaid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zubaid)
 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **People** | **Location** |
| [Fula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fula_people) (Fulani) | *Blue Nile, and West* |
| [Rashaida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashaida_people) | *east* |
| [Fur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fur_people) | *west* |

**Languages**

See also: [Languages of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_of_Sudan)

The most widely spoken languages in Sudan are:

1. [Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic)
	1. [Sudanese Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_Arabic).
	2. [Najdi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Najdi_Arabic) and [Hejazi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hejazi_Arabic) Arabic, (mainly in mid-north and mid-east regions).
	3. [Chadic Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chadic_Arabic) in western region, (mainly spoken by Baggara and various Arabized African tribes).
2. [Nubian language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubian_language) in far north, (mainly spoken by Nubians of Mahas, Dongola and Halfa).
3. [Beja language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beja_language) knows as Bedawit in far east alongside Red sea, (mainly spoken by Beja of Hadandawa, Ababda and Bisharin).

Before 2005, only Arabic was the official language. In the 2005 constitution, Sudan's official languages became [Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language) and [English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language).

**Culture**

Main article: [Culture of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Sudan)

*Further information:* [*Music of Sudan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_Sudan)*,* [*List of Sudanese writers*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Sudanese_writers)*, and* [*List of Sudanese singers*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Sudanese_singers)

**Education**

Khartoum University established in 1902

Main article: [Education in Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Sudan)

Institutions of higher education in Sudan include:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * [Ahfad University for Women](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahfad_University_for_Women)
* [Al-Neelain University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Neelain_University)
* [Bayan Science and Technology University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayan_Science_and_Technology_University)
* [Future University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Future_University_%28Sudan%29)(formerly Computer Man College)
* [Omdurman Ahlia University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omdurman_Ahlia_University)
* [Omdurman Islamic University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omdurman_Islamic_University)
* [Sudan University of Science and Technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_University_of_Science_and_Technology)
 |  | * [The Catholic University of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Catholic_University_of_Sudan)
* [University of al-Jazirah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_al-Jazirah)(also known as the University of Gezira)
* [University of Khartoum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Khartoum)
	+ [Mycetoma Research Centre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mycetoma_Research_Centre)
* [University of Kordofan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Kordofan)
* [University of Medical Sciences and Technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Medical_Sciences_and_Technology)
 |

**See also**

* [Outline of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_Sudan)
* [Group of 77](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Group_of_77)
* [Nubia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubia)
* [Sennar (sultanate)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sennar_%28sultanate%29)
* [Alodia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alodia)
* [Maahes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maahes)
* [Meroitic script](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meroitic_script)
* [List of heads of government of Sudan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_heads_of_government_of_Sudan)
* [Sudan Scouts Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan_Scouts_Association)
* [Sudanese American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_American)
* [Sudanese in the United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_in_the_United_Kingdom)

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