

Richard Barltrop

DARFUR

and the

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The Challenges of
Conflict Resolution
in Sudan



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I.B. TAURIS

LONDON · NEW YORK

Published in 2011 by I.B.Tauris & Co Ltd
6 Salem Road, London W2 4BU
175 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10010
www.ibtauris.com

Distributed in the United States and Canada exclusively by Palgrave Macmillan
175 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10010

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Library of International Relations 41

ISBN 978 1 84511 977 5

A full CIP record for this book is available from the British Library

A full CIP record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

Library of Congress catalog card: available

Printed and bound in India by Thomson Press (India)

Camera-ready copy edited and supplied by the author

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NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION AND TERMINOLOGY

As with Arabic words, Sudanese names may be written in English in a number of ways. For ease of reading, I have tried to use the most common spellings in English, and have avoided the less common, but more accurate, formal Arabic transliterations. I have therefore used, for example, Khartoum, Nimeiri and Omar, rather than Khartum, Numayri and ‘Umar; and *sharia*, rather than *shari‘a*. In quotations, Arabic words or names are written as given in the sources themselves.

For simplicity, I have often used the term ‘relief’ rather than the more formal term ‘humanitarian action’, although in keeping with usage in international relations, I have reserved the term ‘humanitarian intervention’ to mean armed intervention on humanitarian grounds, rather than conflate it with relief and development (which in the aid world are often called ‘interventions’). For simplicity too, I have also sometimes used the term ‘civil war’ where it might be more correct, but less idiomatic, to say ‘internal conflict’.

Given the slender division between the SPLM and the SPLA, I have generally written ‘SPLM/A’ rather than specifying one rather than the other, except where the context makes it obvious to do so. I have generally written ‘the Sudanese government’ or ‘the government’, but on occasions used the abbreviation ‘GOS’ (Government of Sudan), which became common usage in the 1990s.

ABBREVIATIONS

AMIS	African Union Mission in Sudan: AU ceasefire observer-cum-peacekeeping mission
AU	African Union
CIRF	Commission on International Religious Freedom (US)
CNPC	China National Petroleum Corporation
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement: between government and SPLM/A, finalised on 31 December 2004 and formally signed on 9 January 2005
CPMT	Civilian Protection Monitoring Team: international monitoring body for government–SPLM/A ceasefire from 2002
CSIS	Center for Strategic and International Studies: US think-tank
DCHA	Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance: USAID department
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DOP	Declaration of Principles
DPA	Darfur Peace Agreement
DUP	Democratic Unionist Party: formed from merger of the National Unionist Party and the People’s Democratic Party in 1968
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Aid Office
EDF	Equatoria Defence Force
EPLF	Eritrean People’s Liberation Front
EPRDF	Eritrean People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front
ESPA	Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement: between government and Eastern Front, signed in 2006
GONU	Government of National Unity: formed in mid-2006, in accordance with CPA
GOS	Government of Sudan (also sometimes abbreviated GoS: the

abbreviation became widely used for the government after 1989)

GOSS	Government of Southern Sudan: formed in mid-2006, in accordance with CPA, semi-autonomous from the GONU
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICF	Islamic Charter Front (renamed the National Islamic Front in 1986)
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (formerly the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Desertification, IGADD)
INGO	International non-governmental organisation
IPF	IGAD Partners Forum
IRIN	Integrated Relief Information Networks
JAM	Joint Assessment Mission: joint GOS, SPLM/A, World Bank and UN needs-assessment mission for Sudan, 2004–5
JEM	Justice and Equality Movement
JMC	Joint Military Commission: international monitoring body for Nuba Mountains ceasefire
NCP	National Congress Party
NDA	National Democratic Alliance
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NIF	National Islamic Front (renamed the National Congress Party in 1998)
NMPACT	Nuba Mountains Programme for Advancing Conflict Transformation
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
NSIS	National Security and Intelligence Service
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
OLS	Operation Lifeline Sudan
PAIC	Popular Arab and Islamic Conference
PCP	Popular Congress Party
PDF	Popular Defence Forces
RCC	Revolutionary Command Council: established 1989, dissolved 1993
RRC	Relief and Rehabilitation Commission
SAF	Sudan Armed Forces

SCC	Sudan Council of Churches
SDC	Save Darfur Coalition
SLM/A	Sudan Liberation Movement/Army
SPLM/A	Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army
SRRA	Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association
SRRC	Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission: successor to SRRA after 2003
SSIM/A	South Sudan Independence Movement/Army: name adopted in November 1994 by SPLM/A-United faction led by Riek Machar
SSLM	Southern Sudan Liberation Movement
SUNA	Sudan United News Agency
TMC	Transitional Military Council
UNAMID	African Union–United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMIS	United Nations Mission in Sudan: UN peacekeeping mission for CPA
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USAP	Union of Sudan African Parties
WFP	World Food Programme

SELECTED CHRONOLOGY

- 1955 Army mutiny in south: **start of conflict leading to first civil war**
- 1956 Sudan's independence: coalition government under Umma prime minister, Abdullah Khalil
- 1958 First military take-over: General Abboud takes power
- 1959 Nile Water Agreement signed with Egypt
- 1962 Formation of southern rebel guerrilla movement, the Anyanya
- 1964 'October Revolution' overthrows Abboud: establishment of national and then multiparty government
- 1969 Second military take-over, the 'May Revolution': Ja'far Nimeiri takes power
- 1970 Ansar revolt crushed
- 1971 Communist-backed coup attempt
- 1972 **Addis Ababa Agreement** between government and Southern Sudan Liberation Movement ends first civil war
- 1975 Coup attempt
- 1976 Coup attempt; joint defence agreement signed with Egypt
- 1977 'National reconciliation' between Nimeiri and northern opposition. Oil discovered at Bentiu, in south, by Chevron
- May 1983 Army mutinies and withdrawal of units at Bor, Pibor and Pochalla into the bush and to Ethiopia: **start of second civil war**
- September 1983 'September laws': Nimeiri introduces *sharia*
- April 1984 Nimeiri declares a state of emergency
- April 1985 Overthrow of Nimeiri: Transitional Military Council

- established, led by General Sawar al-Dhahab
- March 1986 SPLM and Umma Party issue Koka Dam declaration
- March 1986 Combined Agencies Relief Team set up in Juba
General elections: Sadiq al-Mahdi becomes prime minister of Umma coalition government with DUP and later NIF
- April 1986 General elections: Sadiq al-Mahdi becomes prime minister of Umma coalition government with DUP and later NIF
- November 1988 DUP-SPLM accord
- April 1989 **Operation Lifeline Sudan launched**
- June 1989 Third military take-over: Lieutenant Colonel (later General) Omar al-Bashir takes power
- October 1989 First operation of OLS (OLS I) terminated by Bashir
- November 1989 **Carter peace initiative**
- April 1990 OLS resumes (OLS II)
- May 1991 Fall of Mengistu in Ethiopia leads to SPLM/A loss of bases in Ethiopia
- August 1991 Attempted internal coup against John Garang leads to splintering of SPLM/A and breakaway of factions
- May-June 1992 **First Abuja peace conference**
- April-May 1993 **Second Abuja peace conference**
- September 1993 **Launch of IGAD peace initiative**
- April 1996 SSIM and SPLM Bahr el-Ghazal faction sign 'political charter' with government
- April 1997 Government, SPLM/A breakaway factions and other minor southern groups sign **Khartoum Peace Agreement**
- September 1997 SPLM/A-United faction of Lam Akol signs **Fashoda Agreement** with government
- February 1999 Launch of **Egyptian-Libyan peace initiative**
- September 2001 John Danforth appointed US presidential envoy for promoting peace in Sudan
- January 2002 Government and SPLA sign **Nuba Mountains ceasefire agreement** in Switzerland
- July 2002 Government and SPLM/A sign **Machakos Protocol** in Kenya, as result of peace talks under auspices of IGAD, observed by troika (Britain, Norway and

- USA)
- 2002–2004 Government–SPLM/A peace talks continue in Kenya, producing four further protocols. Separate government–NDA talks are held in Egypt and government–opposition talks in Khartoum
- March 2003 Escalation of conflict in Darfur: JEM and SLM/A declare themselves; fighting and displacement escalate rapidly
- April 2004 Government, JEM and SLM/A sign **Darfur ‘humanitarian ceasefire’ agreement** at peace talks in N’djamena, Chad
- May 2004 Government and SPLM/A agree protocol on power sharing at peace talks in Naivasha, Kenya
- July 2004 African Union peacekeeping mission in Sudan, **AMIS**, deploys to Darfur
- November 2004 UN Security Council meets in Nairobi and sets end-of-year deadline for final agreement
- 31 December 2004 Government and SPLM/A finalise **Comprehensive Peace Agreement** (CPA) in Naivasha
- 9 January 2005 Government and SPLM/A formally sign CPA in Nairobi; conflict in Darfur and other parts of Sudan continues
- February 2005 Beja Congress and Rashaida Free Lions announce formation of the Eastern Front
- July 2005 Formation of Government of National Unity and Government of Southern Sudan; death of John Garang
- May 2006 Government and faction of SLM/A sign **Darfur Peace Agreement** (DPA) in Abuja, Nigeria
- October 2006 Government and Eastern Front sign **Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement** (ESPA) in Asmara, Eritrea
- October 2007 Unsuccessful peace talks for Darfur convened in Sirte, Libya
- January 2008 AU/UN hybrid peacekeeping operation, **UNAMID**, replaces AMIS in Darfur
- May 2008 JEM attack on Khartoum is repelled in Omdurman
- July 2008 International Criminal Court prosecutor requests arrest warrant for President Bashir
- February 2009 Government and JEM sign goodwill agreement at talks in Doha, Qatar

March 2009

ICC issues arrest warrant for President Bashir

April 2010

General elections held, one year later than scheduled by CPA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In a way, the seed of curiosity which led to this book was sown in the early 1980s when, as a child at school, I first heard of famines and humanitarian crises in the Horn of Africa. For the opportunity that then first developed this curiosity, my thanks go therefore to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, which awarded me the travelling fellowship that first took me to Sudan in 1995 and that gave me the freedom to explore the country in a manner that has been of lasting value. For the subsequent opportunities for academic study, and for their support for the original research which underlies this book, my thanks go to the Middle East Centre and the Department of Politics and International Relations at Oxford University, and to the Economic and Social Research Council (UK). In Oxford, I would especially like to thank Ahmed al-Shahi. My thanks go also to Peter Woodward, to those who have made comments on seminars and presentations I have given, and to the editors of my various writings on Sudan.

In Sudan I am grateful to the United Nations Development Programme for the opportunities that working with it has given me since I first worked for it in 2002. More broadly, though, I would like to thank the many people in Sudan and elsewhere – Sudanese and non-Sudanese – who have been helpful to me during and since the research on which this book is based. Many people in academia, aid, business, politics and other fields were generous with their time, assistance and hospitality, some especially so. Such kindness is common in Sudan, even in trying circumstances, but I am no less grateful for it. Lastly, for their help and patience in bringing this book about, I am very grateful to Mette Louise Berg, Peter Oliver and Catherine Robinson, and to Joanna Godfrey and Maria Marsh at I.B.Tauris. As always, responsibility for the content and any errors lies solely with the author.