

FORUM:	United Nations Development Programme
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Introduction

On July 9th, 2011, the Republic of South Sudan obtained independence from the Republic of Sudan after numerous civil wars and domestic conflicts. South Sudan soon joined the United Nations as the 193rd country in the world. The Republic of Sudan immediately acknowledged the South Sudan government, and, celebrating the country's independence, the President of Sudan Omar al-Bashir attended the country's Independence Day celebration. However, long before Sudan could recover from the scars from its wars, tensions continued to breed as more conflicts were on the brink of explosion.

Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit, after succeeding President John Garang, became the president of South Sudan. Although he amended the constitution and strengthened his authority over all branches of government, Kiir eventually made himself a dictator. A civil war broke out between the advocators of President Kiir and those of Vice President Riek Machar, who was a part of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-opposition (SPLM-IO) and demanded democratization. As a result of South Sudan's political, socioeconomic, developmental, and humanitarian crises, over 3.5 million refugees lost their homes and were forced to escape from South Sudan. Despite that the war had ended, its aftermath is still in effect: politics and society in South Sudan is unstable; socioeconomic infrastructures are destroyed; and humanitarian aids are of dire need. South Sudan desperately needs help from the global society to sustain its reestablishment of political, social, and economic stability.



South Sudan obtained independence on July 9th, 2011, yet the politics and society are still unstable

Key Terms

Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)

The major political party in the National Legislative Assembly of the Republic of South Sudan. It was formerly known as the Sudan People's Liberation Army. It is a governmental party of South Sudan, and President Kiir is member and leader of this party. After the civil war, the party has been divided in two groups: SPLM-Juba, led by Kiir, and SPLM-IO, led by Machar.

Salva Kiir Mayardit

The incumbent president of the Republic of South Sudan. He was formerly the leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. He was the first vice president of South Sudan, but after the death of President Garang, Kiir succeeded his presidency. Afterwards, Kiir amended the constitution and strengthened his personal power in the government.



Salva Kiir Mayardit, current president of South Sudan

South Sudan Democratic Movement (SSDM)

The largest opposing military group, joint with SPLM-IO, in the Republic of South Sudan. SSDM rebelled against President Kiir's despotic movements and ethnical favoritism. The leader of SSDM, George Athor, is committed to cooperating with the former Vice President Riek Machar of SPLM-IO.

Dinka (Tribe)

Major tribe in South Sudan. The majority of the political leaders of South Sudan are from this ethnical group – this includes Salva Kiir Mayardit, John Garang, and Dominic Dim Deng.

Nuer (Tribe)

Second largest tribal group in South Sudan. Most of the Nuer people are concentrated in the Eastern and Southern regions of South Sudan. The Nuer people has long been suppressed by Dinka people both politically and socially. Nuer White Army against President Kiir joined the rebellion led by Vice President Machar.

History*First Sudanese Civil War*

After its independence from Great Britain, Sudan bred internal conflicts between the Islamic North and the Christian South. As the first anniversary of the independence came, the tension between the

North and the South escalated, and in August, 1955, South Sudanese people from Equatoria rebelled against the central government of the Islamic North: this signaled the beginning of the First Sudan Civil War. Calling themselves “Anyanya,” or the poison of viper, people from Equatoria attacked governmental buildings and police stations, dominating the Upper Nile region and the Bahr al-Ghazal territory. However, the critical internal ethical issues among themselves significantly weakened the power of the Anyanya. Even with the apparent weakness of the Anyanya, the government forces could not take advantage and failed to quell the rebellion. In the meantime, a coup d’état occurred against Prime Minister Ismail al-Azhari. And the leader of the coup Ibrahim Abboud became the new ruler of Sudan. He sought to reunify Sudan through negotiation with the South, but his rigid Islamic rule exacerbated the situation. Abboud launched Islamic laws and bills in the Parliament and established the National Holidays exclusive to the Muslims. The central government levied taxes in South Sudan, but the money accumulated was not invested in the national budget in the South. Further, Christian missionaries in the South were expelled as mosques were erected. In response, the Christian Southerners killed the people from the North and Arabic people in the South, prompting the Northerners to attack the major cities in the South. In 1969, Gaafar Muhammad Numeiry seized the government through a military coup under the socialist movement. Although he established a one-party dictatorship, he acknowledged the autonomy of the South Sudan. In the early 1970s, Numeiry suggest the South to invest in South Sudan and to grant more autonomy, further inviting Southern guerillas to join the national army. However, due to long conflicts, the South ignored Numeiry’s suggestions, thus prompting the government forces to bombard Juba, a major city in the South. Further, Equatoria was isolated by land mines along all roads leading to the city. Against the government forces, Joseph Lagu, a former government force officer, established the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM), systemizing the rebellion force. In 1971, the Northern government and Southern rebellion force met in Addis Abba, Ethiopia, for peace negotiation. Eventually, the North granted complete autonomy to the South, and the South agreed to continue adopt the federal system with the North.



*The Second Sudanese Civil War (1983-2003)
involved many child soldiers*

Second Sudanese Civil War

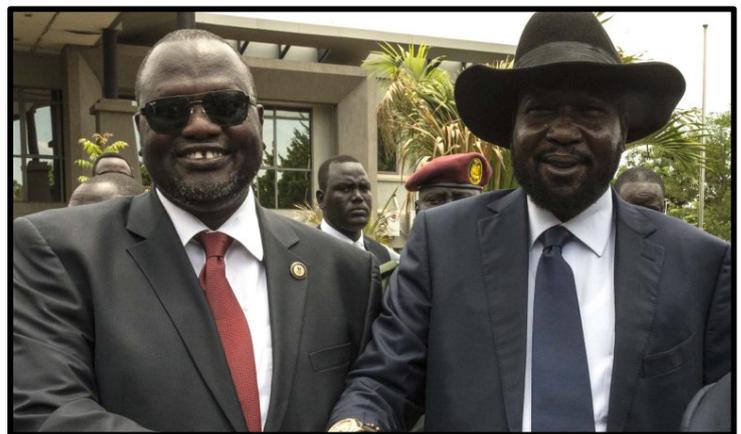
An additional phase of the war erupted in 1983. On April 23rd, 1983, President Numeiry proclaimed martial law and expanded the application of the Islamic Sharia Law to the entire country. All civil rights secured by the constitution were suspended. In the North, provisional courts were set up, and the strict Sharia Law was enacted, such as amputation for

larceny and whipping for possession of liquor. The Sharia Law was not only applied to the Northern Sudanese, but also to the South Sudanese in the North and non-Muslims. As a result, South Sudanese, who were long oppressed, organized the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM) under John Garang to rebel against the central government in the North. Despite President Numeiry's promises that he will end martial law and Islamic courts, South Sudanese and non-Muslim Sudanese observed in disbelief as new Islamic laws were passed in the Parliament. The war was, indeed, brutal. With the famine that stuck entire Sudan at that time, millions of refugees from southern and eastern Sudan stormed Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan. In 1985, the national movement against Numeiry regime rose in the entire country, and the Sudan Army seized control of the government, overthrowing the former government. The election was held, and new government was established, but SPLA claimed that the election did not represent the South. The physical conflict between SPLA and the new government intensified, and the government army bombarded the South. The consequences were disastrous: boys were forced to become child soldiers while girls were sold as sex slaves. The war lasted for twenty years, claiming the lives of 1-2 million civilians: most civilians died of starvation, drought, and air strikes. In 2003, the peace negotiation started, and Sudan central government agreed to sign a peace treaty that promised autonomous government in South Sudan and complete independence in 2011.

Establishment of South Sudan and Dictatorship of Kiir

In January, 2011, the referendum regarding the independence of South Sudan was held in South Sudan. With 97.6% of the turnout and 98.8% in favor of South Sudan's "separation", the official independence of South Sudan was declared.

South Sudan joined the United Nations as the 193rd member, and the Republic of Sudan immediately acknowledged the South Sudan government. Even the President of Sudan Omar al-Bashir attended this Independence Day celebration to indicate the official end of animosity between two regions. The former SPLA leader Salva Kiir Mayardit of Dinka became the president of South Sudan, and Riek



President Kiir (right) and Vice President Machar (Left)

Machar of Nuer assumed the vice president position. However, the dictatorship of Kiir started immediately after he was inaugurated as president. President Kiir amended the constitution in order to strengthen his power and to seize economic power from the oil field. In 2013, he dismissed his cabinet, including Vice President Machar. Dissenting against the dictatorship of President Kiir, the former Vice President Machar ran as the National SPLM Convention for the SPLM's candidate for the next election.

In the National Liberation Council in Juba in December, 2013, the conflict between Kiir and Machar broke out, resulting in the deaths of 26 people. The civil war between supporters of Kiir, mainly Dinka, and supporters of Machar, mainly Nuer, broke out.

South Sudan Civil War

As the political and ethnical conflicts between the Kiir and Machar, and the Dinka and Nuer, intensified, the South Sudan Civil War finally erupted. The conflict intensified on a massive scale, expanding its damage directly to the civilians as well; the Dinka and the Nuer slaughtered each other. In Juba, Kiir's government forces made domiciliary searches without warrant and due process; they killed numbers of Nuer males and raped Nuer females; they arrested 250 Nuer males to the police station and executed them without a trial. Moreover, since the conflict area is an oil region, the war was intensified by both sides – the government sought to protect the region while the insurgents battled for control over the region. On December 31st, 2013, a peace treaty was concluded between two troops under the observation of the Intergovernment Authority on Development (IGAD) in Addis Ababa. Despite the peace treaty, the conflict did not come to an end for it was soon broken. Since then, more than eight peace treaties were concluded, but all failed to bring the war to its end. The war is still continuing, creating thousands of refugees and deaths each year with various humanitarian crises.

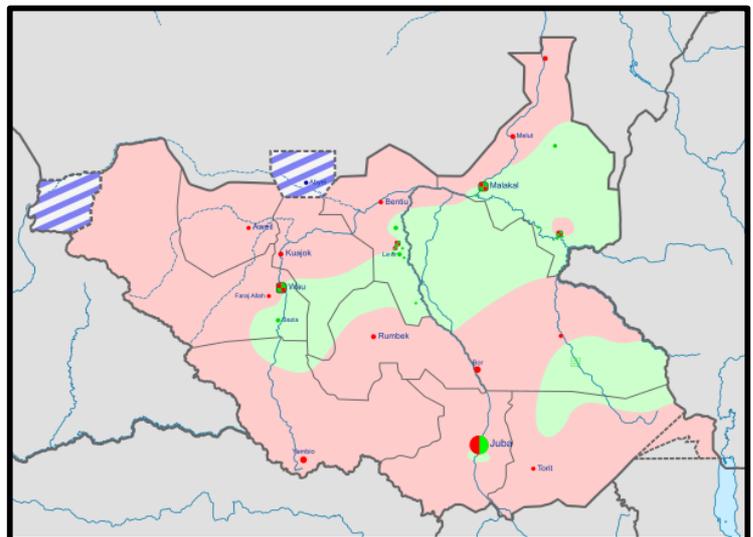
Problems Raised

Dictatorship and Political Instability

Since the independence of South Sudan, dictatorship and political instability have been the fundamental issues contributing to the humanitarian crises in the country. President Kiir's amendment of the constitution strengthened his personal power and enhanced his economic control of oil. At

the same time, his actions brought many dissidents. His dissidents, including his comrades in SPLM and other military

groups longing for democratization, planned against him. President Kiir suspended the SPLM national convention for the next election, and, in order to, cut his potential political opponents, he dismissed his cabinet and Vice President Machar. The national election that was scheduled in 2015 was suspended and



*Pink: area under Dinka following Kiir
Green: area under Nuer following Machar
Blue and White: disputed area*

currently in retardation. Political branches during the South Sudan Civil War did not execute properly. The administrative system has collapsed since the war between parties of the president and that of the vice president. With the absence of a governmental power, the public safety system is nearly non-existent in most of South Sudan. Furthermore, the parliamentary system is not properly operating now. Though the peace treaty of 2015 allowed South Sudan to form a new parliament, the Transitional National Legislative Assembly established as lower chamber and the Council of States as upper chamber, the parliament expedites the proceedings without the presence of SPLM-IO, and, with the dominion of SPLM-Juba, the parliamentary system is becoming more like a collective leadership system. With a weak central government, military coups are rising often against the Kiir administration. Yet, President Kiir is still incumbent with concentrated power, and despite the efforts to building a coalition government, due to long political conflicts and other factors, the political instability is still continuing.

Poverty

Maldistribution of wealth and sole economic dependency on oil coupled with natural disasters caused millions of deaths and refugees in South Sudan. As the power morphed into one single, political entity,

corruption prevailed. Although 98% of national budget is accumulated

through exporting oil, the profits from sales of oil are unequally distributed among its citizens; the Gini coefficient – which is an indicator of income inequality ranging from 0 to 100 where 0 means total equality of income and 100 means total inequality of income – of South Sudan is 46.34 out of 100, indicating high income inequality in the society. Even with the prolonged civil wars, the elite class members and military factions of the country are getting wealthier as they embezzle the large sum of money from the sales of oil. With the maldistribution of wealth and the lack of social welfare, the country forced its own civilians into great sufferings. On top of that, the famine and drought that struck in 2012 exacerbated the poverty issue in South Sudan. South Sudan's GDP contracted by 6.3% while poverty rate increased by 65.9%; the unemployment rate reached 12%, which is an indication of severe economic hardship. With a dearth of food and polarized distribution of wealth, poverty in the country intensifies at an unprecedented rate.

Domestic Conflicts



Economic issue is a severe problem in South Sudan

In addition to the political and economic problems in South Sudan, other factors contributing to the country's instability include ethnical and religious problems. The main ethnical conflict in South Sudan is the conflict between the Dinka and Nuer. Tied with political conflicts, two ethnical groups are hostile to each other. Especially, conflicts among the nomadic tribes with large numbers of cattle are severe among all ethnical problems. Traditionally, cattle and goats are the main monetary sources of those tribes; thus, the area with water and grass is crucial place for their flourishing. The regional conflict between Dinka and Nuer broke out over the control of the White Nile River – 41 civilians died and entire villages around were attacked by rocket guns. Religious issues also play huge role in the social instability in South Sudan. Although 80% of population are Christian, each tribe perceives itself as a part of a different denomination of Christianity, such as Catholicism, Episcopal Church, and Protestantism. Linked with ethnical issues, internal conflicts exist even within similar tribal groups. The rest of the 20% of the population are Muslims and have strong ties with Sudan; they are usually oppressed by the Christian majority in South Sudan, and there are violent conflicts even among the Muslims as most of them are living in the borders of Sudan, which is the oil region. Tribal and religious conflicts are two of fundamental problems in South Sudan currently.

International Actions

United Nations Peacekeeper

Since 2011, the United Nations organized and dispatched the United Nations Missions in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) to South Sudan in order to stabilize and maintain the public security



*United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)
peacekeeping force protecting UN personnel*

in South Sudan. UNMISS consists of 13,500 members of ground force and police power. The main purpose of UNMISS is to protect the UN personnel and facilities in South Sudan and to protect its civilians from military conflicts. Not only does the UNMISS support peacekeeping, but it also aids state-building and the economic development of South Sudan. Including engineering battalion in the army, UNMISS exists to foster both economic basement,

such as construction of paved roads and water supply facilities, and development of its capacity to offer and enhance public security, to settle the base for rule of law and governance, and to rebuild judiciary and administrative system. However, public opinions regarding UNMISS are divided as many people begin to

perceive UNMISS as an organization is no longer helpful, despite its operating in its full capacity, due to ethical and other concerns. Today, the locale's support for the withdrawal of UNMISS is still evident.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been supporting South Sudan in order to mitigate its humanitarian crises. UNICEF has sent its personnel to South Sudan since 2011, immediately after the country gained its complete autonomy. UNICEF has supported vaccines for various diseases, water supply facilities, mosquito net to prevent malaria, and remedial meal for malnutrition. In addition, by cooperating with UNMISS, UNICEF is focusing on education of children in South Sudan – for example, it has rescued 250 children, who were captured by armed insurgent, Cobra, and provided them medical services and psychiatric treatment with full nutrition; it also provided them primary education and made them literate. Currently, UNICEF is operating more than 650 medical offices as a means to provide humanitarian support to the people in need in South Sudan.

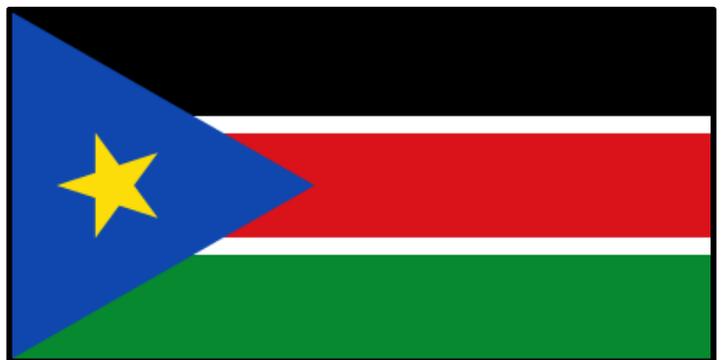
Intergovernment Authority on Development (IGAD)

Intergovernment Authority on Development (IGAD) plays major role since the establishment of South Sudan. IGAD mediated the peace treaty between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan in order for the independence of the Republic of South Sudan to become a reality. IGAD had mediated other peace treaties even after the independence to end the civil wars in South Sudan. On May 9th, 2014, IGAD and Secretary of States of the United States of America, John Kerry, urged the South Sudan government to form a coalition government between Kiir and Machar. This treaty was successful for a year: Machar became the vice president, and coalition cabinet was formed.

Key Players

Sudan People's Liberation Movement

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement, formerly known as the Sudan People's Liberation Army, is a political party that is a major party in the Parliament of the Republic of South Sudan. Currently, the party is divided in two: SPLM-Juba, following the leadership of president Kiir, and SPLM-in opposition (SPLM-IO), led by the former Vice President Machar. As factious, violent movements between two cliques of the party have been intensified, the political instability continues to be an ongoing problem, yet the democratic society is



Party Flag of Sudan People's Liberation Movement

enfeebling and collapsing in South Sudan. Not only contributing to political instability, but the feud between the two parties also caused numbers of humanitarian crises from ethnical conflicts to unilateral genocide of each other. In order to successfully stabilize the current situation of South Sudan, the SPLM's stabilization has to be taken first.

Republic of Sudan

Even though it has been four years since its independence, the dispute between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan did not end. The bordering area between two countries is its oil region. 98% of national budget for South Sudan is from this region, and 90% of Sudan's GDP stems from here. The oil region is crucial for both countries' economy, so the dispute over the region is still a continuing issue. With political and ethnical problems, some oil plants are abandoned and or not fully operating. Republic of Sudan also plays huge role because 100% of oil drilled in South Sudan goes to the harbor in Sudan via the oil pipelines. Conflict with Sudan is critical to South Sudanese economy since it intensifies the domestic conflicts in South Sudan and national economic threat with the potential possibility that Sudan might obstruct or destroy the pipeline.

People's Republic of China

Importing oil from the Sudanese region (both Sudan and South Sudan) for 5% of its national consumption of oil, the People's Republic of China plays major role in building a sustainable economic development in South Sudan. With the absence of socioeconomic infrastructures, South Sudan acutely require foreign investment. China has decided to support to build a direct oil pipeline from oil region in South Sudan to the port in Sudan. China has also made pact with South Sudan to aid humanitarian support for the sustainable economic development; thus, China already invested oil refinery and petroleum infrastructures in both Sudan and South Sudan.

Possible Solutions

Implementation of the Rule of Law and Representative Democracy for National Reconciliation

Some of the most crucial problems of South Sudan are political instability and ethnical, religious conflicts. These problems may be solved through the effective implementation of the rule of law and representative democracy. Democracy is founded on



Implementation of democracy is urgently needed in South Sudan to prevent further conflicts

political, social, and cultural pluralism. In a proper democratic society, differences among people should be acknowledged, and most of choices that society makes should follow majority's will while considering minority's opinion. Since South Sudan is divided, owing to many conflicts, such as ethnical and religious problems, appropriate measures to implement democracy through representative democracy will both bring political stability and alleviate ethnical, religious conflicts. Advising and supervising elections and protecting parliamentary system may provide answers to the current situation of South Sudan. In addition to implementation of democracy, the execution of rule of law – that is, the principle that all people and institutions are subject to and accountable to the law that is fairly applied and enforced – is also momentous in South Sudan. After he continued civil war, both administrative and judiciary system in South Sudan nearly collapsed. Genocide and arbitrary trials are prevailing throughout the country; in macroscopic view, the constitution is easily amended and power of the president is arbitrarily enlarged. Successful implementation of rule of law and governance will halt the vicious cycle of corruption and lawlessness and further bring South Sudan to national reconciliation.

Diversification of Economy and Recovery of Economic Infrastructure

Due to the continued civil wars and domestic conflicts, there is no proper socioeconomic infrastructures or industries in South Sudan. The only available industry is a petroleum industry, but most of them are not fully operating, or even abandoned. In South Sudan, there are many other natural resources, such as agricultural fields and minerals. In order to break through the country's sole reliance on oil, diversification of the economy is needed. With the diversified economy, South Sudan may enjoy the development of society and increase in GDP along with an increase in the employment rate. South Sudan will have a sustainable economy as long-term productive industries, such as service industry or manufacturing industry, will likely become major contributors in South Sudan. In this shift of economy, it is important for South Sudanese government to manage its national budget as priming of its economy. However, in order to develop natural resources, foreign capital and technological investment are also critical, through it may also be considered as almost infeasible due to each tribe's claim of the right of priority currently. Therefore, proper measures to tackle this problem is very essential for economic stability and development for South Sudan. Not only do tribal conflicts halt the economic stagnation, but the lack of economic infrastructures also ceases the economic development. Owing to continued wars and conflicts, current South Sudanese socioeconomic infrastructures are equivalent to those of colonial South Sudan. Without economic infrastructures, such as electricity and water supply facilities, the successful economic development of the country is nearly impossible. For the sustainable development of South Sudan, both economic diversification and reconstruction of economic infrastructure are momentous.

Timeline

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1894	British Colonization
1953	Independence from Great Britain
1955-1973	First Sudan Civil War
1969	Numeiry becomes the president
1983-2003	Second Sudan Civil War
1989	Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir becomes the president
1991	President al-Bashir promises federal system
2011	President Salva Kiir Mayardit becomes the first president of South Sudan
2013-	South Sudanese Civil War
2014	Peace Treaty under supervision of Intergovernment Authority on Development

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