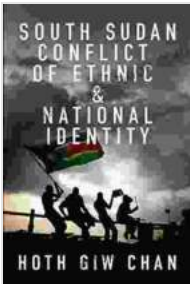


# The South Sudan Conflict: A Complex Saga of Ethnic National Identity



## South Sudan Conflict of Ethnic & National Identity

by Khalil Bendib

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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## Historical Context

The roots of the South Sudan conflict lie in the historical tensions between the north and south, with the former dominated by Arab-Muslim groups and the latter by Christian and animist communities. During the First Sudanese Civil War (1955-1972), the south fought for autonomy, culminating in the Addis Ababa Accords which granted the region limited self-governance.

However, the accords failed to address the underlying ethnic and cultural differences between north and south, leading to the Second Sudanese Civil War (1983-2005). This conflict was marked by severe human rights abuses, including mass killings and displacement.

## Cultural Factors

The conflict is deeply intertwined with the ethnic and cultural diversity of South Sudan. The two largest ethnic groups, the Dinka and the Nuer, have historically competed for access to resources and political power. Traditional beliefs and practices, such as cattle raiding and inter-ethnic marriages, further contribute to tensions.

### **Socio-Economic Disparities**

Socio-economic disparities have also played a significant role in fueling the conflict. The north has historically favored economically, leading to a sense of marginalization and resentment in the south. The lack of equitable distribution of resources has created a fertile ground for grievances and conflicts.

### **Political Power Struggles**

Political power struggles and ambitions have exacerbated the conflict. After the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005, which ended the Second Sudanese Civil War, a power-sharing government was formed between the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in the north and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the south.

However, tensions escalated within the NCP and the SPLM, leading to a split within the latter in 2013. This political crisis, coupled with allegations of corruption and human rights abuses, contributed to the outbreak of the current civil war.

### **International Intervention**

The South Sudan conflict has attracted significant international attention and intervention. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

has been deployed since 2011 to protect civilians and support peace efforts.

Regional and international powers, including the United States, the European Union, and the African Union, have also played a role in mediating peace talks and providing humanitarian assistance.

## **Peace Negotiations**

Numerous peace agreements have been signed since the outbreak of the civil war, but implementation has proven challenging. The most significant agreement, the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), was signed in 2018.

The R-ARCSS aimed to address the root causes of the conflict, including governance, security, and economic development. However, progress has been slow, hampered by political and security challenges.

The South Sudan conflict is a complex issue with deep historical, cultural, socio-economic, and political roots. Addressing the underlying grievances and fostering reconciliation among the different ethnic groups is crucial for lasting peace and stability in the region.

International support and cooperation, along with sustained efforts to promote good governance, economic development, and respect for human rights, are essential to achieve a just and peaceful resolution.

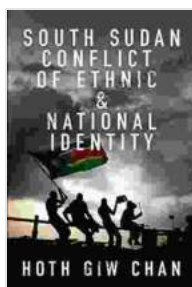
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