

Political Transformations in Africa: The Sudanese Case and Human Security Implications

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Abstract ;

Political transformations redefine political systems, affecting power distribution in societies. Sudan illustrates the complexities of political change in Africa, showing how power dynamics reshape national and continental political orders. The examination of Sudanese political shifts reveals broader governance issues. Politics is pivotal in shaping social, economic, and security agendas, influenced by these very issues. This interplay is crucial for societies facing conflict or governance shifts, common in many African nations. Sudan's situation highlights broader continental changes, influenced by its geopolitical context and historical identity challenges.

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1. Introduction

The Political transformation significantly impacts population security, as observed in Sudan. Its transitions, from revolution to civil war or dictatorship to democracy, reveal broader human security implications in Africa. Sudan remains influential regionally, and further political changes, particularly if conflict arises, could drastically affect the continent's population. Sudan illustrates a complex case of political transformation and its deep human security repercussions. The country's history is shaped by colonial legacies and influences African political evolution. Its ongoing political economy and security concerns put considerable stress on citizens, leading to precarious conditions. Since gaining independence in 1956, Sudan has rarely allowed full participation from its populace. Various actors from different regions have been engaged in a persistent struggle to maintain or challenge the status quo through successive political periods. Human security becomes critically significant when the majority is marginalized from governance, undermining individual rights and destabilizing the societal fabric, further complicating peace, stability, and development in Sudan.

Research problem : How do political transformations in Sudan impact human security, and what are the key challenges to achieving stability and development amid these ongoing political changes?

2. Historical Context of Sudan

Sudan's colonial past has shaped its political landscape even as political transformation offers prospects for human security. The republic attained independence in 1956, remaining Africa's largest state until the south's secession in 2011 (Majak, 1995, p.39). Grounded in a political marketplace framework, the Sudanese economy features a large industrial base, geographic proximity to Yemen, and significant human capital resources. The economy nevertheless faces ongoing challenges, with political transformation complicated by geopolitical and economic rivalries. Persistent tensions between northern and southern elites reflect competition for renewed mobilization potential. National and international stakeholders have called for decisive political transformations to accelerate structural reforms and ease an emerging humanitarian crisis.

2.1 Colonial Legacy

The Sudanese political legacy is inseparable from the country's colonial history. After two joint decades under the Anglo-Egyptian condominium until 1956, the British government left "most of it to underdeveloped Southern 'contrapuntal'" (Majak, 1995, p. 40) entities vying for dominance,

while the consequent power vacuum attracted international interference and Islamist incursions. Karful was able to found the party that dominated Northern Sudanese politics from the 1940s onward, capitalising on widespread protests against the condominium and the British Southern policy in the early 1940s. Meanwhile, an alliance of members of the fur, madain, and zaghawa tribes seized control of Darfur and established a de facto independence, only reintegrated after US diplomatic intervention. Despite regaining nominal control over the region, British colonial policies further destabilised Sudan by effectively supporting the development of Arab-Islamist forces. The modern history of southern Sudan is a story of “continuing internal and external struggle.” Inhabited by a multitude of communities governed predominantly by traditional leaders, it was one of the last places in the world the British entrusted to its local inhabitants’ control under a plan of segregative self-determination (A. Lobban, 1978, pp.19-20).

2.2 Post-Independence Developments

Sudan gained independence in January 1956. Just before independence, the southern regions erupted in armed revolt, fueled by longstanding suspicions between the north and south; southerners feared northern domination and continued neglect of their underdevelopment. The insurrection rapidly spread throughout the south, and although many northerners were killed, brutal repression eventually quelled the armed movement (Mihatsch, 2023, p.568).

The self-determination period lasted only two years, as the parliamentary government was overthrown by General Abboud, a pro-Western army officer. Southern leaders concluded that only a protracted guerrilla struggle would secure autonomy, and in the early 1960s they established the Sudanese African National Union (SAND). Under Abboud’s regime, military activity in the south intensified, and northern troops’ excesses went largely unchecked, exacerbating tensions. In 1964, students and teachers openly debated the crisis; these discussions sparked violent demonstrations that culminated in the overthrow of the military government and restoration of parliamentary rule. Shortly thereafter, SAND expressed a desire to return to the political process (A. Lobban, 1978).

3. Political Landscape and Human Security in Sudan

The Sudanese transition over the past decade highlights the salience and complexity of human security for all at risk, amid the broader political transformations in Africa. Understanding the country’s position in regional and global power dynamics also sheds light on the factors shaping political transitions and their human security repercussions. Sudan’s toppling of an authoritarian ruler represented a significant political transformation with extraordinary human security

consequences, including opportunities for reform and continued violence (Hassan et al.2022, pp.254-255).

Sudanese politics, comprising governance, contention for the state, violent conflicts, and societal rearrangements, are diverse in many dimensions: chronologies of political changes, territorial expanse, and historical endowments. Generally, one can discern some main political phases that shaped Sudanese politics. The present political transformations fit into this longer-term view on Sudanese mal-governance that the paper ultimately wants to debate. Yet in the last century, the close neighbors intervened during colonial times. Political control is central to understanding governance in the first component of the Khartoum regimes' governance during the first part of the time period under study. It was inherited independence in 1956. Under the rule of Ibrahim Abboud and General Gaafar Numeiri, politico-military autocrats were in power for nearly 40 years. Emerging from regions on the fringes of the Nile Valley, this military pluralist social base is historically oriented towards trades and to the liberal-democratic politics of the Nile Valley. Abboud's military coup in 1958 appointed the military to power, and three years later called into being a transitional governance system, which further resulted in some political pluralism. In 1969, Numeiri became the military general commander. (Roknia, 2025, pp. 563-564).

Sudan's colonial legacy and post-independence governance have shaped the political evolution of the country. After gaining independence in 1956, Sudan experienced the unification and separation of the southern region in 1956 and 2011. Political transitions from colonization to democracy or authoritarianism in Africa typically entail shifting political roles for elites, opposition, military actors, and civil society (Fonkeng, 2021).

Several political actors and movements played prominent roles during Sudan's transitional period. The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) emerged as the most potent security actor in 2018–19, assuming many military responsibilities previously held by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) (De Waal, 2019). Sudan's political marketplace extended across borders into Chad, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, while regional powers—including Egypt, Libya, and South Sudan—influenced domestic affairs. The Arab Spring elevated Sudan's strategic importance to Middle Eastern countries; Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have provided substantial political funding to General Hemedti since 2019, complemented by Qatar and Turkey's political sponsorship and soft power. Military and intelligence cooperation with Egypt further underscored regional ties. Sudan maintains a close relationship with Chad involving joint enterprises and smuggling networks and plays a significant role in South Sudanese politics, particularly following Juba's financial

collapse; during the 2018 peace process, Sudan served as a sponsor for various South Sudanese factions.

The conceptual challenge in defining “democratic transition” has prompted alternative terms like “political transformation” to capture profound power shifts. Moving beyond regime or government change, political transformation occurs when the ruling elite are displaced, and the new leadership loses the same personal power structures they replaced.

3.1. Key Political Actors

The principal political actors shaping Sudan’s evolving order during 2018–19 comprised the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the political opposition, and the Transitional Military Council under General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan (De Waal, 2019, pp.4-7). From 2018 the RSF emerged as the most potent security actor because of its military effectiveness, central presence in Khartoum, and the extensive political budget controlled by its leader, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (“Hemedti”); it assumed most of the military functions formerly exercised by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). The Sudanese political marketplace extended extensively beyond the national territory and relied on multiple regional– and extra-regional actors for support. In 2012–13 Sudanese factions were active in Chad, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Eritrea; in 2014–15 the desertion of former RSF leader Musa Hilal and his subsequent hostility towards the state occasioned incursions from Chad, Libya, Uganda, and South Sudan; and in 2017–18 the main armed groups opposed to the regime were operating from Libya. After the independence of South Sudan the Sudanese government became a more active player in Middle Eastern politics, leveraging its key regional position in the wake of the Arab Spring to amplify its role in Libya, attract renewed Egyptian interest in the affairs of the Nile Valley, and manage critical security issues in the Red Sea corridor (Gizachew and Gashaw, 2025).

Since 2014 Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have offered financial patronage to ensure the loyalty of key political actors—especially since April 2019, when they declared firm support for General Hemedti. Qatar and Turkey provide political sponsorship and displays of soft power through their media outlets. Egypt has forged a close partnership with the military and intelligence agencies on Sudanese and Libyan affairs. Sudan preserves a strong relationship with Chad, to which it is linked by numerous joint enterprises, regional smuggling networks, and competing diplomatic openings. It remains a major player in South Sudanese politics, especially after the collapse of Juba’s financial support for armed groups; the 2018 peace agreement (R-ARCISS) in Juba was negotiated as a bargain primarily between Sudan and Uganda (Davidson, 2022, p.239).

3.2. Major Political Movements

Key political actors and major movements hold a commanding influence over Sudan's political trajectory. The National Congress Party (NCP), under the stewardship of President Omar al-Bashir, remains dominant, buttressed by a disciplined and effective security apparatus. In the converse direction, various opposition movements continue to challenge the NCP's preeminence. Since the latter part of the twentieth century, three major political movements have emerged: the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, and the Union of Sudan African Parties (Lykes Washburne, 2013, p.108). The NDA functions as a loose coalition of opposition groups grounded in the political left and ethnic minorities.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and Sudan People's Liberation Army, based in Southern Sudan, rejected the Khartoum government's authority over the south and remain the primary armed opposition to the central regime (A. Olasupo & Benjamin Adekunle, 2017, pp.17-18). The Union of Sudan African Parties constitutes a third key faction active in the south.

3.3. Conceptual Framework of Human Security

"Human security" refers to a comprehensive approach that prioritizes the well-being of individuals and communities, including access to a healthy environment, economic resources, quality education, human rights, and social justice. This concept is crucial for analyzing conflicts as it highlights systemic challenges, such as the frequent occurrence of wars even amidst economic growth—often resulting from overlooked human security deficiencies like unemployment and poverty. Threats to human security are interconnected and can propagate across borders, potentially leading to widespread regional instability if unaddressed (A. Aduloju & O. Pratt, 2014, p.48).

The human security concept is multidimensional and premises that maintain peace with a quality of life, with freedom from fear and deprivation. Our analysis helps us differentiate between human security and hard-core traditional security. In the realm of peace, the origin of distinction is based on the scope of peace. Hard-core traditional security is for state security, which aims at promoting external threats of national interest from declaring war. Human security, in contrast, is the interest of the people. It promotes the security of individuals and communities rather than countries (Rknia, 2025, p.348).

The African Union (AU), established in 2001, embodies the continent's commitment to regional cooperation and collective security. Comprising 55 member states, the AU actively addresses

transnational issues ranging from peacekeeping and refugee protection to responses to natural disasters and pandemics. Its Peace and Security Council functions as a preventive mechanism, enabling the deployment of military observers and peacekeeping forces to help and protect populations at risk (Mendes Aguiar Santos, 2019). Such mechanisms are vital for supporting human security and responding to political changes effectively.

By integrating human security into the analysis, the study acknowledges the broader socio-political challenges experienced by populations and the regional implications that extend beyond immediate political transformations. This interdisciplinary framework enriches the investigation of Sudan's evolving political landscape.

3.4. Challenges to Human Security

Sudan's human security is severely threatened. The politically-motivated, system-wide transformation mainly affects the security dimensions of human life. The economy is in turmoil, and political uncertainty and instability add to a tense social atmosphere that particularly threatens the civilian population. Sudanese political actors need to formally end hostilities and establish a power-sharing agreement to ensure a peaceful environment for future political negotiations. At that point, the government should balance competing national identities fairly. In the meantime, external actors like IGAD have to strengthen coordination mechanisms to avoid gaps and overlaps, thus providing unambiguously focused support for a timely response and preventing further deterioration of human security (Ayodele Haruna, 2018, pp.101-103).

4. Case Studies of Human Security Issues

The political developments in Sudan have led to a variety of human security concerns. War has caused mass displacement within the country and to neighboring states, further compounding vulnerabilities emerging from long-standing economic and social challenges.

The security concerns of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda illustrate a range of human security risks linked to ethnic conflict-induced displacement. Although the study focuses specifically on physical security, it highlights the manifold dangers faced by displaced populations, including threats to life, protection from violence, and exposure to exploitation (Pommier, 2014, pp.34-39). The broader human security paradigm in Sudan and South Sudan encompasses these risks as well as challenges in economic, food, and health security. The decade-long civil war that culminated in South Sudan's independence in 2011 left unresolved ethnic hostilities. Political rivalry between President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar, representative of the Dinka and

Nuer communities respectively, threatens ongoing stability and poses fresh challenges for Uganda and other neighboring countries that receive refugee inflows.

The durability of conflict has also weakened the Sudanese economy and undermined access to social services. The resulting deficits in fundamental rights—poverty and unemployment, inadequate health and education—constrain the country's development and exacerbate underlying grievances (A. Aduloju & O. Pratt, 2014). These interrelated problems, which inflict many other African nations, erode public trust in government and intensify the risk of further violence and instability. Continued human insecurity is widely regarded as the greatest long-term threat to regional stability and economic growth; lingering institutional weaknesses severely limit the government's capacity to mitigate these vulnerabilities (Ayodele Haruna, 2018, p.98).

4.1. Conflict and Displacement

Research emphasizes the political transformation of the Sudanese political system and the effects on human security. Political transformation refers to the gradual transition of political systems from one structure to another or from one ideology to another after the establishment of new policies such as building new states. The study employs an interdisciplinary approach that combines political science with recent developments in the field of human security to examine the array of interconnected factors that influence the emergence of new political entities and their effects on human security in Africa (Maru, 2023, p.10).

South Sudan has been plagued by conflict since its independence, which was largely a consequence of Sudan's civil war that lasted from 1983 to 2005. The internal divisions within the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) led to an ethnic struggle among the people. The Dinka and the Nuer are the largest ethnic groups in South Sudan where the Dinka are perceived as the most dominant politically (Pommier, 2014). After South Sudan became a state, ethnic tensions and geopolitical rivalry developed within the movement. The conflict between Salva Kiir of the Dinka tribe and Riek Machar of the Nuer tribe serves as one of the most striking examples of political tribalism.

Sudan's colonial legacy continues to cast a long shadow over the country's politics. Since independence, the country has continued to experience political assassinations and power struggles among the elite, including several coup attempts. Internal conflicts persist among the ruling elite. Unlike the post-Napoleonic era in Europe, the transformation of the contemporary world system following the collapse of the Soviet Union has not resulted in significant change to the global structure. Contemporary transformations are characterized by the movement within the

structure, and local adaptation and innovation appear to be the most consistent drivers of change. Additionally, political transformation, as a subfield of political science, has barely emerged as an academic discipline and is typically considered a part of a larger system of change or transformation (Okafor et al.2024, p.47).

4.2. Health and Education

Conflict can drastically reduce access to health facilities and the provision of essential medical needs. During the civil wars in Sudan, the provision of health care services was among the first social services to be neglected and later severely destroyed in many parts of Sudan. As a result, most of the Sudanese were deprived of proper health care. The situation after the wars may be categorized as follows: immediately after the signing of the peace agreement in 2005 and prior to the independence of South Sudan in 2011, the abnormal movement of military troops and the high level of insecurity in the Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile, and Abyei regions led to the suspension of supply routes of food and medicine. Also, the movement of thousands of civilians after the wars resulted in a very poor distribution of population with many scarce major services, including health services (Jowan 2015).

Today, thousands of IDPs, especially in Juba City, are exposed to various diseases because of the lack of health facilities and support. The provision of these facilities requires enormous efforts through national and international funding. It cannot be covered by the government alone, which is in financial disaster because of the loss of its sources of income after separation (Elamin et al.2024, pp.2-4).

Education is an important indicator of the level of development of a country. It is the base for future stability and human development. As is the case with other social services, education is also highly affected by bad policies, wars, and instability. Because of poor educational policy during the last two decades of the 20th century, Sudan has witnessed the rapid decline of its educational system on both quantitative and qualitative levels. This has influenced the literacy level of most Sudanese. Illiteracy combined with poverty and lack of services provokes human insecurity and forces people to live below the poverty line, sometimes in less civilized conditions, with a disastrous impact on their social and political lives. Human security is a multifaceted concept. The idea of human security is founded on the principle that the main beneficiaries of development and peace are individual people. Hence, the state should work out measures that minimise threats and increase people's confidence and security to make them participate in development. (Yaylali,2023, p.26)

4.3. Economic Stability

Sudan's transition toward civil and democratic rule continues to enfeeble the economy, generating unprecedented challenges to the population's ability to fulfill basic needs. Civil war and political instability represent chief barriers to employment, imports, health care, education, and enrichment through agriculture (Setu Tafese Desta Tamrat Desta, 2015). Often unable to access sufficient basic necessities, many communities resort to premature migration while accruing financial indebtedness. Though major regional institutions and the international community remain actively engaged in supporting Sudan's political reforms, their response seldom reaches widespread services or infrastructure. Prospects for a sustained transition and improved economy thus demand not only progress in the political and security sectors, but also enhanced international cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

5. International Responses to Sudan's Political Changes

The role of the United Nations and regional organizations in addressing Sudan's political changes has been circumscribed. The UN Security Council has addressed the transition in Sudan, whose crises, such as the Darfur conflict, continue to threaten worryingly regional, national and human security (Endoh Fabrice, 2014). Efforts by the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have sought to manage the country's shrill political landscape, encompassing a political transformation, but isolation of neighbouring countries from the Sudanese political scene has undermined their effectiveness. By the late 2010s, therefore, South Sudanese and Sudanese political changes remained partly the preserve of domestic political currents, even in the face of regional destabilization—an assessment that draws attention to the links between political transformation and human security.

5.1. Role of the United Nations

The United Nations has assumed a central role in the international response to both the ongoing conflict in Darfur and the broader challenges posed by the Sudanese civil wars. The political developments in Sudan present a significant challenge to the Security Council, whose membership, composition, and methods of work have been under intense scrutiny; this challenge will be explored in the following analysis. Effective responses to the situation in the Sudan may rely on broader cooperation and harmonization in the region beyond Darfur itself, bringing new responsibilities to regional and subregional African organizations in the context of the African Union–United Nations relationship (Mendes Aguiar Santos, 2019).

The Security Council's operations in the region continue to be driven by nepotism, inequality, and self-interest, as reflected in the voting patterns of its resolutions. The veto power functions more as a liability than an asset, undermining the Council's authority. There is an urgent need to decentralize or eliminate the veto power and to restructure the Security Council so that it better represents all UN member states, particularly those in Africa whose voices currently go unheard (Endoh Fabrice, 2014).

5.2. Regional Organizations' Involvement

Within the framework of external actors, international and regional organizations have adopted various measures to promote human security in Sudan. The United Nations (UN) has employed different instruments to rebalance Sudan's international relations, including preventive diplomacy, mediation, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and the creation of humanitarian corridors (Biraaro, 2009). In addition, the UN has mandated that the Sudanese government implement the Nairobi Declaration and subsequent agreements on human rights, the rule of law, and private property rights, thereby aiming to safeguard human security.

Regional organizations also contribute to this endeavor. The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has initiated human security-related programs in the areas of food security, conflict prevention, youth and education, sustainable development, and the reinforcement of democratic cultural values. These initiatives utilize local expertise and involve cooperation with African Union (AU) member states to address the continent's specific human security challenges. Moreover, regional organizations such as the UN, UNESCO, and the AU have institutions devoted to promoting human security, and peacekeeping bodies like the East African Standby Brigade (EASBRIG) and the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) have contributed to continental peace and stability. These entities maintain peace and security through binding obligations under peacekeeping protocols and collaborate with member states to enforce conflict-resolution agreements. Consequently, regional organizations—whether at the African or sub-regional level—have significantly alleviated the burden of peacekeeping on the international community and played a part in reducing civil wars and genocides on the continent. For the African Economic Community to achieve meaningful integration, it must first attain and sustain the peace necessary to implement the Abuja Treaty provisions (Ani et al.2022, p.159).

6. Future Prospects for Sudan and Policy Recommendations

The path toward political stability and improved human security in Sudan is contingent upon the establishment of genuine civilian political authority. Protracted crises under the Transitional Military Council—illustrated by the April 2019 Khartoum massacre and a 2020-21 armed rebellion in Darfur—emphasize the inadequacy of military governance. Such facts indicate that competent military rule has become an impossibility; the only remedy lies in democratic civilian leadership. Achieving this objective necessitates not only Sudan's internal commitment but also robust external support from the United Nations, the African Union, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab League.

Insufficient attention has been paid in the international political arena to a timely transition to such civilian authority. The urgency for enhanced cooperation among international, regional, and sub-regional organizations has been repeatedly underlined by recent experience (De Waal, 2019). Zambia-China relations, while subject to significant challenges, continue to showcase admirable progress and growth, suggesting that derivation of foreign direct investment from countries like China is a plausible avenue for Africa's future development.

6.1. Political Stability

Sudan has experienced more sustained political stability than is widely appreciated, but many sources of contention remain unresolved (De Waal, 2019). The roots of this state can be traced to decolonisation and the emergence of national bourgeoisies. Instead of a period of national democratic revolution after the Second World War, political competition was played out between a range of national and regional interests, with long-term economic decline central to the instability. From the 1980s, civil war consumed much of Sudan, while at the same time relations between the regime and the political marketplace became increasingly dysfunctional. With the overthrow of President Nimeiri in 1985, short-lived attempts were made to address the political economy, but renewed civil war and economic crisis opened the political landscape to further marketisation of politics. The re-emergence of an Islamist current led to the coup by the Military Islamic Alliance (MIA), an alliance between the military and the National Islamic Front (NIF) led by Omar al-Bashir, in 1989 (Maher, 2023).

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Sudan was a patchwork of regional and ethnic languages without a common medium of communication, making the task of the colonial administration nearly impossible without an intermediary. The twentieth century was characterized by the emergence of the class relationship between commercial tribes and rural

peasants, the militarisation of politics, and the advice (or threat) of force to political actors as the principal contingency to settle disputes. By the end of the twentieth century, the growth of individual regional forces had coincided with military mobilisation and radical nationalism.

6.2. Human Security Improvements

The human security situation in Africa is rapidly changing, and the implications of these changes for the continent are discussed. Despite the inconclusive human security analysis of Africa's political transformation in general and of Sudan's political transformation in particular, there is an evident conceptual definition of the term "political transformation" and a tendency towards improvement in human security in many African countries. The Sudanese dramatic political change can therefore be seen as a prime example of the broader political transformations and dynamisms taking place across Africa (Kioko et al., 2016).

The implications of Sudan's contemporary politics for the ongoing discussion of human security in Africa are explored. The majority of studies on human security confirm what has long been established by scholarly and sector-specific accounts: profound evaluations are a prerequisite of subsequent responses. Proceeding from such consensus, the discussion is organized into several interrelated questions. How extensive is the deterioration of human security? What are the requirements if the situation is to be improved? What responses currently exist? Referring to African political transformation to overlap with chapters on political reform and economic reform, it is argued that the extent of decline varies in scope and degree, according to time, place and other circumstances, and that profound reassessments shape responses but have yet to be produced. cursory evaluations reveal three broad links between the determinants and consequences of political transformation in Africa (A. Aduloju & O. Pratt, 2014).

On one level, although none of the determinants is sufficient on its own to trigger or sustain transformation, several of them exacerbate the existing constraints upon human security. "Constraints" is used in the instrumental sense of a limitation or restriction upon political agencies. The determinants are themselves influenced by transformation and introduce new elements into the process.

6.3. Domestic Policy Changes

The Consolidation of Political Authority The decolonization of Africa occurred alongside the global tensions of the Cold War. A major research question of the field of comparative politics, therefore, is how African countries often bypassed the typical political model of Western development. Traditionally, economic development is expected to precede political development,

and “modern political institutions are expected to grow out of, and be inextricably related to, the development of commercial and industrial social and economic structures” (Lykes Washburne, 2013). The African experience, however, suggests that political development actually preceded economic development in many cases. At Independence, many African countries had “to create political institutions without the requisite societal and economic conditions that would normally produce such institutions...”.

More specifically, in theory, a legitimate political authority emerges when a system of governance “possesses the ability to adequately resolve, to the satisfaction of the people, conflicting structurally based interests through an institutionalized body or agency that is independent of these interests”. Yet newly independent African countries often lacked the institutions to address these interests, and in Sudan during the early years of post-colonialism, these challenges were felt with particular intensity. In the absence of a legitimate political authority, a government is forced instead to act by “maintaining or seeking to re-assert political control through issuing threat of force or threat of sanctions”. Sudan’s postcolonial leaders, at the same time as it faced socioeconomic and diverse political challenges, therefore apparently viewed the political challenge—the problem of legitimately “resolving the conflicting demands of society”—as a primary task. Nevertheless, the indigenous Sudanese political parties at the time were also not equipped to handle the difficult task of effectively controlling and organizing various groups on such a wide scale (Carpentier-Baugh, 2023).

6.4. International Cooperation

The major international organizations involved in Sudan’s political transition include the United Nations (UN) and continental bodies such as the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies. Although Sudan remains a large country with significant potential challenges—such as extensive borders, vast territories, and low population densities—these organizations continue to play a key role in equipping the country to address ongoing political and social problems and to ensure popular participation (Klingebiel, 2011). The principal causes of political instability and human insecurity trace back to an absence of secure livelihoods, widespread poverty, and limited interpersonal trust. The international community therefore has a substantial role in supplying funds and expertise to buttress domestic institutions charged with managing the country’s economy, exporting goods and services, and providing basic social services (Kioko et al., 2016).

7. Conclusion

Sudan's political transformations post-independence illustrate the ongoing struggles many African societies face in achieving sustainable political, economic, and social development in a rapidly changing world. These societies also work to establish national stability amid significant adversity that threatens their existence. The African country teams under the United Nations, along with other organizations, confront considerable political challenges when addressing the needs of vulnerable populations across the continent. The emerging challenges are deeply rooted in concepts of vulnerability, human rights, and empowerment, which are foundational to human security. These elements intertwine with complex political dynamics that complicate resolutions. Sudan's case underscores the importance of political transformation as a crucial force for advancing human security and achieving lasting peace and development across Africa

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