

Sudan



Introduction

Background: Military regimes favoring Islamic-oriented governments have dominated national politics since independence from the UK in 1956. Sudan has been embroiled in a civil war for all but 10 years since then. The war is rooted in northern economic, political, and social domination of non-Muslim, non-Arab southern Sudanese. Since 1983, the war and war- and famine-related effects have resulted in more than 2 million deaths and over 4 million people displaced. The ruling regime is a mixture of military elite and an Islamist party that came to power in a 1989 coup. Some northern opposition parties have made common cause with the southern rebels and entered the war as part of an anti-government alliance. Peace talks gained momentum in 2002-03 with the signing of several accords, including a cease-fire agreement.

Geography

Location: Northern Africa, bordering the Red Sea, between Egypt and Eritrea

Area: *total:* 2,505,810 sq km

land: 2.376 million sq km

water: 129,810 sq km

Coastline: 853 km

Climate: tropical in south; arid desert in north; rainy season varies by region (April to November)

Terrain: generally flat, featureless plain; mountains in far south, northeast and west; desert dominates the north

Natural resources: petroleum; small reserves of iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver, gold, hydropower

Environment - current issues: inadequate supplies of potable water; wildlife populations threatened by excessive hunting; soil erosion; desertification; periodic drought

People

Population: 40,187,486 (July 2005 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.6% (2005 est.)

Net migration rate: -0.02 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2005 est.)

Languages: Arabic (official), Nubian, Ta Bedawie, diverse dialects of Nilotic, Nilo-Hamitic, Sudanic languages, English

Government

Country name: *conventional long form:* Republic of the Sudan

Government type: authoritarian regime - ruling military junta took power in 1989; government is run by an alliance of the military and the National Congress Party (NCP), formerly the National Islamic Front (NIF), which espouses an Islamist platform

Capital: Khartoum

Independence: 1 January 1956 (from Egypt and UK)

Legal system: based on English common law and Islamic law; as of 20 January 1991, the now defunct Revolutionary Command Council imposed Islamic law in the northern states; Islamic law applies to all residents of the northern states regardless of their religion; some separate religious courts; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

Executive branch: *chief of state:* President Field Marshall Umar Hassan Ahmad al-BASHIR

International organization participation: ABEDA, ACP, AfDB, AFESD, AMF, AU, CAEU, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICt (signatory), ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, IGAD, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, LAS, MIGA, NAM, OIC, OPCW, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UPU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WToO, WTO (observer)

Economy

Economy - overview: Sudan has turned around a struggling economy with sound economic policies and infrastructure investments, but it still faces formidable economic problems, starting from its low level of per capita output. From 1997 to date, Sudan has been implementing IMF macroeconomic reforms. In 1999, Sudan began exporting crude oil and in the last quarter of 1999 recorded its first trade surplus, which, along with monetary policy, has stabilized the exchange rate. Increased oil production, revived light industry, and expanded export processing zones helped sustain GDP growth at 6.4% in 2004. Agriculture production remains Sudan's most important sector, employing 80% of the work force, contributing 39% of GDP, and accounting for most of GDP growth, but most farms remain rain-fed and susceptible to drought. Chronic instability - including the long-standing civil war between the Muslim north and the Christian/pagan south, adverse weather, and weak world agricultural prices - ensure that much of the population will remain at or below the poverty line for years

GDP: purchasing power parity - \$76.19 billion

GDP - real growth rate: 6.4% (2004 est.)

GDP - per capita: purchasing power parity - \$1,900

GDP - composition by sector: *agriculture:* 38.7%

industry: 20.3%

services: 41%

Investment (gross fixed): 16% of GDP

Population below poverty line: 40%

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 9%

Labor force: 11 million

Unemployment rate: 18.7%

Budget: *revenues:* \$3.057 billion

expenditures: \$2.965 billion, including capital expenditures of \$304 million

Agriculture - products: cotton, groundnuts (peanuts), sorghum, millet, wheat, gum arabic, sugarcane, cassava (tapioca), mangos, papaya, bananas, sweet potatoes, sesame; sheep, livestock

Industries: oil, cotton ginning, textiles, cement, edible oils, sugar, soap distilling, shoes, petroleum refining, pharmaceuticals, armaments, automobile/light truck assembly

Oil - production: 345,000 bbl/day

Oil - consumption: 70,000 bbl/day

Oil - proved reserves: 1.6 billion bbl

Natural gas - proved reserves: 99.11 billion cu m

Current account balance: \$-763.6 million

Exports: \$3.395 billion f.o.b.

Exports - commodities: oil and petroleum products; cotton, sesame, livestock, groundnuts, gum arabic, sugar

Exports - partners: China 64.3%, Japan 13.8%, Saudi Arabia 3.7%

Imports: \$3.496 billion f.o.b.

Imports - commodities: foodstuffs, manufactured goods, refinery and transport equipment, medicines and chemicals, textiles, wheat

Imports - partners: Saudi Arabia 11.7%, China 10.7%, UAE 6.2%, Egypt 5.2%, Germany 4.9%, India 4.6%, Australia 4.1%, UK 4%

Currency: Sudanese dinar (SDD)

Exchange rates: Sudanese dinars per US dollar - 257.91 (2004), 260.98 (2003), 263.31 (2002), 258.7 (2001), 257.12 (2000)

Transportation

Railways: *total:* 5,995 km

narrow gauge: 4,595 km 1.067-m gauge; 1,400 km .600-m gauge for cotton plantations

Highways: *total:* 11,900 km

paved: 4,320 km

unpaved: 7,580 km

Waterways: 4,068 km (1,723 km open year round on White and Blue Nile rivers)

Pipelines: gas 156 km; oil 2,365 km; refined products 810 km

Ports and harbors: Juba, Khartoum, Kusti, Malakal, Nimule, Port Sudan, Sawakin

Merchant marine: *total:* 2 ships (1,000 GRT or over) 20,466 GRT/26,973 DWT

by type: cargo 1, livestock carrier 1

registered in other countries: 2

Airports: 75