Sudan: Civil War, Genocide, and South Sudan’s Independence

By Assessing Atrocity
Warfare in South Sudan has received attention over the past few months. In order to better contextualize ongoing strife in this new country, this presentation will offer Assessing Atrocity readers a historical road map of South Sudan’s path to independence.
Outline

- Basic Facts
- Colonization
- Civil Wars
- Civil War and Genocide
- South Sudan Independence

Assessing Atrocity
BASIC FACTS

Assessing Atrocity
Sudan

- Slightly less than 1/5 the size of the US
- Population 35,482,233 (2014)
- Ethnic groups: Sudanese Arab (70%), Fur, Beja, uba, Fallata
- Religions: Sunni Muslim, small Christian minority
- Darfur is a region in west Sudan

Photo Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page Wikimedia Commons
Darfur

- Region in western Sudan the size of France
- Population: 6.2 million people from nearly 100 tribes
- Three Regions: Shamal Darfur, Gharb Darfur, Janub Darfur
- 9 September 2004 US Secretary of State Colin Powell called the conflict in Darfur a genocide

Photo Source: https://www.google.com/maps/preview?client=safari&oe=UTF-8&q=map+darfur&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=0x16c901bc107498dd:0xc386bb3307d993da,Darfur&gl=us&ei=BOZwU7vhPMqWyATbpYEI&ved=0CCoQ8gEwAA
South Sudan

- Slightly smaller than Texas
- Population 11,562,695 (2014)
- Ethnic Groups: Dinka (35.8%), Nuer (15.6%), Shilluk, Azande, Bari, Kakwa, Kuku, Murle, Mandari, Didinga, Ndogo, Bviri, Lndi, Anuak, Bongo, Lango, Dungotona, Acholi (2011)
- Religions: Animist, Christian

Photo Source: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html
South Sudan gains independence, July 2011

Photo Source: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/su.html
COLONIZATION

Assessing Atrocity
1821, Sudan under Ottoman-Egyptian rule

1882, Sudan under British-Egyptian rule. During this period cultural and economic distinctions solidify between the primarily Muslim north (two-thirds of the country) and Christianized south.

Colonizers viewed the north as home to *Arabs* and the south as home to *Africans* (this artificial distinction is important to understanding the future genocide).

1956, Sudan gains independence

Assessing Atrocity
Colonization: Main Points

- Disparity between citizens in the North and South can be traced back to the early years of colonization, first under Turkish-Egyptian rule then under British-Egyptian rule.
- The British provided northerners with Arabic education and preservation of Arabic culture.
CIVIL WARS


Assessing Atrocity
First Civil War, 1955 - 1972

Civil War, 1955 - 1972

- Just before gaining independence (1956), the first Sudanese civil war began (1955)

- The south wanted regional autonomy

- Before the civil war ended (1972), half a million people had died and hundreds had been displaced

Addis Ababa Agreement

- Addis Ababa Agreement (1972) negotiated a peace deal between Anyanya (southern rebels) and Khartoum (the seat of Sudan’s government)

- This agreement created the Southern Sudan Autonomous Region

Assessing Atrocity
Oil Discovered in the South

• The discovery of oil in 1978 in the Muglad Basin in the South ignited conflict in the south. Southerners protested the government’s plan to export the oil through Port Sudan in the north.

• Resources such as oil play a key role in the second civil war and ongoing conflict between Sudan and South Sudan.

Second Civil War, 1983 - 2005

- Sudanese President Jaafar al-Nimeiri (pictured right) abolishes South's autonomy (1983) in an attempt to consolidate his power; he declares Arabic official language and imposes Sharia law. He also wants to gain control of oil fields in the south.

South mobilizes and forms Sudanese People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) in 1983; led by Dr. John Garang (pictured left), SPLA fights for a multi-ethnic and multi-religious state (not just independence as during the first civil war).

III. GENOCIDE AND CIVIL WAR

Assessing Atrocity
The Rise of Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir

- Islamist leader Brigadier-General Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir (pictured right) gains strength in the north and on June 30, 1989 his National Islamist Front (NIF) seizes power from democratically elected government of Sadiq al Mahdi.
NIF revokes the constitution, bans opposition parties, and proclaimed *jihad* against non-Muslim South

**February 2003** the Darfur Liberation Front (DLF) attacked military installations in protest of NIF’s unequal treatment of non-Arab people.

NIF army along with with the *Janjaweed* militia group —known as “devils on horseback”— launch attack on villages of Fur, Zaghawa, and Masalit (considered non-Arab and supporters of DLF)

Between 2003 and 2005, 2.5 million are driven from their homes to escape conflict, at least 200,000 killed.

*Assessing Atrocity*
January 2005, Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) ends second civil war. CPA called for a permanent ceasefire, a power-sharing government involving rebels in Khartoum, and a south Sudanese referendum on independence to be reopened in six years' time.
IV. SOUTH SUDAN GAINS INDEPENDENCE

Assessing Atrocity
S. Sudan’s Road to Independence

• January 2011, people of South Sudan vote in favor of independence

• South Sudan seceded from Sudan on 9 July 2011 after a six-year wait period

• Oil rich region of Abyei on border between two states remains hotly contested territory