

A New Civil War in Sudan

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Sudan: Why has fighting broken out there?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-65284948>

24 April 2023 BBC

In 2019 the President al-Bashir in power for more than 30 years was overthrown in Sudan, a temporary government was composed with the military and civilian who participated in its destitution.

In 2021 Sudanese military took over the government of Sudan with a coup.

Current conflicts in Sudan oppose two generals who participated in this coup : **Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan**, the head of the armed forces and as such the country's president, who controls the north east part on the country. The leader of the RSF, **Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo** who controls the west side of the country.

« RSF » stands for « Rapid Support Forces », it is a paramilitary force which was created in 2013 to battle the rebels who stood in the south and west of the country. During its deployment in the west region of Sudan Darfur, and current stronghold of the RSF forces, the RSF has committed many war crimes along another state-approved militia : the janjawid. RSF is charged with raping, executing civilians, and ethnic cleansing.

The two generals long disagreed on what their country needed, and how to shift toward a more democratic regime in Sudan which was the main objective of the 2019 government they helped established. In April 2023, the army of Sudan perceived moves from the RSF as threats, tensions between the two sides quickly escalated in an armed conflict which still rages on today.



RSF leader :
**Gen Mohamed
Hamdan Dagalo**

Head of armed forces :
**Gen Abdel Fattah al-
Burhan**

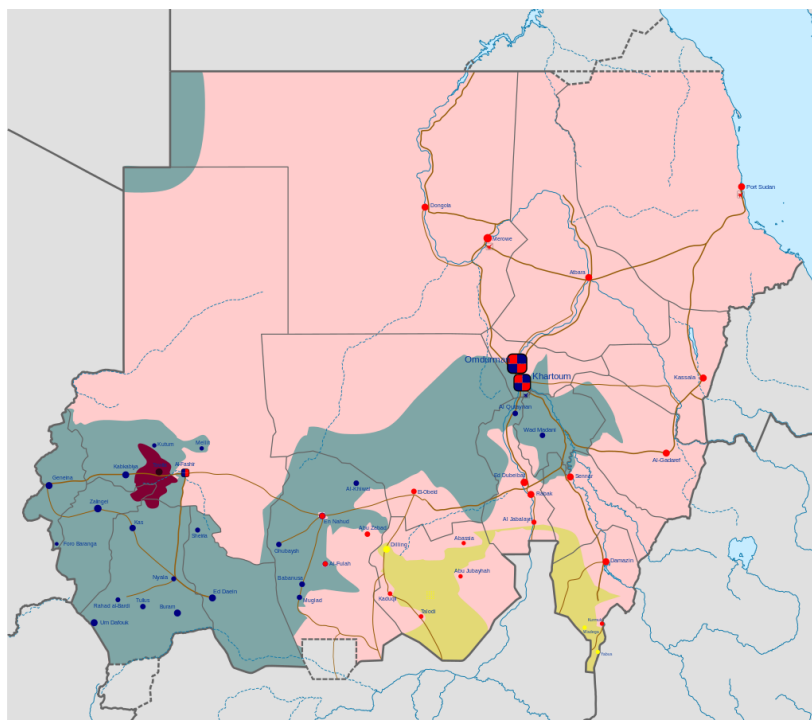
Historical Background

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/humanities/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/sudanese-civil-wars>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4157707.stm> BBC 9 January 2005

<https://www.france24.com/en/20110119-south-sudanese-vote-overwhelmingly-secession-juba-referendum-juba-sudan> France 24, 19 January 2011

Since 1956, there have been tensions between the predominantly Arabic-speaking and Muslim population in the North and the diverse communities in the South, which included African people adhering to traditional religions or Christianity. During the 19th century, the South resisted Turco-Egyptian and Mahdist slave raids. In the 1920s, Britain succeeded in stopping these raids and implemented the Closed Districts Act, which prohibited Muslim preachers from operating in the South, enforced restrictions on Arab-style dress, and banned the use of Arabic language in government offices and schools. Britain failed to promote education and economic development in the south, increasing the contrast between north and south even after the merge in 1956. The Torit mutiny of the Southern Defence (1955) was the breaking point and made the first Civil War start. The country saw several regimes succeed one another before the Addis Ababa Accord in 1972 which ended the war. The three southern provinces became one province with its own regional assembly which was dissolved by Numeiri in August 1983 just before the second civil war. He redivided the south in three provinces which led to the Second civil war from 1983 to 2005. In 2011, There was a referendum for South Sudan independence which resulted in 99% of the votes for independence.



War in Sudan, the international prospect of the conflict

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-65338247> *BBC News*, April 20, 2023

https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2023/07/10/1-onu-alerte-sur-les-risques-d-une-guerre-civile-totale-au-soudan_6181245_3212.html *Le Monde*, July 10, 2023

Since April 15, 2023, the civil war in Sudan has created 1.3 million refugees. Refugees are pouring into neighboring countries, which are also subject to political and military instability. The UN warns about the living conditions of refugees and expects "a total civil war [...] destabilizing for the entire region". Indeed, since the borders are not guarded, mercenaries and weapons pass freely from one country to another. And the interference of external powers such as Russia in the conflict can transform it into an international crisis. Russia and the Wagner group have been using Sudan's gold mines to counter international sanctions and they hope to create a port on the Sudanese shores to access the Red Sea. In order to counter the Russians, Ukrainian troops are fighting for the other side which is supported by Iran and Turkey.