



PAMUN XVII RESEARCH REPORT— (Question of the South Sudanese Civil War)

Introduction of Topic

South Sudan, currently the youngest nation in the world, has suffered from an unfortunately tumultuous fate in early years of its existence. After only having acquired independence in July of 2011, South Sudan witnessed, in December of 2013, the beginning of a Civil War, which still plagues the everyday lives of its people. With approximately 2.4 million South Sudanese people having been forcefully displaced and approximately 50,000 deaths, this conflict, originally spurred due to conflicts between the nations current President Kiir and former Vice-President Machar, has interrupted the hope for peace and prosperity that followed the independence of this state. This issue, beyond its political ramifications, has also pit against each other two major ethnic groups within the region, ultimately dividing the people of South Sudan. With this have also come tremendous Human Rights violations, Famine, and a multitude of other issues affecting the daily lives of these people. This report will examine the issues brought up by this conflict, the different players involved in it, some previous attempts to solving it, as well as alternative methods to addressing this conflict.

Definition of Key Terms

Sudan

This refers to either, depending on context, the larger Sudanese nation prior to the independence of South Sudan, or the country that currently shares a border with South Sudan.

Dinka

This refers to the largest ethnic group within South Sudan, of which President Kiir is a part of.

Nuer

This refers to the second largest ethnic group within South Sudan, of which Vice-President Machar is a part of.

SPLM

The SPLM or Sudan People's Liberation Movement is the current ruling political party of South Sudan, that has pushed the South Sudanese independence agenda for almost thirty years. President Kiir is a member of this party, as well as Vice-President Machar, until he left Kiir's government in 2013 to form his own branch of this party, the SPLM-IO.

SPLM-IO

The SPLM-IO is a branch of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement party. It stands for the Sudan People's Liberation Movement - In Opposition. This party created in light of Vice-President Machar's departure from the government, is the opposing force to President Kiir's SPLM. Machar is known for having had an unstable relationship with the SPLM, often breaking away from it even long before the independence of South Sudan.

UNMISS

The UNMISS or United Nations Mission in South Sudan, is a peacekeeping mission created by the UN to monitor the progress of the newly independent South Sudan. It has often been blamed for its lack of leadership and inability to help the citizens of South Sudan, despite the many resolutions passed within the UN to increase the mission's resources.

Background Information

The current state of the nation of South Sudan is the result of the continuing evolution of the larger region of "Sudan" after decades of colonial and domestic presence. The origins of this African Region are imbedded within the history of its neighbor Egypt and the past colonial superpower of Great Britain. Largely due to their geographical proximity, several of the earlier inhabitants of the northern parts of the larger Sudanese Region found themselves tied (politically and culturally) to their Egyptian counterparts. This ultimately resulted in the Egyptian Rule of these regions, under which the Sudanese people experienced much variation in their political, and more importantly religious, climate, the most notable of which being the Islamization of what is now Northern Sudan. In the Southern most regions of the country however, the Sudanese people were subject to the colonization of Great Britain, which in turned preached for the Christian conversion of these people. Although an agreement was met between the Egyptians and the British to form an "Anglo-Egyptian Sudan", which found itself separated between its northern and southern regions, this ultimately established the foundations for the present political and religious playing field of the Sudanese Region.

In 1953, both the United Kingdom and Egypt allowed for and agreed upon the independence of the Sudanese Region from their rule. Although this process was halted briefly by the First Sudanese Civil War, this dimmed down and enabled for the state of Sudan to form. Following the imprints left by its colonial past, much tensions arose throughout the early existence of this country between the northern Muslim and southern Christian, Sudanese populations. These tensions were at the origin of the country's first and ultimately its second civil war. The Second Sudanese Civil War, lasting from 1987 to 2005, was partly caused by wishes from the north to promote their Islamic policy throughout the whole country. After almost twenty years of conflict, the two fronts came to an agreement and signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which put the sovereignty and independence of South Sudan up to general referendum within the southern regions of Sudan. Only several years later, after all the

conditions of the agreement were completed, was South Sudan finally deemed an independent and sovereign state, on July 9th 2011.

This news was only met however several years later with the commencement of an on-going Civil War on December 15, 2013. Once South Sudan was established as a sovereign and independent state President Salva Kiir and Vice-President Riek Machar, both representing the SPLM (Sudan People's Liberation Movement) party, were sworn into office. Each respectively represented two of the largest ethnic groups in South Sudan, the Dinkas and the Nuers. This created hope within the young nation, of a future that would not be tarnished by cultural persecution, as experienced before its independence. This agreement unfortunately did not last long, with claims from the President Kiir stating that Vice-President Machar had attempted a coup against his government. Machar was consequently forced out of office and conflict spurred from there, resulting into what UN Special Advisor on the prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, refers to as an "ethnic war" with "potential for genocide", that the Sudanese people are confronted to today. The conflict now opposes both of President Kiir and Mr. Machar, their ethnicities, and the two new political branches that they respectively represent, Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement In Opposition (SPLM-IO).

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

The following represents a list of nations and organizations, that all have, in some form or another, involvement in the South Sudanese Civil War.

United States

Aside from its involvement in the IGAD-Plus, the United States has also played an important role in the evolution of this crisis. Before the independence of South Sudan, the U.S. played a critical role in in fact helping this nation achieve its sovereignty. It long supported its independence from Sudan, and continued to help the nation after it finally happened. Since then, the U.S. has been a supporter of the past Agreement on the Resolution on the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) and attempted to impose a trade embargo on South Sudan, with the intention of putting an end to the conflict.

IGAD and IGAD-Plus

The IGAD or Intergovernmental Authority on Development is a trading bloc and regional organization comprised of 8 member states throughout the Horn of Africa, the Nile Valley, and the African Great Lakes, its most notable member of which is South Sudan. This organization has long been at the forefront of helping the young nation with its development and prosperity. This was especially the case during the ratification and more notably the implementation of the 2015 Peace Agreement. The IGAD played an instrumental role in starting peace talks that ultimately led to the creation of this agreement. Along with this organization lies a group known as the IGAD-Plus that brought additional

support to the implementation of the Peace Agreement. This group comprised of the United States, China, Norway, United Kingdom, United Nations, African Union, European Union, and the IGAD Partners Forum, had all openly spoken in favor of this plan and its potential. This however, as we know unfortunately came to little fruition with the plan ultimately breaking apart. Despite the intentions of each individual participant, the members of IGAD and IGAD-Plus were criticized for having failed to pay closer attention to the needs of Mr. Bachar's front as opposed to the sitting government. This in part has been blamed for the failure of the agreement as many have spoken against it under the notion that it is not hard enough on the South Sudanese government, and essentially does very little to solve the issue.

United Nations

Although obvious, the UN has also played a big role in this matter. The UN has been involved in South Sudan starting before the conflict with its independence. By implementing a branch of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in South Sudan, they aimed to help the young nation develop properly as well as establishing imperative governmental institutions. The UNDP branch has also helped with other policies carried out through the UN, specifically its Security Council. These include notably, their continued help in the ratification of the ARCSS in 2015. The UN also still plays an active role in the conflict today with their continued additions to their Peacekeeping Mission in the region (UNMISS). Similarly to the IGAD, the UN has also received a good amount of criticism for its actions. In this case they are being blamed for supposedly focusing too much of their attention on their Peacekeeping missions as opposed to focusing on some of the more pressing internal issues within the country.

Nearby African Nations

Aside from its domestic impact, the on-going conflict in South Sudan has significant implications on other nations throughout West Africa. Nations like Egypt, Sudan, Uganda, and Ethiopia have all found themselves involved in this issue, in their own respective ways. Before its independence, the territory of South Sudan has always been one sought after by many established African Nations. Its independence, new relationship to Sudan, and most importantly its civil war have only helped to complicating the current political field in the region. Many nations in the region have issues of their own and attempt to remain impartial. This has been the strategy of both Sudan and Uganda, who have willingly put aside their tainted history, to carry similar policies regarding the Civil War in South Sudan. However, recent shake-ups in the evolution of this conflict have put stress on this newly founded relationship. Ethiopia has also tried to follow a similar approach by hosting Peace Talks between both parties. The South Sudanese government however has openly criticized the intentions behind these talks and has complicated relations with the country. Egypt also previously held a seat in the UN Security Council, which would prove to be a very useful asset for the South Sudanese Government's immediate interests. This, in combination with the individual conflicts faced by some of these nations, have caused for a rather delicate playing field within this region and has consequently caused for diverse policies and reactions by each nation. Furthermore, there has been an effort to circumvent this by the African Union, that has

similarly to the UN and United States attempted to establish talks between both parties, which was met with moderate success.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
January 1, 1956	Independence of Sudan (from British and Egyptian Rule)
1955 - 1972	First Sudanese Civil War
1983 - 2005	Second Sudanese Civil War
January 9, 2005	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
July 9, 2011	Independence of South Sudan
December 15, 2013	Start of South Sudanese Civil War
January 2014	Ceasefire Signed
August, 2014	Peace Talks Commence in Addis Ababa
17 August, 2015	Agreement on the Resolution on the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS)
April 2016	President Kiir and Vice-President Machar form a new unified government
July 2016	Vice-President Machar is fired, due to growing tensions with President Kiir
May 22, 2017	President Kiir calls for a unilateral ceasefire

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan, 8 July 2011 (**S/RES/1996**)
- Assessment mission by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve human rights, accountability, reconciliation and capacity in South Sudan: detailed findings, 10 March 2016 (**A/HRC/31/CRP.6**)

- Security Council resolution 2304 (2016) [on extension of the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 15 Dec. 2016], 12 August 2016 **(S/RES/2304)**
- Security Council resolution 2302 (2016) [on extension of the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 12 Aug. 2016], 29 July 2016 **(S/RES/2302)**
- Security Council resolution 2252 (2015) [on extension of the mandate of the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) until 31 July 2016], 15 December 2015 **(S/RES/2252)**
- Security Council resolution 2241 (2015) [on extension of the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 15 Dec. 2015], 9 October 2015 **(S/RES/2241)**
- Security Council resolution 2223 (2015) [on extension of the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 30 Nov. 2015], 28 May 2015 **(S/RES/2223)**
- Security Council resolution 2206 (2015) [on sanctions compliance and the situation in South Sudan], 3 March 2015 **(S/RES/2206)**
- Security Council resolution 2187 (2014) [on extension of the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 30 May 2015], 25 November 2014 **(S/RES/2187)**
- Security Council resolution 2155 (2014) [on extension of the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 30 Nov. 2014], 27 May 2014 **(S/RES/2155)**
- Security Council resolution 2132 (2013) [on temporarily increasing the overall force levels of UNMISS], 24 December 2013 **(S/RES/2132)**
- Security Council resolution 2109 (2013) [on the situation in Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan], 11 July 2013 **(S/RES/2109)**
- Security Council resolution 2057 (2012) [on extension of the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) through 15 July 2013], 5 July 2012 **(S/RES/2057)**
- Security Council resolution 2046 (2012) [on the situation in Sudan and South Sudan], 24 May 2012 **(S/RES/2046)**
- Security Council resolution 2327 (2016) [on extension of the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 15 Dec. 2017], 16 December 2016 **(S/RES/2327)**

Main Issues

The following represent a collection of issues revolving around the South Sudanese Conflict. Some of these are direct consequences of the on-going civil war, while others are issues that have gotten in the way of achieving peace.

Consequences

Human Rights Violations

As laid out in their 2017 World Report, the Human Rights Watch has identified a list of issues as direct consequences of the South Sudanese Civil War. These include notably the use of child soldiers, limitations to Freedom of Speech, and attacks targeted towards civilians. Both parties involved have willingly taken part in the recruitment of child soldiers. The report suggests that nearly 2,500 children have been used by the government, and also confirms that the side led by Vice-President Machar has also used the same types of tactics. Furthermore, the South Sudanese Press has received numerous threats from the government involving imprisonment and the shutting down and censorship of their work, with some journalists found dead and tortured. Finally, throughout the fighting both sides have carried out attacks on civilians of the opposite ethnic group, causing what has been referred to above as an “ethnic war”, with a specific emphasis on the rape of women and girls by supporters of both sides.

Economic Implications

With the onset of the war, South Sudan has also experienced grave consequences on its economy. The young nation has been unable to profit from its rich oil reserves, as its production has come to halt since the onset of war and has experienced a great amount of inflation reaching 700 percent in September of 2016. The IMF declared in that same month that South Sudan was on the verge of, “total economic collapse”.

Humanitarian Implications

The civil war has also brought on a multitude of humanitarian issues to the nation, the most pressing of which is the current occurrence of famine within the country with approximately 75 percent of the South Sudanese population faces some sort of shortages of food.

Obstacles

Weak Institutions

Prior to its independence, South Sudan never had strong unified government leadership to represent the wills of its people. Following its independence, South Sudan’s first official government was formed and has not changed much since, aside from its Vice-President. The

structure stays very much the same and partly contributes to the conflict within the country. There lack the necessary institutions, present in other more prosperous governments, that help the country function. There is an unclear divide in the nation between government and army and the president himself has lost credibility since the outbreak of war. Furthermore, there persist very real flaws in the country's judicial institutions. President Kiir and his soldiers have all avoided prosecution over numerous charges of Human Rights violations. A "hybrid court" was supposed to be created, under the 2015 Peace Agreement between both parties involved in the war, to investigate any offenses committed by any party during the war, but this has yet to come to fruition.

Political Practice

Building slightly on the previous point, President Kiir has also been able to carry out numerous controversial policies. The most notable of this took place in late 2015, when he decided to break up the country's ten states or departments into twenty-eight new ones, which supposedly was with the intent of providing his Dinka ethnic populations with electoral superiority over other such ethnic groups in the country. Actions like these have only helped contribute to the growing ethnic and cultural divide among the South Sudanese people, consequently only worsening the current conflict.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The following set of solutions, represent previous attempts by various parties to put an end to and solve the South Sudanese Conflict.

Domestic Attempts

Throughout the evolution of the South Sudanese Civil War, both parties involved have attempted to reconcile in the best interest of their country. A ceasefire was first signed in January of 2014 to put an end to the insurgency, which unfortunately was not respected by both sides. Discussion continued in February of the same year, but ultimately left the country in the same state. Several months' later dialogue started once again in August of 2014 eventually leading to the return of Riek Machar, in April of 2016, to act as Vice-President under President Kiir, to form a new unified government. This however only lasts 3 months, when tensions build between both parties once again leading to the firing of Vice-President Machar. However, despite the negative outcome of these attempts, President Kiir called for a ceasefire in May of 2017, which although too soon to judge the effect of, hints to the presidents will for peace.

Peacekeeping Mission

Following the independence of South Sudan in 2011, the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution allowing for the creation of a Peacekeeping Mission in the region to help this young nation with its early development and ensuring its peace and wellbeing. This endeavor, originally sought out to last shorter than it has, was further prolonged in 2013, in light of the growing conflict in South Sudan. This mission, UNMISS (United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan), however, was heavily criticized for having been unable to protect the South Sudanese people in this time of conflict. A lack of strong organization and leadership has been blamed for its failures, partly causing for Secretary General of the UN at the time, Ban Ki-Moon, to fire the commander of this mission. In short the UNMISS, has been unable to provide any substantial aid to the Sudanese People, and furthermore has also aggravated the current government led by President Kiir, claiming that he would no longer accept any more troops on his soil, as of early 2017.

Arms Embargo

Another attempts this time led by the United States in the United Nations Security Council was to implement an arms embargo on South Sudan. This effort supported by its allies Britain and France, as well as the Secretary General of the UN at the time Ban Ki-Moon, aimed to prevent the flow of weapons within the country while also imposing heavy sanctions. This however did not pass, causing much outrage and disappointment throughout the international community.

Possible Solutions

Perhaps the best thing to take any from this report, is the multifaceted nature of this conflict. In the past the UN, IGAD, and even South Sudanese government have been unable to achieve peace or meaningful progress due to a failure to keep in mind all aspects of this issue that require attention. The following list, is a collection of the different faces of this conflict that need to be addressed to achieve change.

- Reform of South Sudanese Political structure, culture, and institutions
- Understanding of the regional implications of the South Sudanese Civil War
- Addressing the humanitarian, economic, and human rights consequences for the nation of South Sudan
- Understanding the cultural (specifically ethnic) implications of the South Sudanese Civil War
- Understanding the limitations of previous failed attempts to solve this issue (specifically referring to the use of peacekeepers and the establishment of a unified government)
- Asking increased involvement from the African Union to lead the effort in solving this crisis

- Calling upon the International Criminal Court or International Criminal Tribunal to threaten prosecution of both party leaders, if real communication is not established

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