



# Model Arab League

## Annotated Bibliography for Sudan

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This annotated bibliography was created to serve as a research resource for students taking part in the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Model Arab League Program. With the understanding that research can be intimidating and time consuming, an effort was made to find a set of scholarly articles that give a detailed background and thorough account of the current situation for this League of Arab States member. Included are annotations designed to give a description of the source with the intention of students completing the research on their own. There has been an attempt to focus on more contemporary scholarship, specifically post-9/11 and post-2011 (so-called "Arab Spring") where possible, as these are two phenomena that fundamentally changed politics in the Arab world. These sources should provide students with a solid basis for understanding the country they are representing in both regionally and globally significant issues as well as the interests of other countries within the League of Arab States.

1. Peter Woodward, "Somalia and Sudan: A Tale of Two Peace Processes," *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, Volume 93, Number 375, July 2004, pp. 469–481. •• When this article was written in 2004, both Somalia and Sudan had been experiencing constant conflict since the 1990's. In the case of Sudan, the southern separatist movement had been trying to secede because of the Islamization and Arabization projects of the northern controlled government. In Somalia, following the collapse of the government in 1991, no central government rose to take its place and the country was divided among clan territories as autonomous regions. This article can be used as a primary source on the history of attempts at peace negotiations in both Sudan and Somalia. In comparing the two, Sudan's attempts were characterized by a lack of inclusiveness where the opposite was true for Somalia, there were simply too many parties wanting representation. Finally, this article explains how other countries like Egypt had, and probably still have interests in these peace negotiations.
2. Eltigani E. Eltigani, "Childbearing in Five Arab Countries," *Studies in Family Planning*, Volume 32, Number 1, March, 2001, pp. 17-24. •• This article compares the rates and frequency of childbearing among women of five Arab countries: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, and Yemen. In doing so, the reader is given insight into these countries' population demographics, industries, rights for women, and levels of economic and social development. Algeria is a specifically interesting case because of its unique birthrates and frequencies relative to the other Arab states.
3. Amal Ibrahim Madibbo, "Conflict and the Conceptions of Identities in the Sudan," *Current Sociology*, Volume 60, Number 3, May 2012, pp. 302-319. •• Sudan is a country home to multiple social and ethnic groups, differences which led to social conflict and identity crisis on multiple occasions. The two overarching identity constructions are those of the Arab Islamic, generally in the north, and the African tribal and/or Christian,

generally in the south. Although these perceived identities eventually led the separation of Sudan and South Sudan, there are many people in both countries who do not feel that they fit so neatly into either one of these national identities. This article uses personal accounts of identity perception within different areas of Sudan and places them on a spectrum. In the author's opinion, by breaking down these identity constructs and creating a more collective and inclusive Sudanese identity, the country would be a lot better off.

4. Salah M. Hassan, "Darfur and the Crisis of Governance in Sudan: A Left Perspective," *South Atlantic Quarterly*, Volume 109, Number 1, Winter 2010, pp. 95-116. •• Having experience a great deal of conflict in contemporary history, many Sudanese have fled the country as refugees. Because there are so many Sudanese refugees, diaspora perspectives are important to understanding the people of Sudan. This article takes a critical look at Western understandings of the conflict in Darfur and how it has become skewed through the media. The author points out interesting contrasts, like those between the antiapartheid movements of the 1980's and the more recent "Save Darfur" advocates, namely that the former was very progressive and the latter appears to have a "ventriloquist-savior" tone to it. In general, this article argues that in the conflict in Darfur, more local representation is needed in order to deconstruct erroneous Western notions about Darfur and Sudanese society.
5. Abdel Aziem A. Ali and Amira Okud, "Factors Affecting Unmet Need for Family Planning in Eastern Sudan," *BMC Public Health*, Volume 3, Issue 1, March 2013, pp.1-5. •• In developing countries like Sudan, many women wish to limit the number of children they are having but are not using contraceptive measures to limit or postpone their number of births. The high number of unwanted pregnancies can lead to women searching for unsafe methods of abortion, which in turn can cause serious injury and/or death of the mother. In eastern Sudan, there are health centers that offer safe birth control methods like hormone pills, and even though studies show there is a demand for them, they remain unused. This study finds that the level of education, both of the male and female, in couples is directly correlated with the use of family planning methods. The authors conclude that health education, and specifically reproductive health education should be made a priority.
6. M. Mazharul Islam and M. Mosleh Uddin, "Female Circumcision in Sudan: Future Prospects and Strategies for Eradication," *International Family Planning Perspectives*, Volume 27, Number 2, June 2001, pp. 71-76. •• Female circumcision, also known as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has been widely practiced in Sudan as late as 2001. The majority of women who have undergone FGM have been subjected to the worst of the three types, known as Pharaonic circumcision or infibulation. Many studies have

shown that the practice of FGM has serious negative health consequences for women including chronic infections and sterility. Despite these facts, in many places the practice has become so engrained that women often say they wish to continue the practice and have their daughters circumcised. This article argues that a purely legal approach to ending FGM in Sudan will most likely be unsuccessful and that public information campaigns and counseling for families may have a more positive effect.

7. Amal O. Bashir, Ghada H. Ibrahim, Igbal A. Bashier, and Ishag Adam, "Neonatal Mortality in Sudan: Analysis of the Sudan Household Survey, 2010," *BMC Public Health*, Volume 13, Article 287, April 2013, pp. 1-9. •• Sudan has one of the highest levels of child and infant mortality rates in the world. Part of the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) was to reduce infant mortality rates, and Sudan is now classified as having made "insufficient progress" in this area. This study includes statistics on the high infant mortality rate in Sudan, including sex of the child, region, delivery method, and education level of the household the child is born into. Interesting findings include that there are higher rates of neonatal deaths among male children, children born to an older mother, and cesarean section delivery. The authors call for better detection of pregnancy associated complications that may reduce infant mortality rates in Sudan.
8. Imadeldin E. Aradaib, Bobbie R. Erickson, Rehab M. Elageb, Marina L. Khristova, Serena A. Carroll, Isam M. Elkhidir, Mubarak E. Karsany, AbdelRahim E. Karrar, Mustafa I. Elbashir, and Stuart T. Nichol, "Rift Valley Fever, Sudan, 2007 and 2010," *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, Volume 19, Number 2, February 2013, pp. 246-253. •• Rift Valley Fever Virus (RVFV) is a potentially harmful virus transmitted by mosquitoes in various areas of sub-Saharan Africa. The disease affects livestock more than humans with an almost 100% fatality rate, whereas in humans the fatality rate is between 10 and 20%. Scientists suspect that RVFV shows increased prevalence after rainfall events that leave stagnant water in areas for mosquitoes to breed and lay eggs in. Mosquitoes can then cross borders themselves, or infect herding livestock that do so. The recent outbreak of RVFV in Sudan in 2010 necessitates better monitoring and surveillance systems for infectious diseases that can cause widespread damage to herding economies and human casualties.
9. Armin Rosen, "Sudan on the Brink: A Khartoum Spring?" *World Affairs*, Volume 175, Number 2, July/August 2012, pp. 57-65. •• Before the so-called "Arab Spring", Sudan faced many internal and external problems. Now, following the Arab Spring, people are wondering how the Sudanese populace will act. While each country in the Arab world is unique in its history and makeup, certain analogies to other Arab countries can help illustrate possible outcomes for Sudan and its government. One of these aspects that

make Sudan different in this regard is that the National Congress Party (NCP) “faces a well-organized and battle hardened insurgency with national level coordination and a demonstrated ability to capture and hold territory.” Secondly, following the division of Sudan and South Sudan, the south controls the majority of the oil in the area and has the ability to cut off the supply of oil at will. This article details the internal and external issues that the current government of Sudan faces and describes how certain outcomes may reflect other Arab Spring events.

10. Stephen P. Reyna, “The Disasters of War in Darfur, 1950–2004,” *Third World Quarterly*, Volume 31, Number 8, 2010, pp. 1297-1320. •• Darfur is probably the most publicly known region of Sudan to Americans, however few Americans know the history of Darfur; they only know that there was serious conflict recently. The conflict in Darfur (like every protracted conflict) was no random occurrence and had significant historical developments that led up to its current state. Recurring droughts forced migration, migration caused competition for resources, and eventually this competition for resources led to violent conflict. This cursory summary of the events does not do the historical developments justice, and this article goes into great detail to explain how smaller problems multiplied to become the conflict that was and is taking place in Darfur.
11. Alison J. Ayers, “Beyond The Ideology of ‘Civil War’: The Global-Historical Constitution of Political Violence in Sudan,” *The Journal of Pan African Studies*, Volume 4, Number 10, January 2012, pp. 261-288. •• Often times Western observers of conflicts, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa, point to internal divisions and tribalism as the root causes. This point of view insulates the West from any involvement in the laying the groundwork of these conflicts through colonial and post-colonial policies. In truth, conflicts like those in Sudan are products of an ever globalizing political economy coupled with increasingly divisive social constructs. This article takes a critical look at the Western notion of “Civil Wars” in Sudan and argues that the majority of the violent conflicts taking place within Sudan were created mutually through post-colonial, Cold War divisions and local racial, ethnic, and religious tensions.
12. Ioannis Mantzikos, “Why the Islamic Revolution Ended: The Regional Politics of Sudan since 1989,” *Mediterranean Quarterly*, Volume 21, Number 3, 2010, pp. 47-60. •• Led by Omar al-Bashir in 1989, the military coup in Sudan has been characterized as partnered with Sudanese Islamist, particularly under the ideology of Hassan al-Turabi. In actuality, al-Turabi’s allegiance with al-Bashir was one of political pragmatism; that is, allied when determined to be advantageous and separated when the utility of the partnership no longer existed. Regional and international political developments like the U.S. intervention in Somalia, neighboring state power struggles, and the post-9/11 War on Terror also played a part in how closely al-Turabi and al-Bashir’s viewpoints aligned.

This article argues that Omar al-Bashir used Arabism and Islamism in an attempt to advance his politics while Hassan al-Turabi tried to ally himself with the government to push his own agenda. At times they agreed and at times they were divergent, and it would demonstrate a lack of nuance to simply call the government of Sudan Islamist.

13. Peter Woodward, "Towards Two Sudans," *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy*, Volume 53, Issue 2, April-May 2011, pp. 5-10. •• The division of Sudan (once Africa's largest country) and South Sudan has historic roots dating back to the mid-nineteenth century. At the time, Egypt actually claimed all of the land south of the Nile almost to the great lakes of Africa. The north-south division became apparent through British colonialism when the Arab Islamic north was determined to be distinct from the non-Arab African south. One British officer is said to have predicted the division as far back as 1929. This article traces the history of Sudan and the events that led up to the referendum to create South Sudan in 2011. These events are crucial to understanding both countries and how the separation may set a precedent among African nations wishing to have a separate state of their own, namely Somaliland in Somalia.
14. Abdeen Mustafa Omer, "Water in the Sudan," *Water International*, Volume 32, Number 5, Supplemental Issue 2007, pp. 894-903. •• Unlike the majority of Arab countries, Sudan is relatively well off when it comes to water resources. The Nile begins in Sudan, Sudan's southern regions have a tropical climate that receives adequate amounts of rain to sustain agriculture, and the country has significant renewable groundwater resources that are vastly underutilized. Despite this advantageous position in terms of water, constant strife has prevented the creation of a coherent water policy for the country. The majority of water distribution is carried out by local distributors who have a monopoly on the trade and their distribution methods are very rudimentary. This article illustrates the water resources that Sudan has at its disposal and advocates for a more coherent water policy that includes strategic action plans for water quality management and distribution.