

Sudan at the Crossroads

Understanding the Dynamics and Junctures of Sudan's 2023's War



Fire rages on September 1, 2023 at a livestock market area in El Fasher, the capital of Sudan's North Darfur state - paramilitaries now control most of the vast Darfur region. © - / AFP/Files

A Seminar by the PRODIG Research Unit of the Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne University and the Research Institute for Sustainable Development

Within the complex political history of Sudan, the Sudan war raging since April 15 should not be viewed as an isolated event. On the contrary, this war should be placed within a national trajectory full of conflicts reflecting foundational contradictions within the State. Similar to countries in the region, Sudan has witnessed frequent instability since its independence in 1956 evident by the cycles of military coups, popular revolutions, and unstable transitional governments, re-opening the path for new coups.

The recent decades have witnessed a further increase in armed conflicts, and the decline in economic indicators. This deterioration comes at the heel of South Sudan's independence in 2011, where continued economic crises in different sectors has had transformative effects on the political economy of the state, and its civilian and armed actors. The numerous protests and conflicts of the 2010s escalated leading to a civil revolution at the beginning of 2019, ultimately leading to the fall of the Omar al-Bashir regime. Civil groups then attempted to organize a political transition that was quickly confiscated by the security apparatus.

Despite this complex history, there have been limited holistic discussions reflecting on these major transformations, especially in academic and scientific circles, notwithstanding the country's geopolitical location and its overlap between the regions of the Middle East, the Horn and African Coast in the Red Sea and the African Sahel.

Through examining questions of land, resources, border relations, water, and more, we hope to reflect the opinions of scholars, actors and specialists in order to highlight a wide spectrum of intersecting areas for those working in Sudan and neighbouring regions. The aim is to create a medium to comprehend the events of the current armed conflict and its deep roots in the political, economic and social makeup of the Sudanese state in light of regional and international transformations.

Scientific Coordinators :

Mohamed Salah (IRD&Paris1-PRODIG), **Raphaëlle Chevrillon-Guibert** (IRD-PRODIG), **Clément Deshayes** (IRD-PRODIG), **Alice Franck** (Paris1-PRODIG)

(all of them are members of the project ANR "Thinking Alternative Worlds across the Sudanese Revolution)

Programme:

- **Wednesday 24th January, from 2 to 4 pm (Paris time) (3 to 5 pm Sudan time)**

Topic: **The Social and Political Dynamics of Conflicts in Darfur and the implications for the Sahel**

Speakers:

Abu al-Gasim: Sudanese Politician, former West Darfur Governor and Federal Minister

El Tahir Badreldeen: Specialist in conflict and governance and Head of Pax Sudan.

Mohamed Badawi: Lawyer and program Director at the African Center for Justice and Peace studies.

Online and also at PRODIG for this 1st Seminar :

Campus Condorcet (Aubervilliers- métro Front Populaire)

Bâtiment recherche Sud, 1st Floor. salle 1.061

- Thursday 15 February

Topic: Political Economy of the Sudanese State and the Historical Root's of Current Conflict in Sudan

- Thursday 14th March 2024

Topic: Water Resources and Conflict

- Wednesday 17th April 2024.

Topic: Land issues and Conflict in Sudan

- Wednesday 22th May 2024.

Topic: The conflict and Sudanese Gold Mining

- Thursday 13 June 2024.

The Political Economy of the Agriculture Sector in Sudan.

Where ? Each seminar will be *online* using the link;

<https://pantheonsorbonne.zoom.us/j/96103294147?pwd=U2wyWkpaV2ZBa3YwaFVITDBCMMJSQT09>

ID de la réunion : 961 0329 4147

Code secret : 881763

Some seminars will be physically held at PRODIG, Paris (details will be advertised when available)

When ? Academic Year 2023-24, Monthly from January up to June