

## ***Conflict Resolution In Sudan and Its Impacts On The International Scale***

### **Resolusi Konflik di Sudan dan Dampaknya dalam Skala Internasional**

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#### **Abstract**

*Sudan has always been known for the hostilities that took place there, long before Sudan was divided into Sudan and South Sudan. Both internal and international conflicts involve several countries. After the separation of South Sudan, Sudan began to experience internal conflicts related to the struggle for state power in overthrowing President Omar al-Bashir. However, after the overthrow of the president, a new conflict emerged to seize power between the two camps that had previously collaborated in overthrowing the previous president. This study aims to explore how the current conflict resolution in Sudan and how it impacts on an international scale. Through exploratory qualitative research methods, this study presents primary and secondary data resulting from interviews and literature studies. This study provides information on the current Sudan conflict with its potential resolution as well as some impacts on a global scale.*

**Keywords:** *Conflict Resolution, Current Sudan Conflict, Impact, International Scale.*

#### **Abstrak**

Sudan selalu dikenal dengan permusuhan yang terjadi di sana, jauh sebelum Sudan terpecah menjadi Sudan dan Sudan Selatan. Baik konflik internal maupun internasional melibatkan beberapa negara. Pasca pemisahan Sudan Selatan, Sudan mulai mengalami konflik internal terkait perebutan kekuasaan negara dalam menggulingkan Presiden Omar al-Bashir. Namun pasca lengsernya presiden, muncul konflik baru perebutan kekuasaan antara kedua kubu yang sebelumnya pernah bekerja sama menggulingkan presiden sebelumnya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi bagaimana penyelesaian konflik yang terjadi di Sudan saat ini dan bagaimana dampaknya dalam skala internasional. Melalui metode penelitian kualitatif eksploratif, penelitian ini menyajikan data primer dan sekunder yang dihasilkan dari wawancara dan studi literatur. Studi ini memberikan informasi mengenai konflik Sudan saat ini beserta potensi penyelesaiannya serta beberapa dampaknya dalam skala global

**Kata Kunci:** Resolusi Konflik, Konflik Sudan Saat Ini, Dampaknya, Skala Internasional



## INTRODUCTION

The conflict in Sudan has been going on since long before South Sudan became independent where the main causes were mostly caused by religion or the struggle for state power. This caused many in civil society to become victims of the conflict and even international citizens who were currently in the country were moreover affected, both those who were working and even students. The impact of the conflict moreover covers a number of things including human rights, society, and education, to the economy even where these things are a paramount subject in the citizen system. This is what ultimately requires a resolution of the conflict to overcome the various kinds of losses that have been experienced. Meanwhile, conflict resolution can be carried out by a third party if the two conflicting parties are not successful in reconciling themselves directly.

In 2019, Sudan experienced the peak of internal conflict to overthrow Omar Bashir's regime due to public dissatisfaction with his leadership style after decades in office. Almost all Sudanese people participated in the demonstrations which were carried out in several ways, including riots in various regions. At its peak, in the end, Omar Bashir resigned from office until victory was in the hands of the people who were promised to reside in a democratic Sudan era (Kurniawan & Zahidi, 2022). However, after the replacement of the renowned Omar Bashir as a dictator, instead of becoming a democratic country, Sudan experienced another civil conflict to a coup d'état of the leader in 2021 where since then the government system of the Sudanese state has been increasingly oscillating, especially since the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) who wish to integrate into the national military army on a regular basis.

In international relations, national and state conflicts will easily be found because basically, in political psychology, humans will easily start conflicts if there are different points of view, especially those related to politics (Kalmoe, 2020). In addition, the occurrence of a conflict in a region can have a negative impact on several parties who have no interest in the conflict, even including civil society, neighbouring countries, and even countries that have ties of diplomatic cooperation. This happened because of the human rights, economic, social and cultural aspects contained in the conflict. The reason is that many parties are endeavouring and hoping that the conflict will end soon and obtain a resolution therefore that similar conflicts do not occur again in the future. However, the high ego of the conflicting parties to achieve their main goals can increase the challenges that will be faced in the conflict resolution process and it will not be easy to find solutions. Thus, the existence of healthy mediation to obtain peace will be significantly required by society as an entire, especially since civil society who are not involved and do not know about the origins of the conflict (Pose, 2013).

The current conflict in Sudan is the result of a group of people who brought down Omar Bashir's regime, however, and then the group split into two camps where they are both fighting over the power of the current Sudanese government. In other words, the main problem of the current Sudanese conflict is caused by the brotherly competition between Abdul Fattah Al Burhan and Hemedti for power in Sudan today. Although basically, they have collaborated before in overthrowing Omar Bashir (Elbagir et al., 2023). This disagreement between the two groups eventually gave rise to new factions, both in terms of followers of Al Burhan and Hemedti, and led to civil war in Sudan, particularly in major towns. Through this research, the author aims to explore the current conflict resolution in Sudan and the impact it will have on a global scale. In this case, no previous studies have been found that discuss similar topics therefore these two things at the same time become a novelty in this study which will be discussed further by the author.

## **METHOD AND RESEARCH FOCUS**

This research was conducted using explorative qualitative methods to explore the topic of discussion more broadly. The data obtained is primary data obtained through interviews with several affected parties as well as interviews that the media have published. The secondary data is obtained through literature studies, especially the results of previous research. The data validation process is carried out through triangulation in an effort to perfect the research results. On the other hand, this research utilise the social conflict theory from Ralf Dahrendorf (Yaziji, 2004) which argues that the uneven distribution of power and authority throughout society is the root cause of social strife. This theory is utilised to determine the cause of the Sudan conflict historically to compare and analyse the previous as well as current situation in Sudan while finding the result of current conflict resolution in Sudan and its impact on a global scale.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In the 9th century, the Turks gained control of Sudan by delegating authority to Egypt, allowing them to govern Sudan. The conquest of Sudan by Egypt was carried out in collaboration with England. Later, in January 1899, the two countries established a government based on an Anglo-Egyptian agreement. The focal point of this administration was the successful British takeover of Sudan, granting Egypt de facto shadow power (Abdul Hadi Adnan, 2006). Egypt was determined to persuade England to withdraw from Sudan, aiming to integrate Sudan into Egyptian governance. Finally, on January 12, 1953, England and Egypt signed an agreement to give Sudan time to decide on independence or joining Egypt. During this period, black individuals were often subjected to slavery. The persisting disparities, inequalities in rights, and ongoing discrimination between Arab and black populations intensified during the English and Egyptian colonization.

In February 1953, Sudan was declared eligible for independence. In 1954, Sudan began its transition to power by holding parliamentary elections. In 1956, Sudan gained independence from England. However, one year before Sudan became an independent country, the first civil war erupted between Northern and Southern Sudan. In the same year, conflict arose between the Anya-Nya tribe in Southern Sudan and the Sudanese government. This conflict persisted until the signing of the Addis Ababa Agreement in 1972. However, the agreement ceased in 1983 when Arabization and Islamization policies were implemented in Southern Sudan by President Jaafar Nimeiri (Putri Cahyani, 2017).

Omar al-Bashir, who became president in 1989, was determined to make Sudan a fully Islamic state. However, the non-Muslim population in Southern Sudan rejected the president's plan, giving rise to an armed rebellion known as the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which later joined the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) as a political partner. The conflict in Darfur itself occurred when the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) based in Darfur clashed with the Janjaweed, resulting in widespread serious humanitarian crimes. The SPLM/A and JEM conflict arose as they sought to demand their rights as citizens.

## Sudan Conflict Impacts

Foreign residents, including students and employees, as well as local populations in Sudan, have also been impacted by the violence. In this case, the majority of foreign students in Sudan are Indonesian citizens because of an agreement in the field of education that has been carried out by the two countries therefore that there are many opportunities for Indonesians to study in that country. However, because of the repeated conflicts that occurred several years ago, students in Sudan have experienced suspension of their study period several times because educational institutions such as universities and schools have begun to close to avoid the adverse physical effects caused by the conflict. As for the current Sudan conflict, the Indonesian government through the Indonesian embassy in Sudan has collaborated with several parties in several countries such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt to repatriate almost all Indonesian people in Sudan, the majority of who consist of students, to return to Indonesia for security reasons. This is moreover done to avoid uncertainty about the suspended student study period due to the increasing tendency of conflict.

On the other hand, several other foreign nationals moreover took the same action by repatriating all their citizens to their countries of origin to avoid undesired events resulting from the conflict. However, from a humanitarian and social perspective, many Sudanese citizens themselves remain in the country due to a lack of purpose to seek refuge due to the current crisis. In this case, the economic and food crises in Sudan are moreover increasing because there are no transactions between traders and purchasers because people are starting to focus on protecting themselves. Then, in terms of education, it had to be cut off due to the closure of all educational institutions, as well as the alleviated logistics required for the community, especially because many homes were destroyed as a result of the conflict.

According to UN OCHA, within a month the fighting in Sudan caused almost 936 thousand people to lose their homes and is currently looking for safety in other countries as a result of the devastation the conflict has caused. Hundreds of thousands of small children moreover had to leave their homes to seek safety. In this case, in the end, the number of people who feel hungry will moreover increase because of the lack of food consumption that can be obtained by the community (OCHA, 2023). As a result, the violence in Sudan not only affects local food insecurity but also has the potential to worsen it internationally, which is one of the goals of the 2030 SDGs that he has triggered and is part of the UN agenda. In order to prevent things from getting worse in the future, this disagreement needs to be handled right away since the UN will ultimately confront increasing difficulties in attaining its intended agenda.

On the other hand, the conflict in Sudan moreover has a significant impact on other countries, especially those that are geographically close to it. Meanwhile, countries that have strong diplomatic relations with Sudan, such as Egypt, are moreover distraught about the increasing tendency for conflict to occur because this could have a negative impact on the political security of the two countries. Then, in addition to diplomatic relations, Egypt and Sudan are moreover two countries that have many similarities, both in terms of culture, trade, and politics themselves. The existence of the Nile River in Sudan, which distributes its water to several countries, moreover significantly worries the countries that the river passes through because there will be water and air pollution resulting from the tendency of conflicting parties in it. A large number of perpetrators of human trafficking can moreover take advantage of the conflict situation in Sudan because the lack of security can facilitate them in carrying out their evil actions where Sudan is a transit centre for asylum seekers in Europe via

Libya. Thus, since there will be more instances of human trafficking worldwide, particularly on the African continent, the impact would not only be felt by the neighbouring nations but also by all nations.

As a refugee-hosting country, Chad, which is located close to Sudan, was moreover affected by the civil conflict where the chaos that occurred in the centre of the country could spread to the borders and have a negative impact on the security of the refugees. The security crisis experienced by the refugees in Chad will obtain worse along with the worsening of the Sudan conflict where basically the majority of the refugees in Chad are made up of women and small children. Then, the refugee children moreover experienced malnutrition and a food crisis entirely (IRC, 2023). On the other hand, concerns about political security were moreover felt by Chad, who feared that mercenaries from Russia would support the uprising carried out by the RSF in Sudan because of the close relationship between the two of them. This can threaten Chad's own political security because the union of relations between the two can support government rebels in Chad itself. Thus, a requirement for intensive assistance, especially for refugees in Chad to maintain the integrity of their security of life and there is a requirement for a midpoint for the Sudanese conflict to immediately obtain a resolution and cease the victims and the resulting adverse effects.

Sudan's location as one of the oil links between Port Sudan and oil fields moreover has a major impact on the country of South Sudan if the conflict continues. This is caused by the chaos in the conflict that can spread to the location of the oil liaison it hinders the oil to be allocated (Ehiane & Moyo, 2021). The same concern as Chad is moreover felt in South Sudan where there are refugees who moreover reside in the country therefore that their security can be disrupted both in terms of food security, health, and even their residence. In the end, the current conflict in Sudan has moreover become one of the government's focus points to find solutions to the adverse effects caused and related to the resolution of the conflict in Sudan itself. As for this, basically, quite a number of neighbouring countries have allocated refugees in Sudan due to endless conflicts and insecurity in their country of origin. Thus, the increasing tendency in the current Sudanese conflict can raise concerns for refugee-holding countries in Sudan, especially in terms of security. This is moreover part of the challenges that must be faced by the governments of these countries in order to be able to immediately obtain the right resolution in resolving these conflicts and problems.

In addition to the negative impact on neighbouring countries, the current conflict in Sudan moreover has the potential to have a large impact on the international community. This is analysed in light of Sudan's closeness to Russia bilaterally where it is feared that this could moreover affect the war that took place between Russia and Ukraine. The tendency that has existed between Russia and Ukraine since the last few years has become an endless topic of discussion among scholars because the final outcome of the war can affect the state of the world almost entirely and even some observers express there is the potential for a second cold war if a resolution is not immediately obtained. The conflict that occurred in Sudan can be utilised by the Russian side to take advantage of strengthening its position in the war with Ukraine (Pospisil & Jenner, 2022). This can be done through several options such as building a base in Port Sudan to make it easier to send energy to Europe, assisting one of the camps to become Sudan's new leader therefore which can threaten him in reaching Russia's national interests, especially in the invasion he has been carrying out in Ukraine since a year ago and therefore on. Consequently, the present crisis in Sudan will essentially have an influence on other nations and potentially the entire international community from

a political, social, and economic standpoint in addition to having an impact on Sudan itself.

### **Sudan Conflict Resolution**

The existence of quite large negative impacts from the conflict that occurred in Sudan in the international world, in the end, required various actors to be able to find solutions and realise peace as the final result of the conflict. The two conflicting camps are considered to have sufficiently strong forces in a balanced manner that a third party's role is required to create peace. In this case, a third party in conflict resolution is known as a mediator, who can come from state actors or non-state actors, including even international organisations. On the other hand, the topics of discussion in current conflict studies tend to discuss the ability of domestic actors to resolve conflicts and to be able to continue to maintain order and security. However, while the battle is still going on, domestic organisations are frequently severely harmed and unable to perform their obligations (Smidt, 2020). However, as the current conflict in Sudan is essentially a civil war where inclinations are perhaps more readily mitigated by internal mediators as well, non-formal internal communities there perhaps able to assist the process of conflict resolution through mediation.

The mediator's engagement in conflict resolution is seen as the simplest however most effective stage because of his ability to utilise his influence to provide a variety of benefits to all parties involved, which frequently leads to a win-win outcome. The mediator may moreover make an offer to the disputing parties in the form of material during the mediation in an effort to urge both parties to end the disagreement (Castro, 2018). However, in the resolution of the Sudanese conflict through the mediation process, there must be a mediator who has strong power in making decisions, is neutral towards both conflicting parties, and can be approved by the conflicting parties as well. This will eventually become the main challenge in mediation efforts in the resolution of the current Sudanese conflict. On the other hand, the two conflicting camps from the side of the RAF and RSF are both endeavouring to obtain all civil society on their side as supporters therefore truly neutral people from civil society cannot be found to mediate.

Scholars state that efforts in negotiation or mediation in conflict resolution are part of peace-making efforts, in which both parties make conflict resolution efforts in the first stage. However, in the case of the current Sudanese conflict, the negotiation and mediation processes analysed can only be attempted by non-Sudanese third parties because of the high level of non-neutrality detected in Sudan with riots that have reached red flags. This is further proven by information from foreign nationals in Sudan that life with human rights can no longer be expected in that country because of the loss of security. In this case, managing conflict in greater depth is moreover required as part of peace-building efforts in the conflict in Sudan by applying conflict management. In general, the hostilities that have occurred in Sudan have occurred frequently since it was the first time it became independent in the past. Peace-building measures are made to prevent such conflicts from occurring again. Due to the continuous hostilities, the phrase "Sudan is a country in conflict" is becoming more and more common among academics (Blanchard, 2016).

The last stage in the conflict resolution triangle is peacekeeping efforts which are carried out by maintaining the security of countries in conflict by implementing peace management (Beardsley et al., 2018). In this case, the UN states that in carrying out peacekeeping operations there are at least three principles that must be applied



including the agreement of the conflicting parties to carry out peacekeeping operations, the neutral attitude of third parties towards conflicting parties, and not using violence other than to defend oneself and defend mandate in conflict resolution missions. These principles are based on avoiding conflicts that tend to increase due to errors in their resolution. In this case, obtaining agreement from the conflicting parties is the most paramount point because without such agreement it can potentially provide an extensive risk to the peacekeeping process where conflicting parties can increasingly rebel, and fail the conflict resolution process which is basically foundational and aims to maintain peace (UN, 2008). Thus, a resolution to the war in Sudan may finally be sought through the participation of a third party to arbitrate, where the UN is perhaps able to do so. Because of the trend set by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as well as the fact that the on-going bloodshed in Sudan has resulted in significant deaths and unease among neighbouring countries in particular.

## CONCLUSION

In light of this evidence, after exploring the current conflict resolution in Sudan and the impact it will have on a global scale, it is crystal clear that the current conflict in Sudan can be resolved through a peacekeeping process including intervention from third parties such as economic pressure and cooperation between other countries and Sudan, attempts to negotiate on behalf of human rights affected by the conflict, to the existence of sanctions given by organisations international directly. Furthermore, its impact on a global scale by intervention from a third party can have a negative impact in the future without any vigilance being exercised by Sudan because there will be the potential for third parties to take advantage of the conflict, therefore, exacerbating the situation as happened in other countries such as Syria and Yemen. On the other side, the on-going violence in Sudan may have detrimental effects on the worldwide community as well as domestically, particularly in nations that are geographically close to Sudan. Thus, further research is required for further analysis of the current developments in the conflict in Sudan and its impact on the international community.

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