

# SUDAN

## Party Portrait

Sudan's Arabic and Muslim identity has a palpable effect on the country's foreign relations, and its desire to maintain strong ties with its neighboring countries in the region. In particular, Sudan's shattered economy leads it to seek close and cordial relations with other Arabic and predominantly Muslim neighbors rich in natural resources and economy, like Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Sudan sees Middle Eastern problems as its own. As such, the country tries to take a fully-fledged role in Middle Eastern conflicts. Sudan sees the Middle East as a source of power, derived from a common Arabic and Muslim identity. However, Sudan's main motivation is to develop strong ties with Arabic countries, regardless of their stance on different issues. Sudan desires to maintain positive relations with such diverse allies as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and now Israel. In contrast, South Sudan has a different stance owing to a non-Muslim regime in the country.

## Key Interests

- Combat terrorism, particularly from the threat of al-Qaeda and ISIS
- Secure its borders from the South Sudanese conflict
- Support self-determination of rebel groups against corrupt governments
- Sustain strong ties with Middle East allies and partners, and obtain financial aid

## Sources of Leverage

**Energy** – Sudan is oil rich  
**Natural Resources** – Sudan possesses abundant natural resources, including oil, water, arable land, and mineral resources.  
**Soft Power** – Sudan received global news coverage regarding its afflicted Darfur region, which brought increased attention and financial and humanitarian aid.  
**Technology** – Sudan has 1/3 of Sudan/South Sudan's combined oil resources, but Sudan retains the infrastructure needed to export the oil

## Regional Strategy

Sudan is interested in supporting Arabic and predominantly Muslim countries. Additionally, Sudan has adopted strategies against ISIS and al-Qaeda, opposing the operations of these non-state actors by securing Sudan's boundaries. Sudan opposes the hegemony of non-Muslim states like Israel and Shiite states like Iran and Iraq in order to maintain Sunni hegemony in the Middle East. However, to support self-determination in Arab Spring countries, Sudan intends to continue supplying rebels such as those in Libya and Yemen with aid, including weapons and military assistance.

## Powerful Individuals

Omar al-Bashir (President), Bakri Hassan Saleh (Prime Minister), Hassabu Mohamed Abdelrahman (Second Vice President)

## Potential Negotiation Moves

**Offer to host dialogues with South Sudanese rebel leaders** - South Sudan's rebel groups have struggled to articulate their demands and purpose. Sudan's leaders could initiate conversations with the rebel leaders, could lead to a comprehensive overall peace agreement.  
**Convince China to intervene in South Sudan** - Chinese investments in Sudanese oil refineries and a planned nuclear reactor are threatened by instability in South Sudan. China has the necessary leverage, resources, and interest to attract parties to the table. May cause tension with the United States. The South Sudanese civil war has been rife with human rights abuses.

## Internal Conflicts

Sudan is largely recognized to be an authoritarian state devoid of free and fair elections. In the 2010 presidential elections, the candidate from the main opposition party withdrew from the race, and pro-democracy activists reported government intimidation.

## Memberships

ARAB LEAGUE, AU, IAEA, OIC, UN

## Allies

EGYPT Government, INDIA

## Partners

EUROPEAN UNION, HUMANITARIAN ACTORS, PALESTINE Fatah, SAUDI ARABIA

## Rivals

IRAN, ISRAEL, LIBYA Government of National Accord, UNITED STATES

## Adversaries

SOUTH SUDAN

## Active Armed Opponents

N/A

## Proxy

N/A

## External Sponsor

N/A

## Aid Recipient

N/A

## Aid Donor

AU, EUROPEAN UNION, OIC, SAUDI ARABIA, UNITED NATIONS, UNITED STATES