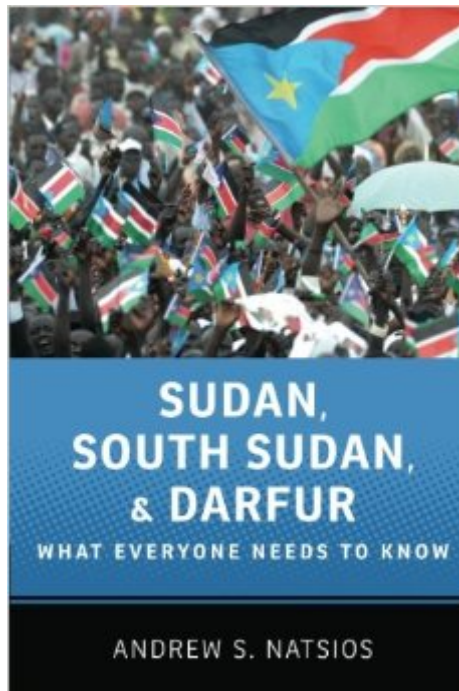


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Sudan, South Sudan, And Darfur: What Everyone Needs To Know®



Synopsis

For thirty years Sudan has been a country in crisis, wracked by near-constant warfare between the north and the south. But on July 9, 2011, South Sudan became an independent nation. As Sudan once again finds itself the focus of international attention, former special envoy to Sudan and director of USAID Andrew Natsios provides a timely introduction to the country at this pivotal moment in its history. Focusing on the events of the last 25 years, Sudan, South Sudan, and Darfur: What Everyone Needs to Know® sheds light on the origins of the conflict between northern and southern Sudan and the complicated politics of this volatile nation. Natsios gives readers a first-hand view of Sudan's past as well as an honest appraisal of its future. In the wake of South Sudan's independence, Natsios explores the tensions that remain on both sides. Issues of citizenship, security, oil management, and wealth-sharing all remain unresolved. Human rights issues, particularly surrounding the ongoing violence in Darfur, likewise still clamor for solutions. Informative and accessible, this book introduces readers to the most central issues facing Sudan as it stands on the brink of historic change. What Everyone Needs to Know® is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press.

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Customer Reviews

Somewhat superficial given the extremely complex nature of the issues, it is a better book than some of these critics - who seem to have their own axes to grind - give it credit for. Natsios does know the players and the issues and has some important things to say about a volatile part of

Africa.

Andrew Natsios was a big supporter in the Bush Administration of the war in Iraq. He was rather infamous at one point for claiming the entire US spending for reconstruction in Iraq would be 1.7 billion. Like many of his kind, he sees the dismemberment and transformation of Sudan into a series of American client states as an important priority. The book is basically a primer that distills Sudan's complicated history down to a compact form representing one point of view. It's organized in the form of what looks like talking points - question and answer - for all aspects of all conflicts in Sudan. His views on the capabilities and history of the SPLA (South Sudan) border on the delusional. He far overrates them and the army of Southern Sudan that followed them. He makes a case late in the book that outsiders (i.e. the US) should pour weapons into South Sudan to help maintain what he considers a balance of power but would in fact be the opposite. He also highlights the lack of air power in the south which is probably a backhanded call to give them (or rent them) an air force. He also brags about his personal role during the Bush administration of establishing ties between South Sudan and the US military. He claims at another point that South Sudan could become the African equivalent of an "Asian tiger". His theory is based in part on a theory that Singapore prospered because it was threatened by China under Mao. Reading between the lines, the long-term plan is to equip the South Sudan army with enough weapons to allow it to go to war with Sudan and/or sponsor an insurgency within Sudan that will bring down its government. It gets two stars because it does provide a peek behind the curtain into what these people are thinking and their motivations.

Really good background information that gives those going to work there a great understanding of how Sudan and South Sudan got to where they are today.

Gives a nice introduction to South-Sudan and the history of the country. Okay reading, glad I read it before I went.

Very Informative. Must Read for anybody interested in the Genesis and follow up on the crisis.

Although the author may claim "insider understanding" of the issues tackled in his book, it should be noted that he was a war-mongering hawk serving under the disastrous Bush administration, and this alone should incline the reader to question his impartiality. The book is clearly biased toward South Sudan, and the author advocates subjecting Sudan to more war and dismemberment in favor of

what he views as a "promising African power: South Sudan". How he justifies this is unclear (US interests in Africa?), especially given South Sudan's well-known record of brutality, corruption, violence against its own citizens, and belligerence. In its two-year existence as the newest country in the world, South Sudan has succeeded in waging a completely illegitimate war both against its Northern neighbor and against its own population, and syphoning billions of dollars (most of which was direct assistance given by Western countries, including the US) from the country, while allowing its own citizens to starve.

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