

New Phase of Assault on Sudan Opens With Plan for Long Border War

by Lawrence K. Freeman

April 27—The decades-long campaign to dispose of the government in Khartoum and dismember the nation of Sudan, is now being carried out through orchestration of an “endless war” on the border between Sudan and South Sudan. Those advocating removal of President Omar al-Bashir, and those manipulating the government of South Sudan into reckless actions, are far worse than simple fools. They can rightly be called mass murderers. For if war returns to Sudan, the resulting death, destruction, and chaos will spread from the Horn of Africa, across the Sahel, all the way to the west coast of the continent.

The primary culprit behind the continuing war has been the British-U.S. led alliance for the overthrow of the Khartoum government, with the goal of carving up Sudan into several warring entities. This is nothing but a policy of *genocide* against the people of Africa coming from the British monarchy’s satanic desire to reduce the world’s population, targeting first the “black” population of Sub-Saharan Africa. In the U.S., this policy is led by President Barack Obama’s United Nations Ambassador, Susan Rice, and her anti-Sudan cohorts in Washington, both in and out of the government. Rice’s education and her policies as a government official reveal her adoption of the British racial view of Africa, although she herself is African-American.

With the recent retreat of the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) back into South Sudan, after its provocative violation of Sudan’s sovereignty with its invasion of Sudan’s Heglig oil field in South Kordofan province, the immediate danger of the war expanding between the two nations was stalled, but is now heating up again. However, the underlying reality has not changed. Neither Sudan nor South Sudan will be able to fully develop their nations and provide the ne-

cessities of life to their people until the war between them has ended. The armed conflict along the border of South Kordofan (Sudan) and Unity State (South Sudan) erupted in June 2011, shortly before South Sudan’s independence on July 9, 2011, and has functioned as a cancerous sore, bleeding both nations since that time.

This author recently returned from a ten-day trip to Sudan, which included a visit to Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan, a tour of two hydroelectric dam projects, plus numerous meetings and interviews. Despite positive government efforts to improve the Sudan economy, Khartoum’s goals will fall short of meeting the needs of Sudan’s approximately 35 million people, as long as the country remains at war. Conditions in South Sudan are orders of magnitude worse.

FIGURE 1



Muhammad Daffa Ramba



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Lawrence Freeman (right) meets with a local leader who describes fleeing from rebels fighting in his hometown of Bram.

Sudan Took a Huge Economic Hit

With the secession of South Sudan, the economy of Sudan was severely jolted, primarily through the loss of oil as the main source of foreign exchange revenue. In an interview with *EIR*, Prof. Ibrahim Ghandour, chairman of the External Relations Sector of the National Congress Party (NCP), and head of the 2 million-strong Sudan Workers Trade Union Federation, outlined the effects of the division of the country.

Ghandour told *EIR*: “With secession, Sudan lost one-fifth of its land, one-fourth of its people, and 65% of its oil resources, which were the main generator of foreign revenues for Sudan. Oil constituted almost 90% of our foreign currency generation.” He said that while “inflation increased 100%, and for the first time in 15 years, the consumer price index rose higher than the wage index,” the government stepped in to alleviate the burden on the poor by supporting subsidized prices for essential goods like pharmaceuticals, sugar, and wheat, so these commodities did not experience this inflationary increase, though prices for cooking oil and meats did rise dramatically. “The people are managing with difficulty, but poor people are very much affected,” he said. In addition to providing almost free universal education, the government sponsors a health-care system which is quite extensive in its coverage, and insures all government workers and their families. About 37% of Sudan’s population is insured by the government.

A vigorous debate around whether the government

should remove fuel subsidies has taken place inside the ruling NCP, according to Ghandour. Fuel costs 8.5 SDG (Sudanese pounds) per gallon, and would jump to 14 SDG if subsidies were removed—a 60%-plus increase. Ghandour reports that the response earlier this year by the Nigerian people to a removal of fuel subsidies led to a rethinking by the government. Ghandour unequivocally opposes removal of fuel subsidies, telling *EIR*: “It would be a political, economic, and social disaster.”

Economic Recovery Program

The government of Sudan has come up with a three-year program in an attempt to get through the immediate crisis, but it is problematic on two counts. One, is the failure to fully comprehend the collapse of the trans-Atlantic financial system, which is impacting all nations. A major reason for the invitation to *EIR* to come to Sudan was to engage in a dialogue that would help leaders there to understand Lyndon LaRouche’s concept of credit and national banking.

Secondly, as Ghandour told *EIR*, “the success of the three-year program is based on a war-free state with minimal security needs,” which is why the continuation of war, even below the level of a full-scale conflict, is such a killer for both Sudan and South Sudan.

In addition to belt-tightening, the goals of the three-year program are to increase oil production in Sudan from its current level of about 130,000 barrels per day (bpd) for internal consumption, to over 180,000 bpd, which would allow the exporting of oil to obtain foreign currencies. Also, increased mining of minerals and precious metals for export is expected to increase foreign reserves. The program will place a primary focus on improving the agricultural sector, which was foolishly neglected over the last decade’s oil boom. The plan is to become self-sufficient in sugar and edible oils, and 90% in medicine, and self-sufficient in wheat in four to five years. But this is a tall order, and is viewed by some with skepticism, given that Sudan is importing 1.2 million tons of wheat to meet its current consumption level of 2 million tons per year.



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The Upper Atbara spillway. This huge project will connect the Upper Atbara River with the seasonal Setit River, providing water and power for the region, even in the dry season.

Infrastructure and Energy

The commitment by the government of Sudan to develop the country's infrastructure, particularly the generation of hydroelectric power, was evident when *EIR* visited two dam projects in eastern Sudan.

First, we traveled to the Upper Atbara Dam Complex, which lies between the states of Kassala and Gedaref, less than 500 kilometers east of Khartoum. This large construction project utilizes the flow of the Upper Atbara River and the seasonal Setit River, and is contoured to produce 320 megawatts (MW) when completed in 2016. The project is so large that one has to travel by car to get from one side to the other; its unique feature is that it connects the two rivers by a canal under one reservoir between them, combining the more powerful Atbara and the weaker Setit to create a constant flow of water for power generation, even during the dry season. It will also provide irrigation for the New Haifa agricultural scheme.

Next we flew to El Damazin in Blue Nile state, to tour the Roseires Dam on the Blue Nile River, which first started generating power in 1971. The Roseires Dam generates 270 MW of power, and irrigates 2 million feddans (one feddan is approximately equal to

one acre). The government signed a contract in 2008 to increase the height of the dam by ten meters.

Mutaz Musa Abdallah Salim, the Director of Projects in the Electricity and Dams Ministry, in an interview with *EIR*, said this heightening should have been done decades ago, as originally planned. With its completion in June 2012, the reservoir will more than double its capacity from 3.4 to 7.4 billion cubic meters, allowing it to extend its power generation to 12 months a year, when it is filled in September during the rainy season. Mutaz Musa said that the expanded

volume of the Roseires Reservoir will also add to the "intensity" of irrigation of the Gezira Scheme. The cost of these two needed infrastructure projects is a reasonable \$1,260,000.

Mutaz Musa told *EIR* that Sudan is utilizing about 10 billion cubic meters of water from the Nile, out of its allotment of 18.5 billion stipulated in the 1959 Nile Water Agreement with Egypt, which he insisted cannot



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The Roseires Dam on the Blue Nile River.

be changed. There are proposals under consideration for two more dams on the Nile, the Kajbar Dam at the third Cataract, and the Shereik Dam at the Fifth Cataract.

With the completion of the Merowe Dam (1,250 MW), the Upper Atbara, and the structural improvement of the Roseires, Sudan will have 2,750 MW of hydroelectric power and another 2,000 MW from thermal, with another gas-powered plant expected to be completed in 2013 in El Fula, South Kordofan (400 MW). This will bring Sudan's total power generation to over 5,000 MW, which is already more than Nigeria has for a population almost five times larger, but pales in comparison to the plans of Ethiopia to bring on line 25,000 MW over the next ten years, as part of its long-term goal of producing 65,000 MW.

It is encouraging that Sudan and Ethiopia are involved in joint efforts in power and transportation, because the collaboration of these two countries also has the potential to free the Horn of Africa of famine, once and for all.

Agriculture Must Be the Focus

Having lost a large portion of its arable land, Sudan will have to improve its agricultural efficiency and expand its irrigation capability to achieve the level of food production necessary to feed its growing population. Increasing agricultural output must be the top priority of the government. The Sudanese people will put up with a certain level of hardship in their daily existence, if they trust that the government is taking measures to improve their lives. Obviously, the food must also be affordable. Also, given the reality that agricultural life dominates Sudan, the most fruitful pathway for improving the economy, is directed investments in infrastructure, especially in water and power, to facilitate an immediate increase in the productivity of farmers.

In a discussion with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, *EIR* received the following report of the current state of Sudan's agricultural sector.

Out of 200 million feddans of arable land, 20% is being utilized in three systems: 35 million feddans in



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A sorghum farm in Om Durman; the Nile River is on the left. Sudan is predominantly agricultural, and encouraging the development and productivity of farms is key to the nation's future.

rain-fed and mechanized rain farming and 5 million feddans with irrigation. There are four irrigated agricultural projects for growing ground nuts, cotton, wheat, and fruits and vegetables: Gezira—2 million feddans; New Haifa—400,000; Al Rahad—300,000; and Al Suki—70,000. Mechanical rain-fed systems produce sesame, sunflowers, sorghum, ground nuts, cotton, hibiscus, and gum arabic.

Given the size of the wheat deficit (60%, of 2 million tons consumed), for Sudan to become self-sufficient in wheat by 2016-17, there would have to be a dirigistic approach by the government to invest in the infrastructure necessary to more than double production of wheat. The land area being discussed for increased wheat planting would be the Northern State, which runs north from the center of Khartoum and Omdurman up to the Egyptian border. This is the area that Egypt was intending to lease to produce wheat for its own use, but the deal was never completed.

The most exciting development for Sudan and Africa is the commitment to build the long-overdue transcontinental railway across Central Africa, from Port Sudan all the way to Dakar, Senegal, financed by the Islamic Development Bank of the Organization of Islamic Conference. Sudan will complete its section, which will run from Port Sudan through Khartoum and across Darfur to the border with Chad. If we include the expanded network of rail lines to Libya, Nigeria, and

FIGURE 2

Existing Railroads and Planned Transcontinental Line



LPAC

The Islamic Development Bank is financing construction of a long-overdue transcontinental railroad from Port Sudan to Dakar, Senegal. The existing railroads were built mainly by colonial powers, to ship extracted loot to the coasts. There has never been an east-west or north-south continental railroad in Africa.

Algeria, construction of this 14,000-km railway project across the girth of Africa will not just revolutionize trade and economic development for the nations immediately affected, but will have a major impact on whole continent.

When the next bold (and logical) step is taken, to link Africa to the Eurasian land mass, through tunnel or bridge connections across the Mediterranean Sea, then the African continent will become fully integrated into global economy.

New Targeting by Obama

But Sudan is not going to be allowed to proceed unimpeded. With the formation of a new atrocity by President Obama’s so-called Atrocity Prevention Board (APB), we see the mechanism for the next level of intervention against Sudan’s sovereignty. Inspired by Tony Blair’s anti-nation-state doctrine “responsibility to protect” (R2P), George Soros’s creation, Samantha Powers, will head this blatantly illegal and anti-American campaign to invade nations whose governments are deemed to be threatening their own people. It should be

no surprise that at the first meeting of the APB held in the White House, Sudan was the only topic of discussion by Powers and her group.

Claims of a humanitarian food disaster from the war between Sudan and South Sudan are being used in preparation for a new campaign against Khartoum. In March, USAID official Nancy Lindborg falsely claimed that 250,000 people would be facing famine in South Kordofan by April, if the Sudan government did not allow foreign NGOs to set up operations in the war zone. There is no doubt that thousands of Sudanese are in need of food, but it is also evident that food insecurity is being used as a propaganda weapon, to create an atmosphere for an R2P-type intervention by Obama’s APB.

When *EIR* visited a camp of 1,800 displaced families in Kadugli, who were forced to leave their homes and travel by foot for five days to find shelter and protection from the rebel attacks on their village, Bram, there were no signs of famine or disease, but we did see the ugly effects of war. Officials at the offices of both the World Food Program and UNICEF in Kadugli refused to confirm that a famine was imminent. At this makeshift dis-

placed persons camp supported by the government, the living conditions were unacceptable by any reasonable 21st-Century standard, but there was a functioning health clinic, water, and food. What the people wanted most of all was for the rebels to leave their village so they could return to their homes.

At a hearing in the U.S. House of Representatives on April 26, Lindborg held the government of Sudan responsible for the lives of 500,000 people in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. She claimed that 200-250,000 people are facing a food emergency in areas held by the SPLM-N rebels, who are waging a military campaign to topple the government of Khartoum, aided by elements from the government of South Sudan. As predicted and intended, know-nothing advocacy groups are now using Lindborg’s testimony to e-mail incendiary messages that President Bashir is threatening the lives of half a million people, with comparisons to Darfur. Evangelist preacher Franklin Graham has called on the U.S. to use its Air Force to bomb Sudan’s airfields. If governments, institutions, and leaders in the United States and around the world are truly concerned

about humanitarian conditions in South Kordofan, they would shut down this nine-month-long armed rebellion against the sovereign nation of Sudan, initiated by the SPLM-N, with foreign support.

Amira El-Fadil, Minister of Health and Social Security, told *EIR* that when she went to New York to explain the true state of food availability in South Kordofan, Susan Rice objected to being briefed, and attempted to end the discussion before it began.

“There is no famine in the areas under control of the government of Sudan,” the minister told us, adding that the government of Sudan participated with four UN agencies—the World Food Program, World Health Organization, International Organization for Migration, and UNICEF—to conduct a rapid assessment of the area under control of the Sudan government, and they reported no famine. The government is providing emergency food, durum wheat, and other food items, she said, but “that government has no access to areas controlled by rebel groups.” She went on to say: “We don’t trust UN agencies . . . We need the UN to treat us fairly . . . and you [the U.S.] are backing the side of the rebel groups.”

The United Nations is presently reviewing accusations that the motivation for South Sudan’s invasion of the Heglig oilfield, which is a major oil-processing center and oilfield for Sudan, was intended to further cripple Sudan’s economy, hoping to inspire a revolt against President Bashir. The oil facilities in Heglig were destroyed by the invasion of the SPLA. Whether this claim is corroborated or not, South Sudan is being manipulated by a host of Americans advisors, among others, to follow a dangerous course, one that is destructive to the very existence of South Sudan itself.

The UN Food and Agricultural Organization reports that 4.7 million people—over half of South Sudan’s population—will be food-insecure in 2012, which includes over 2 million who are already receiving food assistance. Under these desperate conditions, the suicidal shutdown by the SPLM of this oil production, amounting to 350,000 bpd, has the potential to create severe convulsions inside South Sudan.

Who Planted the Seeds for War?

South Sudan is a victim of a larger political game, aimed at breaking up the entire Sudanese territory and its control over the Nile River system, which the British have desired since Lord Herbert Kitchener’s massacre of the followers of “The Mahdi” in 1898. South Sudan has been treated as a western client state, but not treated

very well, with the U.S. failing to assist it to build its economic capacity, and instead strengthening it as a military base, with the support of some Israeli forces.

It is known to all who have studied the machinations around the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), that South Sudan is being used by the West, especially through its relationship to the U.S., to destroy Sudan. The CPA, signed on Jan. 9, 2005, which allowed six years for the South to decide whether it wanted to separate from Sudan and establish itself as a new nation, was forced upon Sudan by Washington. Then-President George W. Bush promised President Bashir, in a personal phone call, that after the signing of the CPA, there would be a conference in Washington to inaugurate a new level of normalized relations between the U.S. and Sudan. A similar promise was made by the current U.S. government, if President Bashir did not interfere in the Jan. 9, 2011 election in South Sudan and permitted the subsequent independence of South Sudan six months later. Neither promise was kept.

A common criticism of Sudan is that the government failed to make unity attractive from 2005-11. This has an element of truth, especially in view of the failure to invest in national infrastructure projects and develop the agricultural sector. Sudan has also allowed itself to respond in an profiled manner to various provocations, rather than creatively outflanking the attacks on its sovereignty; this response is part of the calculations of those instigating the conflict.

However, it was the obsessive fixation for “separation at all costs,” without concern for resolving the highly contentious issues of oil fees, border demarcations, and citizenship, that created the deteriorating relationship between Sudan and South Sudan over the last nine months, such that war has been a constant, as if “predetermined,” if not intended, by those who would like to see Sudan dissolve into anarchy, without any regard for the fate of South Sudan.

The only way out of this current rigged geopolitical game is for Khartoum and Juba not to accept the rules of the game imposed on them. They must realize that they are potentially each other’s most vital and important ally, and establish a common mission for the development of both nations and for all of the Sudanese people. This requires ending the war. Minister El-Fadil said it well: “Peace is the only solution between the government of Sudan and South Sudan. Without peace, no country will prosper.”

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