
RESEARCH REPORT

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Background:

In 2011 South Sudan was founded as the world's youngest country, not so long afterward, the country became torn and fell into civil war. The war had erupted in 2013, and since then, 383,000 people have died as a result, 2,100,000 civilians internally displaced. Furthermore, more than 70% of schools have been closed, with 6 million living in hunger. War broke out due to disagreements in policies between South Sudan President Salva Kiir and South Sudan Vice-President Riek Machar. There has been multiple interventions by neighboring countries, such as Uganda and Sudan, where both troops and support were sent. The United Nations Security Council created the "United Nations Mission in South Sudan" in order to stop the ongoing arms trade, prevent humanitarian crisis from occurring and stabilise the ongoing conflict.

Definition of key terms:

- The civil war was not caused by ethnic division, but because the army was not a professionalized, institutional army, but rather a collection of each militia, each of which was organised on basis of personal loyalty to its commander.
- A temporary refugee camp has been set up to give refugees basic human needs such as, shelter, water, food.
- South Sudan has almost no paved roads, and communications and infrastructure are non-existent.

Key Participants:

South Sudan
Sudan's Peoples Liberation Movement-in-Opposition
United Nations Mission in South Sudan
Uganda
Sudan

Timeline of key events:

Date	Events
9 July 2011	South Sudan gained its independence.
December 2013	President Kiir accused Riek Machar, his former deputy, of attempting a coup d'état.
December 2013	A civil war breaks out. More than 2.2 million people had to evacuate their homes and famine broke out which risked the lives of thousands of people.
January 2014	The first ceasefire agreement was made, however this did not stop the fighting.
August 2015	Threatened by the United Nations sanction, both parties signed a peace agreement: "Compromise Peace Agreement", in Ethiopia.
2016	By returning to Juba, Machar was appointed as vice president.
August 2018	A power-sharing agreement was placed due to a renewed offer to end the war.

Previous Attempts To Solve The Issue

In January 2014, the first solution in order to end the war took place. However, it failed dramatically; the fighting resumed after three days. The makers tried again with a ceasefire. This time, the fighting only stopped for one hour. There are many parties and bodies, both national and international which are involved in the matter of South Sudan.

At least nine agreements have been signed since the war started in 2013. Among all these agreements, only one has lasted longer than a month. It is obvious that finding a solution is not easy, and the ones that are found do not work. It is argued that this is because these efforts suffer from several defects, including inadequate oversight, lack of enforcement and the absence of an integrated, coherent plan for peace.

In addition to this, even when the president and commander-in-chief Salva Kiir declared a ceasefire, the regime's forces still violated it. Regardless of who started the attack, it shows that the order that was given by the president and the order that was given by the head of the opposition to their forces was not fully implemented. Violations of the ceasefire have also prompted a push by the international community to threaten UN and regional sanctions against those blocking the path to peace.

Possible Solutions

Sudan and other neighboring countries are argued to be a good solution to the issue at hand. South Sudan needs a deal that is not based on power sharing. The deal should strengthen state institutions that would guarantee transitional arrangements. But to find a speedy solution, sanctions should be imposed. Sanctions would go a long way to bring about a ceasefire. But they need not be imposed by Western countries or the United States. Sanctions imposed by the countries around South Sudan would be more effective since their roots would be deeper within the region.

International actors should ensure that their actions and omissions do not prolong the suffering, however unintentionally. Overcoming the tendency to broker conventional transactional power-sharing agreements would be an important start.

There is a need to examine what concessions the international community, the government, and the opposition had to make to enable the negotiation of an agreement. A significant trade-off—the one on which we will focus here—is how the actors framed the causes of the conflict. A few interpretations stand out. They shape the narrative of what causes violence in South Sudan. But by giving simplified versions they obstruct, rather than construct, the road toward peace in South Sudan.

Sources:

“South Sudan Country Profile.” BBC News, BBC, 6 Aug. 2018, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14069082.

“South Sudanese Civil War.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 2 Jan. 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudanese_Civil_War.