

Recent Books on Sudan/South Sudan – Sept 2021

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To Be or Not to Be : Sudan at Crossroads : A Pan-African Perspective : A Black African Nation Undone by the Ideology of Islamo-Arabism / M. Jalal Hashim

Dar es Salaam: Mkuki na Nyota Publishers Ltd, 2019

viii, 160p.

Includes Bibliography

9789987083763

\$ 35.00 / PB

250gm.

To be or not to be is an analysis of linguistic, cultural, political, economic and social factors, which explain the intricate root causes of conflicts which have ravished Sudan. It stands in stark contrast to the dominant simplification and distortions which have come to typify presentations of the region. Central to the book is an unapologetic explanation of Arabization; which often is portrayed as individual choices of religious loyalty, but, in fact, masks an intentional power-system which viciously corrupts African identities. By highlighting the detrimental complexities of manipulation, geopolitics, identity confusion and cultural imperialism, Hashim has not only written an authoritative book about Sudan, but also presented a comprehensive case study that all of Africa must learn from. Rarely are we presented with such a vigorous inside-view to an area of Africa which once was held in the highest civilizational esteem, but has been reduced to an ideological field of Arab-led terror, massacres and disintegration.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=609002>

South Sudan : Elites, Ethnicity, Endless Wars and the Stunted State / Peter Adwok Nyaba

Dar es Salaam: Mkuki na Nyota Publishers Ltd, 2019

xvi, 270p.
9789987083664
\$ 50.00 / PB
450gm.

The elites—whether political, military, or economic—constitute a determinant force in state formation and nation-building projects in post-colonial transitions. The absence of a scientific understanding of the socioeconomic and political configuration of South Sudan has obfuscated the liberation struggle and generated ethnic nationalism and a parasitic class that is completely alienated from the masses of the people. South Sudan, the highly hyped youngest state in Africa and the world, is in a deep social, economic, and political crisis characterised by a low-intensity civil war, immense sufferings and material deprivation of the people. It has internally displaced hundreds of thousands of people who live in “protection of civilian” sites in major towns under the care of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. Three and a half million have crossed international borders to seek refuge in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya. The ruling elite, completely unperturbed by the deep humanitarian crisis and apparent near-collapse of the state, clamour for power-sharing. Together with foreign collaborators, they have enriched themselves and fuelled the war through the extraction and plunder of the country’s natural resources. This book is a critical analysis of the socioeconomic and political failures of South Sudan’s leaders who have plunged the nascent state into the abyss.

South Sudan: Elites, Ethnicity, Endless Wars and the Stunted State is likely to achieve its objective of stimulating debate about the future of South Sudan as a viable polity. The hope is that readers, through the debate generated by this book, will rediscover the commonality that marked the struggle for freedom, justice, and fraternity, and abandon ethnic ideologies as a means of constructing a modern state in South Sudan. *South Sudan: Elites, Ethnicity, Endless Wars and the Stunted State* is a must-read for South Sudanese intellectuals who want to reshape the socioeconomic and political development trajectory of it.

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