



SUDAN



Capital: Khartoum

Languages: Arabic, English, 400 regional dialects

Religions: 97 % Sunni Muslim, small Christian minority

Population: 34,206,710

Refugees: 500,014

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): 2,422,520

The Republic of Sudan is an Arab state in North Africa that is bordered by Egypt to the north, the Red Sea to the northeast, Eritrea and Ethiopia to the east, South Sudan to the south, the Central African Republic to the southwest, Chad to the west and Libya to the northwest. Sudan is one fifth of the land mass of the United States and is divided in eastern and western halves by the Nile River. The topography is mostly a flat desert and the climate is hot and dry. Sudan has a number of mineral resources, but its most profitable and one that is the impetus for creating conflict is oil.

Sudan was colonized by Great Britain for the last decade of the 19th century and maintained the country as a colony until independence was reached in 1956. Following the break from the United Kingdom military regimes dominated the governing of Sudan and produced many years of civil wars that eventually culminated in the secession and creation of the South Sudanese state in 2011. The formation of two separate Sudanese states did not facilitate peaceful coexistence and bloody conflicts continue to this day. The political upheaval and remaining violence still force Sudanese from their homes as IDPs and as refugees crossing borders into other African countries. In addition to these unresolved conflicts, Sudanese from the Darfur region have systematically suffered brutal attacks by militias intent on ethnic cleansing that escalated to the point of the international community declaring genocide in that region.

Over the last three decades Sudanese refugees were approved for resettlement in the United States and other refugee-accepting countries. Most notable were the Lost Boys of Sudan, approximately 20,000 from the Nuer and Dinka ethnic groups, who were orphaned and displaced for years before eventual resettlement.