

Understanding Sudan

A Teaching and Learning Resource



Fact Sheet Ten: A Timeline of Events in Sudan

Date	Sudanese History	The history of Oil
1956	Sudan becomes an independent country.	
1959		The Italy-based oil company Agip granted a concession in the Red Sea Area
1962	In the South of Sudan, civil war begins, led by the Anya Nya movement.	
1964	Abbud is overthrown and a national government established.	Port Sudan refinery comes online.
1969	Jaafar Nimeiri becomes president.	
1972	The Addis Ababa agreement, with its promise of autonomy for the South, ends 17 years of civil war.	
1979		Chevron discovers oil near Abu Jabra and al Sharaf.
1980	Nimeiri attempts to redivide the south into three states. A map places the area where oil has been found in Northern Sudan.	
1982		Chevron discovers oil in the Muqlad basin.
1983	Civil war breaks out between the government and the Southern People's Liberation Movement/Army. Nimeiri introduces "sharia law"	
1984		SPLA attack oil fields in the south. Chevron suspends operations after three of its workers are killed.

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1989	Al Bashir and the National Islamic Front stage a military coup and take power.	
1990	The first gulf war breaks out – Khartoum backs Iraq and Riyadh suspends oil supplies.	
1991	Riek Machar and Lam Akol breakaway from the SPLA and form what will later be known as the SPLA-United.	
1992	Government begins mass forcible relocation of Nubans to IDP camps.	Chevron sells its concession to Concorp.
1993	US State Department adds Sudan to the list of countries supporting terrorism.	Concorp sells its concession to SPC (later SPC/Arakis).
1994		Arakis purchase State Petroleum and control the concessions in Heglig and Unity.
1996	Agreement reached between SPLA-United and the government of Sudan.	Arakis start limited production in Heglig. The Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company takes a controlling stake in blocks 1,2 and 4.
1997	Sudan adopts an “Islamic” constitution.	Lundin oil signs product sharing agreement for Block 5A.
1998	US missile attack on Khartoum chemical plant.	Arakis is absorbed by Talisman.
1999	“Many villages on the eastern edge of Heglig were attacked and burned to the ground by the Sudanese army, causing the displacement of 1,000 to 2,000 civilians” says UN Rapporteur. Sudanese government bans all relief flights to people living around the oil fields.	First pipeline delivery to Port Sudan terminal from Heglig.

Date	Sudanese History	The history of Oil
2000		CNPC acquire a 41% stake in the Petrodar consortium which operates blocks 3 and 7.
2001		Petronas acquire 41% stake in Block 5B
2002		The India-based Oil and Natural Gas company buy out Talisman after widespread uproar in Canada over human rights abuses in Sudan.
2003		Petronas buy out Lundin's stake in Block 5A
2005	Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed by government of Sudan and SPLM/A.	Melut Basin-Port Sudan pipeline completed by Petrodar.
2007		Justice and Equality Movement kidnap five Chinese oil workers. National Petroleum Council rule in favor of Total in their dispute with White Nile Ltd. Over block Ba.
2008		Nine Chinese oil workers kidnapped by an armed group at Heglig oil field.
2009	International Criminal Court issues an arrest warrant for President Omar al Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Hague	Quamari oil field discovered by Petrodar.