

South Sudan: When the Empire is Your Liberator, You're Not Really Independent

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Global Research, January 15, 2014

[Black Agenda Report](#)

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The United States, which boasts that South Sudan owes its independence to Washington, seems poised to repossess the new nation's sovereignty. With Sudan's uniformed warlords locked in combat, the usual American "experts" are calling for the U.S. to assume trusteeship of the country – especially its oil.

For decades, the United States and Israel sought to bring about the fracturing of Sudan, which had been, geographically, the largest nation in Africa. Secession of the South was a special project of Israel, whose most enduring and fundamental foreign policy is to spread chaos and dissention in the Muslim and Arab worlds. Sudan, under the political control of the mostly Muslim North, joined the Arab League immediately upon independence, in 1956. Israel has sought to destabilize Sudan ever since, both to strike a blow at "Arabized" Africans and to curry favor among Christians on the continent.

John Garang, who rose to leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, received military training in Israel in 1970, during Sudan's first civil war. However, Garang favored keeping the South in federation with a united Sudan. In 2005, under a Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Garang became vice president of the whole of Sudan and premier of the southern part of the country. He died in a mysterious helicopter crash six months later. Garang was succeeded by Salva Kiir, who sports a black cowboy hat given to him by President Bush, in 2006.

Dismembering Sudan became a U.S. obsession under Bill Clinton, who bombed a pharmaceuticals factory in the capital city, Khartoum, in 1998, falsely claiming it was a chemical weapons facility. After 9/11 Sudan moved to the top of President Bush's enemies list. The U.S. and Israel provided arms and training to rebel groups in Darfur, in the west of the Sudan, fueling another front of civil war.

President Obama entered the White House the year after AFRICOM, the U.S. Africa Command, came into being, and two years before the South Sudanese were to vote in a referendum on whether they wanted to become an independent nation. With much of Africa now under the sway of the U.S. military, Washington dropped all diplomatic pretense and openly bragged that it was the Godfather of the South Sudanese state that emerged in July of 2011. What was left of Khartoum's part of Sudan lost most of its oil. China had good reason to be worried, having invested \$20 billion in Sudan before it was split, and pledged \$8 billion more to South Sudan after independence – but now the Americans were strutting around like they owned the place.

Then came the collapse, as the South Sudanese military broke up into its component

warlord parts. Suddenly, the U.S. political class is talking about repossessing the country's sovereignty. In the pages of the *New York Times*, [Princeton Lyman](#), the former U.S. special envoy to South Sudan calls for the United Nations to assume the role of "protector" of the country, with oversight of the economy and the oil fields (of course). Another establishment foreign policy "expert," [G. Pascal Zachary](#), calls on the United States to assume "trusteeship" of South Sudan, including control of its military and police. That sounds a lot like Haiti, a country whose independence was stolen by George Bush in 2004 and which remains a "protectorate" of the United Nations – actually, of the United States, France and Canada and any corporation that wants to set up a sweatshop. What the American Godfather giveth, he also claims the right to take away.

So, what have the South Sudanese won? Certainly, not independence. It's just another oil rich, neocolonial spot on the map of U.S. empire.

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