Sudanese Language Policy in Light of Southern Secession: History and Prospects

Heather J. Sharkey

University of Pennsylvania

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Lining up to vote in South Sudan
Timeline

- British colonial (Anglo-Egyptian) period, 1898-1965
- Decolonization (late 1940s-1956)
- First civil war (1955-1972)
- Interim peace, following Addis Ababa Accord (1972-1983)
Southern Education Timeline

• Pre-1950s: English & “vernaculars”
• 1950s-1972: State-sponsored Arabization; “bush schools” & refugee education (English + local languages); spoken Arabic expanding as lingua franca; Anglophone southern intellectuals
• → Result: uneven & variable Arabic proficiency
• 1972-1983: official return of English in South (Arabic-English bilingualism in upper schools, in theory)
• 1983-2005: Collapse of educational infrastructure; NGO and church schools
Yei, Sudan
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President Omar al-Bashir  Photo: REUTERS

Village school, South Sudan
The Challenges Ahead
A Southern Sudanese soldier following a visit by an environment Minister from a southern state, stands next to the infrastructure of an field processing facility in Unity State on November 10, 2010. Experts say the most important for South and North Sudan is to seek an agreement that allows for a stable investment climate and to cooperate well. (Roberto Schmidt/Getty Images)
ABYEI
UNMIS Picture Gallery
From a UNMIS photo gallery about Abyei (May 2011)
Chinese President Hu Jintao, right, reviews the honor guard in company with his Sudanese counterpart Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir during a welcome ceremony in Khartoum, capital of Sudan, Friday, February 2, 2007. Sudan is the third station in an eight-nation tour of the continent. [Xinhua]
UAE has over 2,800 sq km in Sudan farms.

Language Policy and Practice: Where now?
al-Masir: the first South Sudanese Arabic newspaper
Cell Phones in Sudan: The Social Impact?
UNITY BY FORCE IS SLAVERY
A girl holds a South Sudan flag on January 30 during the announcement of the preliminary results of voting on independence. Photo: Reuters