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978-1-107-06114-9 - Water, Civilisation and Power in Sudan: The Political Economy
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Water, Civilisation and Power in Sudan

In 1989, a secretive movement of Islamists allied itself to a military cabal to violently take power in Africa's biggest country. Sudan's revolutionary regime was built on four pillars – a new politics, economic liberalisation, an Islamic revival, and a U-turn in foreign relations – and mixed militant conservatism with social engineering: a vision of authoritarian modernisation. Water and agricultural policy have been central to this state-building project. Going beyond the conventional lenses of famine, “water wars” or the oil resource curse, Harry Verhoeven links environmental factors, development and political power. Based on years of unique access to the Islamists, generals and business elites at the core of the *Al-Ingaz* (Salvation) Revolution, Verhoeven tells the story of one of Africa's most ambitious state-building projects in the modern era – and how its gamble to instrumentalise water and agriculture to consolidate power is linked to twenty-first-century globalisation, Islamist ideology and the intensifying geopolitics of the Nile.

Harry Verhoeven teaches African politics at Oxford University and is the founder and convenor of the Oxford University China-Africa Network, as well as the founder of the Oxford Central Africa Forum. He has published in *Civil Wars*; *Conflict, Security & Development*; *Development and Change*; *Geopolitics*; *Journal of Eastern African Studies*; *Journal of Modern African Studies*; *Middle East Policy*; *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*; *Review of African Political Economy* and *The Washington Quarterly*. In January 2015, he took up a professorship in comparative politics and international relations at the School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University, based in Qatar.

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The African Studies series, founded in 1968, publishes research monographs by emerging and senior scholars that feature innovative analyses in the fields of history, political science, anthropology, economics and environmental studies. The series also produces mature, paradigm-shifting syntheses that seek to reinterpret and revitalise the scholarly literature in these fields.

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 UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107061149

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First published 2015

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Verhoeven, Harry, author.

Water, civilisation and power in Sudan : the political
 economy of military-Islamist state building / Harry
 Verhoeven, University of Oxford.

pages cm. – (The African studies series ; 131)

Includes bibliographical references.

1. Water resources development – Government policy – Sudan.
2. Water-supply – Political aspects – Sudan. 3. Water-supply – Political
 aspects – Nile River. 4. Barrages – Political aspects – Nile River.
5. Dams – Political aspects – Sudan. 6. Economic development – Political
 aspects – Sudan. 7. Sudan – Politics and government – 1985–
8. Islam and politics – Sudan. I. Title. II. Series: African studies
 series (Cambridge, England) ; 131.

HD1699.S8V47 2015

333.911509624-dc23 2014043735

ISBN 978-1-107-06114-9 Hardback

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Hydropower development in Sudan and Ethiopia

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Acknowledgements

Water, Civilisation and Power in Sudan emerges from more than half a decade of research, formally starting back in October 2008 in the context of a doctorate at St Cross College and the Department of Politics and International Relations of the University of Oxford. After completing my DPhil in 2012, I continued working on some of the biggest questions one can ask about Sudan, resulting – ultimately – in this monograph. Writing this book could have been achieved only through the advice, support and inspiration of a wide range of people whose paths I am privileged to have crossed.

I was fortunate to have Dr Ricardo Soares de Oliveira as a supervisor and even more so to have him as a mentor, colleague and friend after April 2012. The intellectual exchanges we have had over the years have always gone beyond the call of duty, constantly augmenting my thirst for knowledge and longing to think differently: conversing with Ricardo never fails to make one want to read more. His personal guidance is something I have appreciated from day one and continue to benefit from; it is an honour to have been introduced to the Academy by Ricardo.

Many other scholars deserve to be thanked at length too. David Anderson was particularly inspirational, both in his constant suggestions for improving my writing and in encouraging my growing conviction that high-level scholarship and real-world concerns should never be separated, but should mutually reinforce one another. This book is substantially indebted to Dave's drive and vision. I also want to thank Wendy James, Jocelyn Alexander, Phil Clark, Ahmed Al-Shahi, John Ryle, Daphne Hampson and Andrew Goudie, whose inputs at various stages of the process mattered greatly. Many hours of in-depth discussions with Tony

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Allan, Eckart Woertz and Christopher Cramer challenged my ideas and forced me to refine the core argument. And there is no one with whom I have discussed the Al-Ingaz regime and African elite politics in general at greater length than Philip Roessler, including during the half time of the World Cup 2010 Final between Spain and the Netherlands and by the side of the Nile, on the shores of Lake Kivu and near the mines of Katanga. In addition to the joy of his companionship, I have gained hugely from Phil's experience, provocative comments and methodological rigour.

My gratitude also goes out to many colleagues and seasoned academics, politicians and civil servants in Sudan itself and the wider region. Asim Al-Moghraby, Seif Al-Din Hamad Abdalla and Mohamed Abdelgader especially were some of the best possible discussion partners – their insights on Sudan's history, its bureaucracy and its obsession with water, civilisation and power have been crucial. They were generous with their time and confidence.

In addition, I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to dozens of interviewees, many in positions of great influence and often notoriously hard to get hold of. I have benefited especially from discussions with Abdelrahim Hamdi, Ghazi Salah-ud-Din, Osman Al-Sayed and Hassan Al-Turabi himself. Within Al-Harakat Al-Islamiyyah, special thanks goes out to Ahmed Daak for both his personal generosity and sense of humour and his willingness to not only share ideas and contacts but also to shatter taboos and think critically about the past and the future.

I should also mention some of the people and organisations who strengthened my project on a practical level. Many thanks to the team assembled by Cambridge University Press –William, Sarika, Kate, Jeanie, Philip and others– for making this publication possible. Their efforts helped successfully conclude this enterprise which greatly benefited throughout from the open atmosphere at the University of Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations and at St Cross College and Wolfson College. Conferences, workshops and seminars put me in touch with some of the greatest minds and most experienced people in the Academy, and far beyond. Oxford has served as an ideal base for intellectual pursuits and personal growth for six years. UNDP Sudan, through Massimo Diana and Anders Haugland, provided me with wonderful opportunities in terms of access to remote locations in Blue Nile, Sennar and White Nile State. I also thank Sally Healy and Roger Middleton of Chatham House, who commissioned a study on the Sudan-Ethiopia relationship and enabled me to travel extensively in the Horn of Africa in 2010 and 2011. Further thanks go to the Sudanese embassy in London for facilitating the Byzantine processes to

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obtain regular visas; to Bernard and Sylvia Holmes for generously funding work in South Sudan; to the team of Muslim Hands in Omdurman, with whom I travelled to Eastern Sudan; to IFAD for our visit to the Butana; and to Maha Ayoub, Armando Barucco, Siddig Hamid, Abdelwahab El-Affendi, Mohamed Omer Ati, Alison King, Marc Gustafson, Osman Al-Mirghani and Teferra Beyene for their help and kind words at expected and unexpected moments. My best wishes also go out to Abdou and Usman at Hotel Central; their late-night banter and assistance of all sorts at odd hours of the day was superb.

Many friends of mine have been incredible sources of support and have continuously reminded me of the importance of this project. The family biographies of Gihad Abunafeesa, Bakry Osman, Thouiba Hashim Galad, Abdou Ramadan and Theodora in many ways represent the promises and broken dreams of Sudan, but the daily struggles waged by these friends also give me hope that their beloved country may one day escape the violent links between water, civilisation and power. Joe Piper, Mallory “Matoke” Earnshaw, Enar Suleiman, Sam Potolicchio, Muna Mohamed, Simon Asrat and Henny Ziai should be thanked here as well – as should Simukai Chigudu, who ensured that roaring laughter and brilliant music were never more than twenty minutes away from the writing of a difficult chapter. My wife, Maimuna Mohamud, entered my life late into the research, but when she did, her care and intelligence became so invaluable that I cannot imagine being parted from them. Her love encourages me to seek the good in everything and everyone. Finally, I would like to thank my old *compañeros* Tom Matthijs and Frederik Bordon, who have travelled various parts of the road with me and will undoubtedly continue to do so for a very long time. The purpose of our friendship has never been anything other than a deepening of the spirit.

Essential too has been the incredible belief, sacrifice and encouragement of my family in Dilbeek, Waarbeke and Galmaarden, very much including my cousin-brother Dennis. I have the best parents a son could ever wish for, and I have never for a second in my life felt I couldn’t rely on their absolute love and understanding. They have given me all the chances in the world and allowed me to take a road less travelled – the most important gift of them all. My paternal grandfather, who more than anyone embodied the idea that we should never cease to question and learn, didn’t live to see this moment, but I trust that, wherever he may be, he is proud of the work I have done – and is questioning it at the same time.

That also applies, in a different way, to the last group of people I should thank. In 2005, I had the privilege and honour of teaching in Bweyale

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Primary School, an IDP Camp in Uganda where thousands had fled from wars in Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan. The students, most of them child soldiers, orphans and/or victims of physical and sexual abuse, changed my life forever with their enthusiasm, desire for reconciliation and passion for knowledge, in the hope that the latter would, somehow, allow them to escape the forces that had destroyed so many of their possibilities before the age of ten. Every single day, the likes of Moses, Evelyn, Lawrence and Philip led a struggle that would put any research project in perspective; they have certainly done so with mine. The motto of Bweyale is “Education is Light”. I hope that this book marks a small but substantial contribution to the Academy as well as to addressing the real-world injustices that lie within these pages.

Jazakullah Khairan
Oxford, April–May 2014