

## **Civil Society in Sudan: Potentiality and Limitation**

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### **Abstract**

This paper is about the potentiality of the associational life in Sudan, and how the power dynamics of the colonial state, structure of postcolonial states, and the nature of the Sudanese society determine the structure, nature and resilience of these associations.

The paper, through empirical case study and historical materials, illustrates that in the absence of legitimate colonial and postcolonial states, associational life in Sudan emerges as strong counterpart that seek not only to provide services to the citizens but also threaten the stability of both the state and political regimes. The paper, as well, indicates that the politicization of civil society in Sudan is due first to the emergence of associational life during the nationalist struggle; second to the inability of Sudanese to organize during the military regimes and finally, to the rallying of these associations along ethnic and religious interests.