

### Update



South Sudan gained independence from Sudan on July 9th 2011 as the outcome of a 2005 peace deal that ended Africa's longest-running civil war. An overwhelming majority of South Sudanese voted in a January 2011 referendum to secede and become Africa's first new country since Eritrea split from Ethiopia in 1993. From today onward, the Republic of South Sudan would be 196th country in the world, the 193rd member of the UN, and the 54th country in the continent of Africa. The ongoing celebration has three important components: rising of the flag, debut of the interim constitution and establishment of the national anthem for the new Republic of South Sudan. The new nation stands to benefit from inheriting the vast majority of Sudan's oil wealth, but continuing disputes with Khartoum and a lack of economic development cloud its immediate future.

The pending post referendum issues that are now of great concern and importance are as follows: Abyei referendum, questions of citizenship, national debt, security arrangements, oil and water sharing, border demarcation, and international treaties. These issues are sensitive and could bring the parties back to war again as it was the case of Abyei's invasion in May 2011. Right now the signs are not good with existent tension along the oil-rich border; it still has not been demarcated so fighting for control of the oil fields is still a possibility. Also, just as the country is trying to get on its feet, alarm bells are already sounding over corruption, tribalism and signs of autocratic rule.

### More Information:

- <http://www.goss.org/>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14085832>

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