

## **Lights on the Experience of Development Planning in Sudan: Focusing on Rural Development**

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**Abstract:** This study shows the historical development of the planning course for socio-economic development in Sudan. The study is divided into 4 stages of history. The first period covered the features of development planning in the Turkish Egyptian colonial era. Second period covered the time of Mahdist Revolution. The third period was the British-Egyptian colonial era and the fourth period was the experience of development planning in the era of the Sudanese national governments. The study highlighted the major milestones that marked the development plans during these periods, in terms of goals, objectives and results and focused on distinguishing marks and influencing events without going into details. Historical documentation that agreed by most researchers in Sudan was adopted and the study provides socio-economic analysis in addition to political features necessary to complete the picture. Historical and descriptive analysis indicators were used in addition to what has been discussed depending on the attitude stems from the academic frameworks governing the theory of underdevelopment and the hypothesis of the center and periphery.

**Key words:** Sudan, development, planning, stages, rural development, historical

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The balance in the economic development plans between rural and urban areas between the center and the periphery is considered as one of the most important tools that contribute to a fair and equitable distribution of resources and wealth among the population in a specific geographical area. The ultimate goal of development is to provide basic human needs of food, drink and housing, clothing and even well-off society. The development plans that take into account the different aspects of balance in real-time perspective and strategic vision at the level of the center and the periphery, develop a solution to many of the problems faced by the least developed countries. And in terms of providing the necessary infrastructure for the advancement and promotion of life and facilitate the provision of services and the distribution and exercise of socio-economic activities. That reduces the suffering of the people of rural and remote areas. And so they do not have to migrate to the cities in pursuit of services not provided to them in their areas. It makes economic activity more successful in the use of raw materials. Reduce production costs and

provide job opportunities for the local community. Add to stimulate social mobility and support and development to create new sites of mass communication. Create new social meeting points in the factory, office, school, club, the cooperative union workers and others. That also leads to openness to others and society move to modern urban life. By looking away from the nomadic life, social backwardness and the subsistent living of the economy in most parts of the Sudanese countryside.

The socio-economic structure in Sudan suffers from developmental imbalance between the center and the periphery or between the countryside and the city. That expands every day and has a negative impact on the geographical distribution of the population. This imbalance is not a new phenomenon, coincidence but it was a result of historical accumulation which controlled the economic and social factors, political and environmental. These factors differ in the extent of their impact, objectives and philosophy.

It should be noted that Sudan has begun to face the challenges of development since the dawn of independence. Consequently, began to design development plans in various forms and schools.

However, the economic and social structure, especially in rural and remote areas has been suffering from an acute shortage of development projects and infrastructure. That is created a lot of tensions and instability in community. It had been discussed by Mirghani (2001) what was above mentioned in relation to third world societies. He stated that there is a continuous exodus from the countryside to urban areas, this led to the creation of random cities and shantytowns and thus increases in crime, unemployment and marginal work (Merghani, 2001).

In fact, >75% of Sudan's population lives in rural and remote areas. Even those who live in urban and semi-urban, exercising their daily live the same lifestyle of rural people including the cultures, customs and traditions. The urban and semi-urban lifestyle mixed urban and rural together. Subsequently, when researchers talk about development in Sudan, of course, researchers are talking about a country with a rustic specification.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Searching the experience of development planning in Sudan, using historical analysis and reports sheds light on many of the theses on the causes and roots of conflicts and civil wars that took place in Sudan, it also gives illuminations on the terms of reference of underdevelopment in the peripheral regions. Quest the development planning experience opens a new area that most researchers have focused on the issue of urban development and few of them were interested in examining rural development, despite the fact that rural development is a central issue in the process of socio-economic transformation in Sudan. The history and experience of development planning system in Sudan gives a clear picture of what it was and what it should be.

### **Definition of main concepts**

**Marginalization:** Means the will ful disregard for inhabited geographical area. Not included in the national socio-economic development plans for a long period of time. Due to geographical reasons, lack of resources, regional, tribal, religious, political, intellectual, linguistic, punitive or on the basis of gender and race reasons. That the process of marginalization was a direct cause of backwardness socially, economically and environmentally in that region.

**Socio-economic development:** The mentioned earliar term means the ideas and philosophies and socio-economic plans which are used to change the rural communities that suffer from social backwardness, economic, political and cultural. The purpose of socio-economic development is to append it up with modern civilian life and welfare society.

**Peripheral areas:** The term explains the States located in the outlying areas of Sudan. Those mostly are rural and remote areas.

**Center:** Means states of Khartoum, Gezira, White Nile and Sinnar. These states have gained significant share of development and services more than the rest of the other states.

**Development planning history in Sudan:** The highlight on the history of development process in Sudan, bearing in mind the philosophy, objectives, merits and circumstances will be useful in the interpretation of the causes of social and economic backwardness in the moment. Meanwhile, the development experience of Sudan will be divided into 4 phases:

- Turkish Egyptian Colonial Period 1821-1886
- Mahdist Revolution Period 1886-1899
- British Egyptian Colonization Period 1899-1956
- Post-independence 1956-Hitherto

**Turkish Egyptian colonial period 1821-1886:** Sudan has experienced, especially the Northern part, adjacent to the River Nile, the features of the regulatory and organized economic activity since early. In this respect, the advent of imperial conquerors in the previous Turkish that is associated with economic development activities carried out in Sudan in infancy with colonialism and the needs of the colonial people to use the Sudanese resources and imposing tax.

May be the first features of the organizations and organized economic activity which is most obvious, emerged when the capital was moved from Wad Medani to Khartoum in 1824. Where, Ismail Pasha expressed interest in development, educational system. He established 5 schools in a signal that could be incorporated within the framework of the development of society. These schools played an important role for the colonial administration. In these schools personnel managers were trained, accountants and telegraph workers. It brought about a rebound in culture and literature in the Sudan. The education was before that is in Khalawi:

Khalawi is an unofficial religious school that is created by religious preachers for Muslims only. Affiliation does not require a certain age. Open to all ages. People are studying the teachings of religion and memorization of the Koran in addition to reading and writing. And does not have any professional training

It should be recalled that the most important projects planned in this period is a railway project, the project faced many obstacles. The most important obstacles had been lack of funding and lack of manpower. Without a doubt that if the project is implemented, it might be changed the people's lives and future (Shipaika, 1965). According to Mohammad (1987), regardless of the failure of the system, it has a greater degree of unity and organization. As it worked to improve transportation, irrigation and introduced new crops for cultivation. The expansion in trade between Sudan and neighboring countries, established schools in the main cities, sent some Sudanese to Egypt to receive knowledge and training, so whatever the motives that prompted Muhammad Ali to the invasion, Turkish Egyptian colonialism historically, is the first step aimed at creating a modern Sudan (Shipaika, 1965).

Moreover, Turkish-Egyptian colonial period was characterized by establishment of new cities including Khartoum, the current capital city of Sudan, in addition to many villages grew and turned into large cities, such as Berber, Dongola, Shendi and other major Sudanese cities today.

All of this was in the centre of Sudan and especially the Nile region. The change and the evolution that has occurred did not take shape and institutional status. It depends on the character of the governor and his thought and orientations. The objectives and the needs of the colonial powers in the first place. Also, it did not take a strategic dimension did not go further to meet the urgent needs of the settlers and easy access. That was the primary features of the first economic activity and orderly development in Sudan.

Nonetheless, it must be clear that the primary objective of the Turkish invasion of Sudan is to get the slaves to work in the Turkish army, as well as access to gold and livestock. Development of Sudan has never been among the targets of the invasion. Turkish colonialism adopted violence and genocide for those who tried to resist the occupation, they also imposed on the people high taxes, unpaid work and all sorts of corruption and slandering of people. Slave's trade in its ugliest form was practiced.

Researchers cannot deny the change in the lifestyle of people and their attitudes but this does not also deny the fact that the basic objective of the invasion and occupation was to supplement state colonialism with a new source of income and bring in slaves to work in the Turkish army, so the change occurred as an indirect consequence and not intentional at all.

It should be mentioned here that injustice, tyranny, slave's trade, high taxes and corruption were the

major reasons that pushed Muhammad Ahmad al-Mahdi to lead the armed revolution against the Turkish-Egyptian colonialism and killed the Governor-General Gordon Pasha in 1882 that sent by British to stop Mahdist revolution.

**Mahdist revolution period:** Mahdist revolution period was short (1885-1899), it had been characterized by war, invasion and conquest. Entire economy was completely destructed. The Squires, traders and Turkish staff in Sudan had left on their way to their country before the fall of Khartoum in the hands of the armies of Mahdit and Turks took everything with them. As a result, all agricultural projects collapsed shops and offices of foreign companies shut down, doctors, engineers and all other professionals and skilled workers left. There have been significant changes socially and economically. The most notable phenomena were the great migration from all over Sudan to the capital of Mahdist Omdurman to contribute in jihad. Muhammad Ahmad al-Mahdi, the historic leader of the Mahdist revolution has not live long after the fall of Khartoum in the hands of the Mujahedeen Army, Abdullah Altaaihi took command of the Mujahedeen army in addition to the country's leadership. The new commander does not have any experience in the management of the state, adding to that his ambitions were greater than his abilities and capabilities of the Mahdist State, experts also were not available among the Mujahedeen. So, they dealt with the state as they were in their tribes. Preparation for jihad armies was the primary task of the established departments of the state.

With regard to economic development, there were no signs of interest in the future of the state in this area or even a vision for the food security of the Mujahedeen. The state's policies, orientations and all potentials are harnessed for jihad to disseminate the principles and ideas of the Mahdi. Because of the great rush to join Mujahedeen army, rural areas lost most of its men population. The importance of men in rural areas that they are cultivating the land and manage the production process in the rainy season. Thus, the agricultural season was failed in that year. Because of that a famous famine occurred in 1306 AH (1890 AD). Many people perished from starvation. As The Mahdist State resources relied on forced labor, taxes and royalties, so its economy has completely collapsed in that year, most of the population became soldiers of the Mahdi army. All these have led to the deterioration of the state and disintegration of its internal unity. Especially after the defeat of Abdul Rahman Alnujoma in Toshki (1889), Osman Diqna in the east and the nobles people revolution in Omdurman.

Mahdist period ended after the defeat of the army of Mahdist and because of the military superiority of Great

Britain, who owns a firearm, in the famous battle of Korari in 1899 and then a new era started in Sudan that was the British-Egyptian colonization.

**British-Egyptian colonization period:** The objectives of economic activities have not changed during the British-Egyptian colonization period. Ultimate goal was also serve the interests of the colonizer. However, the implementation of these goals was more organized, scientific and institutional. More advanced than Turkish-Egyptian colonization period (Shipaika, 1965). The first activity carried out by the new administration is to implement what is known as (the industrial development of Sudan). Lord Cromer stipulated for its success, to be well thought out with passion and patience. The results are not in a hurry.

According to a report by Lord Cromer (1900), the most urgent things is to build railways and irrigation systems to connect the economic activities.

In 1903 Lord Cromer decided a 5-point plan. These points according to his vision will pave the way to the future of Sudan. It had been outlined in the following:

- Good governance
- Increasing the population
- Development of transportation and communication facilities
- The abundance of water, advanced irrigation systems and cotton cultivation
- The abundance of cheap fuel

Meanwhile, Wingate confirmed this plan and the 5-point program, he added a 6th point and that was the creation of simplified system of education.

Furthermore, this historical narrative shows that modern economic planning of development projects has started to take its way to the mentality of the decision makers in Sudan to be implemented and put into practice and realize.

According to plans have been drawn, a number of major projects had been carry out in the period from 1899-1913. These projects now form the backbone of the Sudanese economy's infrastructure, these included: The construction of homes and government offices, infrastructure projects, such as railways, Nile cruise, telegraph equipment and wireless lines and the most important was the construction of the port of Port Sudan (1909), this led to facilitate trade exchange between Egypt and Sudan and establishing offices and branches of foreign companies to manage the movement of goods and services in the newly established port to facilitate the economic activities.

In fact, railways contributed effectively to the social and economic development, it led to the emergence of the merchant class growth of business, the railway also created a working-class with new expertise and at the same time, encouraged the foundation of technical education schools.

In this respect, the foundation of Sinnar Dam was a quantum leap in social and economic development, it has great impact on the entire subsequent development in the social and economic structure and it provided water for al-Jazeera Board Scheme, the largest project for irrigated agriculture in the world at that time. It helped to establish new communities, >50 villages to serve al-Jazeera Board Scheme were established, populations have been displaced from the West African region to become agricultural laborers and peasants in al-Jazeera Board Scheme in order to cultivated cotton. Sinnar Dam also provided electricity for industrial development.

Moreover, the development projects were not extended to include the education sector. Gordon Memorial College founded (1906) which turned out later to be the current University of Khartoum. Primary, as well as secondary schools in many cities are established so as to graduate clerks, accountants and civil servants, add to that the establishment of a vocational training center in Omdurman, to graduate skilled workers to meet the needs of plants and factories. It should be recalled that in 1934, the Institute of Bakht El-Ridha was founded to produce graduate teachers.

There was interest in health services as well Sudan was not able to graduate doctors and workers in the field of health services at the time. Doctors are brought in from Egypt and Syria. In 1900 hospitals in several areas was established including Omdurman, Khartoum, Berber, Dongola, Suakin and Kassala, as well as Wadi Halfa. At the same time, the Wellcome Research Laboratories were established at Gordon College in 1951 that is converted to the first national university that is called University of Khartoum (U of K) which was coinsured to be one of the top universities.

Likewise, a special body is configured for development planning and that was the Development Division, Ministry of Finance and Economy (Bashir, 1965).

These developments have led to great social mobility. The major change included the socio-economic structure of the population and social diversity, especially in the cities and areas covered by development projects. In addition to a significant change in the population map as a result of increased migration from the countryside to the cities. There became a lot of new residential areas of

rural character associated with irrigated agriculture in al-Jazeera Board Scheme well as workers villages who serve in the sea port of Port Sudan and workers villages of Sennar Dam (Shipaika, 1965). Because of the abundance of water and fertile land, the economic projects that have been implemented in that period, focused all in the Nile valley which later became known as the centre of Sudan, then most of economic projects established after that time did not go away from this area. Here was the beginning of the core issue in Sudan, this refers to the lack of developmental balance between the center and the periphery which continued until now. This dilemma has generated all the civil wars in different regions of the Sudan and was the major reason for the separation of southern Sudan from the motherland.

On the other hand, researchers find that most of the infrastructure that forms the backbone of the Sudanese economy today was established or planned in the British-Egyptian colonial period.

The evacuation of British colonialism and declaration of independence of Sudan without war in addition to the smooth delivery of power that took place between the British governor and the national government of Sudan, researchers find that it helped to maintain the delivery of all infrastructure projects without ruining or losses, other than what happened at the end of the Turkish-Egyptian colonial period.

**Post-independence 1956 (Hitherto):** The post-independence period in Sudan was characterized by political instability and an armed movement in the South calling for independence from the North was announced (1955). During the period of 1955-1958, three elected governments alternated power. Political movement in this period did not give any interest to the process of development and reconstruction but the political conflict and partisan intrigues is the main concern, therefore the achievement in the field of economic development during this period is not satisfied and was limited to the completion of two projects under progress and that was Almanaql Project as an extension for al-Jazeera Board Scheme in addition to the extension of the railway line to Nyala.

Furthermore in November, 1959, General Ibrahim Abboud seized power by a military coup, he remained in power until October, 1964. In that period Rusiris Dam, Junaid sugar factory and Khashim Alkirbh Sugar Scheme were established.

In this regard, 7 years plan had been designed, then it had been amended to be 10 years plan and was renamed, 10 years plan for socio-economic development (MFNE, 1970). This was the first attempt to design a plan for development by national cadre after independence. It

covered both the public and private sectors in one comprehensive plan. This plan aimed to reach specific goals, these goals were derived from the prevailing economic conditions at that time. In fact, this plan was the first attempt by the national cadre, after independence to design a plan covering both the public and private sectors in one comprehensive plan. The plan aims to reach specific goals; these goals and objectives are derived from the prevailing economic conditions at the time. The state started for the first time to intervene in economic activity in terms of identifying the specific objectives of the comprehensive plan or in directing available resources to achieve those goals, in addition to active participation in carrying a large part of the investment activities during the time period of the plan.

The 10 years plan was included the following objectives to develop the Sudan economy:

- Modernization and development of the rural and remote areas
- Increase the level of real per capita income by increasing national production
- Expanding the structure of the Sudanese economy by increasing, diversifying and improving production system to accommodate more economic activities
- Increase in exports, as well as increasing in the production of import substitution
- Improve social situation, social services and training to develop Sudan economy
- The continuation of studies, scientific experiments and researches to assess the country's resources and capacity available to be used for the economic development
- Maintain relatively constant prices

Mirghani (2001) argued that there is no doubt that the plan was aimed at social and economic development in general but in the details there was no signals lead to social change. In fact, it was basically a plan for economic development while providing better social services through economic development, radical change in the pattern of socio-economic structure was not among the objectives of the plan. Social economic development plan was focusing primarily on economic development and then expanding and improving social services to be provided to the people of Sudan.

Abdul Rahim who was then Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance, at that time, set the reasons behind the failure of the implementation of the 10 years plan as:

- The large number of projects that have been adhered
- Many of the projects concerning with the infrastructure which cost a lot

- Lack of institutional and organizational structures, as the main obstacle
- Armed rebellion in the southern part of the country due to economic, social and political reasons

**The 5 years plan for socio-economic development (1970-75):** The implementation of the 10 year plan lasted only for 4 years because of the popular revolution on the military dictatorship in October, 1964. Government of October designed new 5 year plan for socio-economic development for the period of 1965-70 but political instability and party plots returned to take place again among the political movement (MNP, 1975). In 1969, General Jaafar Nimeiri seized power by a military coup and canceled the 5 year plan for socio-economic development, the new military government raised socialism slogans and hired experts from the former Soviet Union to design a new 5 year plan with a socialist orientation based on the extensive experience of the Soviets in this areas by this plan the government the hope that the flaws of previous 5 year plan, in terms of content and application will be addressed.

The main goals and objectives of the 5 year plan to develop sudan are:

- Increase GNP by 7.6% compared to 4.9% in the period leading up to the plan
- Increasing the size of agricultural production by 60.8%
- Development of livestock production for marketing and increase its size by 75.5%
- Implementation of a comprehensive program of public sector investment for social services in the amount of 220 million pounds compared to 137 million in the 5 years that proceeded to increase public investment to improve social services
- Increase public sector investment for the development of education and culture with 60% and the expansion of health services to 82% and utilities 58%
- Urban and rural electrification to cover as much as possible electricity services
- Speed up the supply of water to rural areas where work is being under the banner of the anti-thirst to provide water supply for both economic activities and the households
- Identify development priorities of the public sector among the economic sectors and social services sectors to provide as much urgently needed to be implemented
- Develop productive cooperative societies as a basis for economic development

- Develop and increase the welfare of the people. By raising production and the expansion of employment support to activities, such as handicrafts and craft and raise their professionalism expansion in other public services

In fact, the goals of this plan was more detailed than its predecessor and the accuracy in determining the rates of increase has helped to draw up a more effective plan. But on the other hand, the aspirations of the plan and its goals did not take into account the reality of the Sudanese economy in that period in terms of potential and possibilities so most of the objectives of the plan was unrealistic and difficult to be achieved.

Indeed, the Soviet experts do not know enough about the Sudanese economy and so they designed a 5 year plan depending on theoretical frameworks far from reality which led to modify the plan more than once that is finally failed to achieve its objectives.

**The 6 years plan for economic and social development (1977-83):** This plan is different from the preceded plans that it represents the first chapter of a long-term plan last for 18 years, it had been divided into 3 periods and each period of 6 years (MNP, 1983). As researchers knew, the long-term plans more concerned with the overall objectives than of the details and thus plan adopted two strategic objectives to work around them:

- Make the economy self-growth through the suggested economic activities
- Achieve balanced economic development between different regions of the country

The plan also aims to double the personal income three times by the year 1995, through the following means:

- Achieving an average annual growth rate of the domestic national product of 8.5%
- Increase the rate of economic growth in all sectors
- Expand and improve social services
- Equitable distribution of development projects among all regions, taking into account the most backward areas
- Improving the balance of payments and encourage savings
- Raise the awareness of people and institutions soas, to participate actively in the development process of the country

The first 6 years was implemented, it faced many obstacles and difficulties in implementation. The first

problem faced, concerning with the revenue surplus which had not been at the required level add to that the weaknesses in the operational capabilities of the units and also the lack of the necessary inputs for the projects in a timely manner.

Weak capacity to transport crops and products from the production areas to the local and international markets, coupled with the lack of storage capabilities in the areas of production caused great losses to agricultural production and export opportunities.

Performance in the industrial sector was not better than in the agricultural sector, it was less than the operational capacity available. The industrial sector also faced the problems of transportation bottlenecks, lack of adequate raw materials and shortage of hard currency to import spare parts, in addition to frequent power outages. Finally, the plan has been modified as it had been done in the other plans before.

Researchers can say that the 3 development plans, which have been designed after independence have been modified and did not achieve satisfactory targets, thus developmental disorder remained in Sudan without reform and the gap between rural and urban areas is widening. Cities are becoming more rural.

**The 4 years plan of rescue and economic reform (1988-1992):** This plan paid attention to achieving the following key objectives:

- Food security for the rural and urban populations to meet the domestic need
- Social justice by reducing disparities in income and wealth between social groups
- Balanced regional development and focus on the least developed regions and remote areas that must be given chance to develop to create social sustainability
- Provide basic needs of food, water, clothing, security, health, education and transportation
- An average economic growth of at least 5% per year in Sudan economy
- Design a special plan for the Southern region

Due to the natural disasters affected the country in 1988, 4 years plan of rescue and economic reform has not been implemented. Development projects have been shut down and emergency program designed to cope with the disaster. Because of the continuing failure to deal with the plans for rural development in Sudan, Ministry of Cooperation and Rural Development whose main mission in the design and implementation of development projects in rural and remote areas, as well as to encourage the

establishment of cooperative societies and collective projects the economy had been created but that the ministry failed in its mission and did not last long. It had been replaced by water supply and rural development foundation which has been replaced with, then Sudanese Company for rural development. All these objects have failed in carrying out its tasks and to be implemented as had been planned.

In fact the period from 1993 up to now, characterized by severe political conflicts and civil war, it was spreading in all peripheral areas in the Sudan, under the banner of marginalization and the demands of the marginalized areas to get a share of power and wealth. The government directed all the possibilities and resources for the war budget and stop spending on development.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The search in the social and economic development in Sudan clearly shows developmental imbalance. The planning process for social and economic development was marred by a lack of creativity, volatility and experimentation followed by constant change and adjustment, in addition to lacked the strategic perspective and nationalism and it had been subjected to the political mood in mostly.

If researchers look at the development plans, since independence to the present day, researchers will find that it was associated with the governments color. Sudan is suffering like all the least developed countries of political instability and volatility between the military and civilian governments and failure of political movement in general, definitely, this will overshadowed the economic and social development of the Sudan.

In the post-independence period in Sudan several governments were passed and different political systems took place. For short periods not exceeding 10 years, passed 4 elected civilian governments. Besides, longer periods of nearly 40 years of military governments' coup were took place. In this respect, the approach of development has not changed much and walked on the same vein as in the pre-independence period. Development planning focused on making use of existing infrastructures. In fact what was being done of the development projects did not exceed the limits of the centre of Sudan to the peripheries. The focus was on large capital projects and mostly seasonal employment, such as sugar and cotton factories and mechanized rain fed farming. The projects that provide permanent employment has been concentrated around the cities of the center, where ready-made infrastructure of roads, transportation, easy access to markets, outgoing ports and easy access

to raw materials and other facilities and services. All these led to a major change in the demographic map, almost emptied the countryside of its population in many areas. Khartoum became a home to 25% of the total population of Sudan (SBS). This caused enormous strain on the infrastructure of the capital where development has not occurred to accommodate this population increase and accordingly cannot provide services including education, health, water and electricity, this also, increased pressure on roads, transport and housing.

Meanwhile, the development in Sudan is moving in the direction of creating more rural cities including the capital Khartoum rather than transfer cities specification to rural areas.

Finally, strong political will and higher regulated methods and thoughts, backed up with institutions could give hope to make rural development in priority concerns of Sudanese.

What has been discussed on the path of socio-economic development in Sudan clearly shows developmental imbalance syndrome. Planning process of socio-economic development was characterized by an experimental approach and missed of creativity, in addition to lack of national strategic perspective and clear impact of the decision makers.

When, researchers look at the development plans since independence to the present day. Researchers will find that it had been tied to perceptions of government leaders. Sudan as a least developed country suffering from political instability and volatility between the military and civilian governments and failure of political movement in general, certainly this left its impact on the socio-economic development aspects in Sudan.

In the post-independence period in Sudan several governments and different political systems have passed. For short periods not exceeding 10 years, passed 4 elected civilian governments and for longer periods of nearly 40 years three military coup governments passed.

It should be noted that the development approach has not changed much and follow the same lines as in the pre-independence period, thus planning for development depends on the utilization of the existing infrastructure. In fact what is being done did not exceed the limits of central Sudan to the peripheries and has been focused on large capital projects with mostly seasonal employment, such as sugar mills, cotton plantations and mechanized rain-fed farming and projects that provide permanent employment, centered around the cities of the center where ready-made infrastructure of roads and transport, easy access to markets and ports and easy access to raw materials and other service facilities. This caused significant change in

the demographic map and emptied the countryside of the population in many areas. Khartoum became home to 25% of Sudan's population as the capital of the Sudan.

This caused enormous strain on the infrastructure of the capital which becomes unable to provide the services, including, education, water, health, electricity and the increasing pressure on the roads, transport and housing. the infrastructure is not developed to accommodate this population increase, now development in Sudan is going in the direction of creating a more rural towns including the capital, Khartoum rather than transfer specification of cities to rural areas.

## CONCLUSION

Rural development is currently absent in Sudan and the concepts of spatial planning which may form a solution to the problem of Sudan is not available within the development literature in the Sudanese economy. The continued absence of developmental balance and the growing gap between the center and the periphery will lead to more complexity and more injustice and tension and consequently civil wars will not stop. Most of Sudan's problems have been generated from an imbalance of development which is the central issue for the secession of southern Sudan, as other regions may demand the right to self-determination in the future if the current situation continues.

Principles and visions of a clear strategy for the future of the state and organic unity between the different regions of the country that must be included in the permanent constitution is what Sudan needs to get out of the cycle of continuous civil wars since 1955.

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