

Review of: "Political Transition in Sudan"

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This article appears to be the precis for an upcoming book about the ongoing revolution in Sudan. To that end, it is a superb first foray into the debates surrounding the Sudanese revolution and marks a significant step forward in the domain of Sudan studies, – a field that has yet to move beyond (not quite post)-colonial narratives. The article locates Sudan's problems in policy choices concerning the management of diversity and in misapplied imported ideologies that are not suitable for the country.

For a long time, narratives originating in the UK have dominated the field of Sudan studies. That particular narrative fiats Islamism and its associated ideas as essentially “natural and normal” for Sudan, and ignores the role of the state, including the British colonial state in Sudan, in creating and implementing the idea.

While not post-colonial per se, this article reflects a radical departure from the usual academic narratives surrounding Sudan and makes a clean break with the status quo. It recaptures agency for the country, and with it, it brings responsibility back to its government and people.