

Review of: "Political Transition in Sudan"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

It is a text that provides a lot of information for those of us who do not know the Sudan case in detail. It is not bad as a draft. However, I think the article needs to be much more problematized.

Much of the work is very descriptive of the events. These events are already known to specialists. Those who don't know them can find them in any handbook, even Wikipedia.

It needs to be included in some more precise and deeper discussion than just the political history of Sudan. On this issue, I recommend to enter into the debates on democratization and de-democratization of contemporary societies. I believe that there will be much to think about there, from structural issues to issues linked to social agents, especially the elites. By including the case of Sudan in a larger debate, the author will also be able to appeal to comparison as a way of obtaining new answers to the questions raised in the work.

I believe that the author should revise the order of the text, not the academic one, but the logical one and the way he connects the different parts.

Finally, I would invite the author to review the conclusions and his faith -so solid- in formal institutional designs as triggers of profound changes in Sudanese society.

There is a lot of literature on social networks, more so in societies like Africa. But I would hazard a guess that the central problem described by the author will not be fixed -at least not only- with laws, norms and new institutional designs.

Throughout the text, the existence of strong informal institutions is described -and implied- as elements that guide the life of different communities.

Informal institutions are products of ancestral relationships, but also of precarious states, of the lack of stable rules of the game, of the survival of violence and of the need to carry out economic activities for those who are not under the command of the state. It is not possible to think of any democratization process without taking into account this type of social relations, even more so when they are highly institutionalized.