

Document name: Timeline for China and Sudan oil
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OpenLearn course: Rising China and Africa's development: oil
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Timeline for China and Sudan oil

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1956 Independence: end of British-Egyptian condominium rule.

1959 4 February China and Sudan established diplomatic relations. See [China, Sudan to write new chapter of strategic partnership](#).

1960s Early oil exploration begun by Agip in the Red Sea.

1971 July Failed communist coup d'état; Nimeiri kicks out Soviet advisors, opens door to China.



Figure 1 Chevron's Overseas President Richard Matzke and Concorp Int. President M. A. Jarelnabi signed the purchase agreement of Chevron Oil Company of Sudan. © Concorp Petroleum Limited.

1988 Chevron resumes its activities, planning a six-year exploration and drilling program. China buys part of Chevron concession. Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi and his Minister of Defence, Gen (rtd) Mubarak Osman Rahma, (Nimeiri's last ambassador to Beijing), sign large arms deal with China. Sadiq does not stay in power long enough to take delivery of the weapons.

1991 March Visit to China by Sudan's military chief of logistics: an arms contract worth US\$300m is reportedly signed, to be financed by the NIF with funds from Iran. Two helicopters, one hundred 1,000-pound high altitude bombs and assorted ammunition are later shipped to Port Sudan. China sends team to instruct Sudanese pilots and aircrews in high altitude bombing.

1993 12 August US State Department adds Sudan to its list of states sponsoring terrorism. See [State sponsors of terrorism](#).

1993 29 August State Petroleum enters into exploration and production sharing agreement with Sudan government.

1994 mid-January Representatives of Chinese companies accompany China's Vice-Premier and minister of foreign affairs to Khartoum. Agreements signed on banking, oil exploration and mining, light and heavy industry, agriculture, fisheries and pharmaceuticals.

1994 March 14 years after gaining exploration rights over 120k sq.km in Bahr al-Ghazal province, Total suspends all activities and withdraws because of escalation of civil war.

1994 November Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Salih visits China; his delegation looks at textile and oil industries.

Mid-1995 Maj-Gen Salah Karrar, Minister of Energy, negotiates with Russia, China, Iraq and Iran over oil development.

1995 26 September Bashir in China: his delegation signs agreements on mining, oil, textiles, sugar industry and rehabilitation of Sudan railways. CNPC signed an agreement with the Sudanese government to develop Block 6 in Muglad Basin.

1996 January China votes against Sudan in the UN Security Council (it abstains on 26 April).

1996 April President Clinton signs the Anti-Terrorism Act, barring Americans from engaging in financial transactions with governments on the US list of terrorism sponsors, including Sudan.

1996 26 April United Nations imposes diplomatic sanctions on Khartoum for its involvement in terrorism. In the vote, China abstains.

1996 November Outbidding a dozen international oil companies, CNPC won the contract to develop Block 1/2/4 in Muglad Basin.

1996 December Unable to finance exploration, development and pipeline alone, Arakis enters into a consortium, the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company (GNPOC). It consists of Arakis (25% share and field operator), China National Petroleum Corporation (40%), Petronas of Malaysia (30%) and the Sudanese national oil firm Sudapet (5%).

John McLeod says the Chinese partners 'incorporated additional benefits to the Sudan government, which essentially got them their participation.' Partners will have to make capital expenditures on the project until they equal Arakis' expenditure to date.

1997 27 February Arakis officially enters into Greater Nile pipeline consortium agreement.

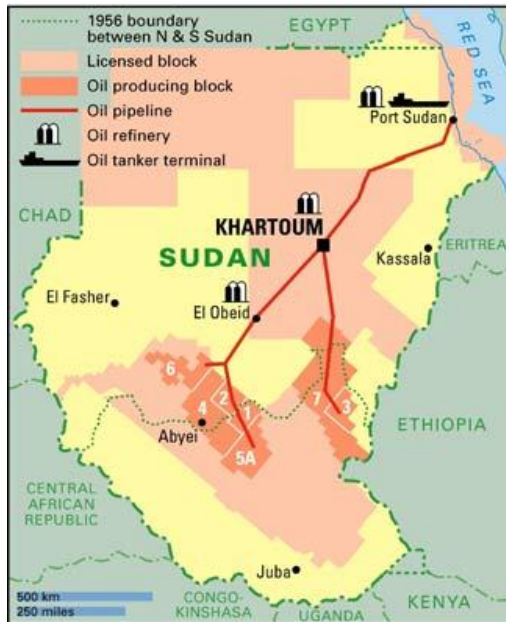


Figure 2 Greater Nile Pipeline plan. Taken from:

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2012/07/04/south-sudans-ultimate-goal-should-be-to-phase-out-its-petroleum-industry/>

1997 March Bashir inaugurates production from Adar Yale field – 5,000 bl/d, under consortium led by Qatar's Gulf Petroleum Corporation. China National Petroleum Corporation begins exploration and development on the Sharaf, Tabaldi and Abu Jabra fields (Block 6).

1997 October Arakis awards contracts for manufacture of 28" line-pipe to China Petroleum Technology and Development Corporation (1110km) and Mannesmann Handel AG of Germany (500km).

1997 4 November President Clinton signs executive order under the International Emergency Powers Act calling for all Sudanese assets in the US to be blocked, and imposes a ban on bank loans and all US trade with the country. Sudan cuts banking links with US banking establishments in retaliation. See [Sudan today: prospects for peace and democracy](#).

Hydroelectric dams on the Nile's second and fourth cataracts are proposed. China and Sudan sign initial financial agreement on controversial Kajbar Dam, opposed by Nubians.

1998 January CNPC's construction branch, China Petroleum Engineering and Construction Corporation (CPECC), participated in the building of the 1,500 km pipeline from Blocks 1 and 2 in the south to the Red Sea.

1998 May A 50,000-b/d refinery at al-Jayli begins construction with assistance from China's CNPC.

1999 April Energy and Mining Minister Dr Awad Ahmed Al-Jaz visits China and West Germany. He discusses with the Chinese ways of completing Khartoum oil refinery, and setting up an electrical power station at the refinery.

1999 September First shipment of 600,000 barrels leaves Port Sudan. Bargaining ensues over next round of oil deals.

2000 16 May Khartoum Refinery became operational, with annual crude processing capacity of 2.5mts.



Figure 3 © Khartoum Refinery Limited.

2000 November CNPC won the bid for Block 3/7. The use of sophisticated exploration technology led to the discovery of the world-class Palogue Oilfield. In 2003, a 10 Mt/a production capacity was built in Block 3/7.

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Figure 4 Oil fields and infrastructure in Sudan and South Sudan. (A larger version is available online: [Oil fields and infrastructure in Sudan and South Sudan.](#))

2004 The Sudanese government awarded CNPC a contract to develop a 740 km oil pipeline from the Fula oilfields in Western Kordofan to the main oil refinery in Khartoum.

2004 January Government army clamps down on uprising in Darfur region in the Western Sudan. More than 100,000 people seeks refuge in Chad. See [China speaks out on Darfur crisis.](#)



Figure 5. Taken from <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2012/07/04/south-sudans-ultimate-goal-should-be-to-phase-out-its-petroleum-industry/>

2004 March UN names Darfur as the worst humanitarian currently, but fails to take action; even the African leaders refuse to take actions on the problem.

2005 24 March The UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1590 (2005), to establish the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), for an initial period of six months. See [a document from the Security Council](#).

2006 April The Chinese Ambassador to the UN Wang Bangguo, in the function of Chairman of the Security Council, brought over the regrets for Sudan's obstruction to emergency relief operations in Darfur, but refrained from further comments in his function as national representative.

2006 May Khartoum government and the main rebel faction in Darfur, the Sudan Liberation Movement, sign a peace accord. Two smaller rebel groups reject the deal. Fighting continues.

2007 February A celebration of the tenth anniversary of Sino-Sudanese petroleum cooperation held in Khartoum Refinery was attended by Chinese President Hu Jintao and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. See [China's leader visits Sudan and focuses on growing economic ties](#).

2007 March Sudan was removed from the Ministry of Commerce's (MOFCOM) list of favoured destinations for Chinese investments, as with the attempt to exert pressure on Khartoum.

2007 29 October Chinese special envoy Liu Guijin holds talks with Sudanese officials on Darfur. See [Chinese envoy holds talks with Sudanese officials on Darfur](#).

2008 February China's special representative for Darfur, Liu Guijin, visited Khartoum and pledged that China would show solidarity to the Sudanese government in its efforts to help people in Darfur. China provided an aid package of CNY 20m (\$2.8m) to Sudan and delivered five batches of assistance to the Darfur region at a combined value of 80m CNY (\$11m).



Figure 6 © ASHRAF SHAZLY/AFP/Getty Images.

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Chinese special envoy to Darfur - Liu Guijin

Video: [Frost over the World - Liu Guijin and James Caan](#), 11 January 2008.

Video: [Darfur, Sudan, Oil, America and China](#), 2008.

Video: [China provides more humanitarian aid to Darfur](#), 26 February 2008).

2008 19 October Nine Chinese oil workers were reported kidnapped in South Sudan, Kordofan province.

2010 4 March Chinese envoy reiterates China's support to Darfur peace efforts. See [Chinese envoy reiterates China's support to Darfur peace efforts](#).

2011 9 July South Sudan gained independence. According to Chinese media reports, China had invested some \$20bn in Sudan before its split.

2011 August PetroChina established a project company in South Sudan.

2011 19 October The Chinese Special Representative for Darfur, Ambassador Liu Guijin, was invited to attend the fourth informal meeting on Darfur, convened by the UN and the AU Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Gambari. Special envoys of China, Russia, the United States, Britain, France, etc., attended the meeting, and discussed the formulation of the 'road map for peace in Darfur#.

2011 8 December Ambassador Liu Guijin, visited Sudan. He expressed China's concern about the tensions between North and South Sudan, and hoped that both sides will exercise restraint and calmness, continue to resolve their differences through negotiations and consultations.

2012 January – the South Sudanese government signed a petroleum cooperation 'Transition Agreement' with partners including PetroChina. Affected by the internal conflict in South Sudan, PetroChina is currently maintaining basic production in the South Sudan operating oil field.

Video: [China's role in the Sudan-South Sudan conflict](#), Stratfor, 25 April 2012.



Figure 7 Taken from: <https://www.voltairenet.org>

2013 March Sudan and South Sudan agree to resume pumping oil, ending a shutdown caused by a dispute over fees more than a year earlier, and to withdraw troops from their borders to create a demilitarised zone.

2013 December Civil war broke out in South Sudan.

Video International Crisis Group: [South Sudan and Sudan: Oil and China](#)

2015 September – Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir paid a four day visit to Beijing. Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli met with him and urged boost bilateral cooperation in both the traditional areas of oil and infrastructure and on new fronts such as agriculture, mining, and renewable energy sources.

Video: [China motive in South Sudan?](#), 13 January 2015.

2015 December 700 Chinese UN peacekeeping forces, were sent to South Sudan, following President Xi Jinping's pledge at the UN General Assembly in September that China would build a peacekeeping standby force of 8,000 troops, to show itself as a rising but responsible global player.

2016 August South Sudan Foreign Minister Deng Alor requested a \$1.9 billion concessional loan from Chinese government to develop oil fields and infrastructure projects.

2017 August The Sudanese government announced on 26 August that Chinese investment in Sudan's oil sector has passed \$15 billion. Sudan buys oil for local use from China's share of the national oil production. By the end of 2016, Sudan still owed China \$2 billion.

Video: [China-South Sudan Relations: Juba wants to deepen ties with Beijing to develop economy, CGTN Africa](#), 15 May 2017.

2017 6 October US government has ended sanctions on Sudan after it cut ties with North Korea.

2018 5 August South Sudan government signed a peace treaty with the rebels to end the civil war.

2018 31 August Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) meets with South Sudanese President Salva Kiir at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Aug. 31, 2018, ahead of the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Xinhua/Yao Dawei).

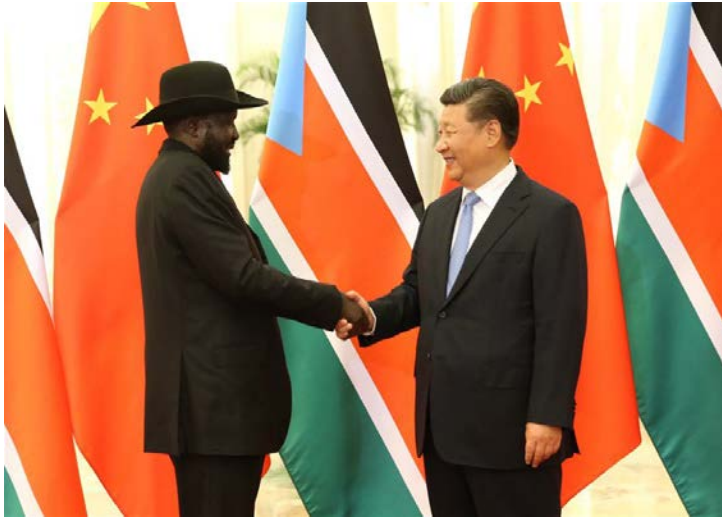


Figure 8

2018 8 November US agrees on talks to remove Sudan from terrorism list.