

The dynamics of chaos

Type de contenu : Texte

Type de médiation : sans médiation

Type de support : Volume

Titre(s) : The dynamics of chaos : revolution, war and political transitions in Sudan / Clément Deshayes,...

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Publication : Paris : IRSEM, Institut de recherche stratégique de l'École militaire, 2023

Fabrication / Impression : Paris : IRSEM, Institut de recherche stratégique de l'École militaire

Description matérielle : 1 vol. (73 p.) : cartes ; 21 cm

Collection : Report IRSEM 2109-9936 N° 109

ISBN : 978-2-11-167802-6

Appartient à la collection : Études de l'IRSEM 2109-9936 109

Classification décimale Dewey : 320.962 4

Note sur les bibliographies et les index : Bibliogr. et webliogr. p. 73. Résumé

Résumé ou extrait : In April 2023, a violent conflict broke out in Sudan between the Sudanese army and a paramilitary group named the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). This clash constituted the climax of a multidimensional political crisis, one that stemmed from Sudan's popular uprising of 2019. In order to understand the dynamics underlying this power struggle, we first need to grasp certain – more or less lengthy – historical processes: the reconfiguration of power, sparked by the fall of Omar al-Bashir; the counter-insurgency practices that emerged during the country's civil wars; the interweaving of the armed forces' political, security and economic interests; and finally, the concentration of power in the “center” of the country, which fueled forms of marginalization in other regions. This outbreak of violence was initially sparked by the fact that armed groups refused to transfer power over to civilians, as well as by issues surrounding the reform of the security sector. However, the conflict is rooted in a longer-standing history, as well as in transformations brought about by rapid political shifts in recent years. In order to truly understand the violence that has erupted since April 15, 2023, we need to look back on the challenges and failures of the political transition, particularly regarding the representation of peripheral areas and marginalized groups. We must also highlight the fact that this conflict is rooted in governance and counter-insurgency practices inherited from the NCP regime (1989-2019) and that it extends beyond

a mere competition between rival generals.

Sujet - Nom commun : Conflits armés non internationaux -- Soudan -- 2000-....

Politique et gouvernement -- Soudan -- 1985-....

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