

The Taking of South Sudan

The Tycoons, Brokers and Multinational Corporations
Complicit in Hijacking the World's Newest State

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SUMMARY

The men who liberated South Sudan proceeded to hijack the country's fledgling governing institutions, loot its resources, and launch a war in 2013 that has cost hundreds of thousands of lives and displaced millions of people. They did not act alone.

The South Sudanese politicians and military officials ravaging the world's newest nation received essential support from individuals and corporations across the world who have reaped profits from those dealings. Nearly every instance of confirmed or alleged corruption or financial crime in South Sudan examined by The Sentry is linked to international corporations, multinational banks, foreign government or high-end real estate abroad. This report demonstrates the extent to which external actors linked to violence and grand corruption have been complicit in the taking of South Sudan.

South Sudanese kleptocrats and their international partners—from Chinese-Malaysian oil giants and British tycoons to networks of traders from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya and Uganda—have accumulated billions of dollars through opaque deals. The country's natural resources have been plundered, lethal militia and military units responsible for atrocities have received financing, and kleptocrats have lined their pockets with untold billions of dollars allocated by government programs meant to improve the livelihood of some of the poorest, most vulnerable people in the world. The spoils of this heist are coursing through the international financial system in the form of shell companies, stuffed bank accounts, luxury real estate and comfortable safe havens around the world for the extended families of those involved in violence and corruption.

Serious policy tools of financial coercion aimed at this kleptocratic network can change the calculations of South Sudanese officials and their international collaborators in favor of peace and good governance, rather than pillage and plunder. Without specific, focused and targeted consequences, violence and corruption will remain the norm.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- The US government should expand sanctions authorities and enforcement.
- The United Kingdom and European Union should impose sanctions on human rights violators and their networks.
- Uganda and Kenya should enact and enforce sanctions.
- The World Bank and IMF should conduct a joint country review of corruption and governance risks.
- Governments worldwide should investigate and seize corruption proceeds from South Sudan.

Read the report: <https://thesentry.org/reports/taking-south-sudan/>



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