The Humanitarian Crisis in Sudan and the Looming Threat of Famine

Alex de Waal
World Hunger 2023

- **Number of food insecure people worldwide**: 276 million last year; 345 million today and rising
- **Staple food prices**: down from 2022 peak (1.71 x baseline) but high at 1.36 x baseline
- **Fertilizer prices**: down from 2022 peak (4 x baseline) but still 2.8 x baseline
- **Four-year drought in Horn of Africa**: impacting 37 million
- **Number of countries at risk of famine**: rose from 4 (2016) to 8 (today)
- **World Food Program** faces 44% increase in costs
Three Dimensions of Hunger

• Food Production and Supply disruption
  Made worse by climate crisis and Covid-related supply chain disruptions
  And the Russian invasion of Ukraine

• Food Entitlement collapse
  Starvation is the phenomenon of some people not having enough food, not the phenomenon of there not being enough food

• Political agency (bad policy, armed conflict, starvation crimes)
  The verb ‘to starve’ can be transitive... starvation is often something people do to one another
BLACK SEA GRAIN STOPPED?
Approx. 14m people in need of assistance (IPC3 or higher) equal to 31% of the total population
1,000,000 displaced in first 5 weeks of fighting

18m in need of assistance
The Central Bank of Sudan in flames, 30 April 2023
Omar al-Bashir,
President of Sudan 1989-2019
Oil rents (% of GDP) - Sudan

World Bank staff estimates based on sources and methods described in the World Bank's The Changing Wealth of Nations
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GDP (current US$) - Sudan

World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files.
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Sudanese Crude Oil and Gold Produced

Data Source: Central Bank of Sudan and U.S. Geological Survey
Sovereignty Council

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Head of the Sudan Armed Forces, Chair of Sovereignty Council

General Mohamed Hamdan Dagolo, aka ‘Hemedti’, Head of the paramilitary Rapid Support Force, deputy Chair of Sovereignty Council

Abdalla Hamdok, Prime Minister
ALEX DE WAAL

THE REAL POLITICS OF THE HORN OF AFRICA

MONEY, WAR AND THE BUSINESS OF POWER