

A study in contrasts: two opposite policies for Sudan

by Paul Gallagher

Population and Human Resources Development in the Sudan

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The Republic of Sudan—Africa's largest nation in area—is one of the small but growing number of Third World nations pursuing a policy independent of International Monetary Fund and British colonial demands, as the financial crash of the IMF system approaches. Sudan boycotted the United Nations' genocidal Cairo world population conference along with several other Islamic nations. The reasons for its decision to reject this spectacle of eugenics and global population control should be clear. Sudan has the same population—21 million souls—as the far more prosperous Taiwan; yet, Sudan is 80 times as large! The area of Sudan's *currently arable land alone* is 10 times the size of Taiwan as a whole. It is an incredible evil that Sudan is branded as "overpopulated," including by the authors of the U.N.-funded Urtur and House book. To the "Venetian Party" global elite typified by Prince Philip, Prince Bernhard, and Boutros Boutros-Ghali, it is enough to say that Sudan is Islamic, and in Africa.

Both the Urtur-House book and the Sudan government's *Comprehensive National Strategy*, having the same subject, are written at least in part by officials of the Sudanese government, and have been written and published at the same time. But their axiomatic attitudes and policies toward the population of the nation are absolutely opposed to each other. The editors of the first book, and its organizers, are officials of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the global popu-

lation-control force of the "Venetian Party" elite. UNFPA gives most of its funds not to governments, but to "non-governmental organizations" of the U.N., which work against national governments' resistance to population-reduction policies. All of its chapters—including those written by Sudanese officials—insist that Sudan can only "conserve resources" for development by stopping population growth. This is the hoary falsehood that the fewer people remain, the more wealth for each. Sudan's *Comprehensive National Strategy*, by contrast, assumes continuing rapid population growth (currently 2.7% per year) and sets goals for it as part of the economic development mobilization.

The Islamic Renaissance

Who is right? Let us look at the history of population growth in *all* of the historically Islamic countries over a long period of time. Islam, from its founding at about 600 A.D. through the Islamic Renaissance, until about 1000 A.D., spread through the Middle East and Turkey, west to Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, the Maghreb region, and Spain; east through Iran, Southwest Asia, Pakistan, and the northern part of India, and the nations of the Malay Peninsula. The "Islamic Renaissance" was a rapid flowering of scientific ideas and education, technological progress, revival of knowledge of ancient classics, the rise of great cities of unprecedented wealth and prosperity: all coherent with the Koran's conception of the human being as "higher than the Angels in the Garden." It split into rival caliphates and degenerated after 1000 A.D. with the rise of anti-urban and anti-science fundamentalist movements, and the slave trade linked to the emerging Venetian maritime empire.

What is the population history of that period of human progress and then its decay? From 600-1000 A.D., all these nations' combined population grew from 80 million to just

under 140 million people: 75% in 400 years. But in the 500 years from 1000-1500 A.D.—separating the end of the Islamic Renaissance from the launching of the 15th-century “Golden Renaissance” of Europe—the Islamic world’s total population grew by less than 10 million. Aside from the Indian subcontinent and the Malay Peninsula, the rest of Islam fell in total population over that 500 years. Then, from 1500-1900 A.D., through the worldwide impact of the European Renaissance, the Islamic nations grew to 380 million people: 170% growth over 400 years. These nations’ history for more than a millennium shows starkly that *population growth accompanies progress, prosperity, and national power, and is essential to that progress.*

Sudan’s economic future

Modern economic infrastructure is the key to the comparison of Sudan to Taiwan, a nation less rich than Sudan in natural resources, whose population *grew by 33% in a few years* when 2 million Chinese were forced from the Mainland in 1949; then doubled again from 1950-80. In the entire UNFPA book on Sudan’s future, building up of economic infrastructure (rail and road, power, water and irrigation, communications) is never discussed or recommended, although each chapter ends with profuse recommendations to the government. Yet the foundation of Taiwan’s extraordinary economic boom from the 1950s onward was massive new infrastructure construction for agriculture and industry (see *EIR*, “Physical Economy: Comparing Taiwan and the P.R.C.,” Aug. 26, 1994). Each chapter of the UNFPA book, instead, insists on demands such as the one summarizing the “educational planning” chapter: “Considering the increasing school-age populations . . . and in view of limited enrollment opportunities, one must conclude that the issue of rapid population growth itself should be under scrutiny. From this chapter’s perspective, fertility reduction would seem justified to reduce pressures on schools . . . and to ensure better educational opportunities for a greater percentage of the population.”

This, despite their acknowledgement that the portion of the population which is school-age children has already decreased to about 40% from 45%; that the Sudanese population is now 30% urbanized, lowering the social cost of education and health care infrastructure; and that spending on schools is now only 1% of GNP. And the reason for the high rate of leaving school without a full education is also clear from their own data: a national life expectancy of only 52 years, a matter of public health infrastructure again.

The government’s own *Comprehensive National Strategy* states that it aims at a “renaissance of thought and cultural development,” and thereafter repeatedly emphasizes training Sudanese youth in “classical beauty and science.” It says: “Our nation is a young nation. The population growth indicators show that for a long time to come the predominance of youth growth will be the pattern. This fact necessitates that increased attention will be given to this very vital sector for

its own sake, and for the investment of its potential.”

Not only youth, but “people are an incarnation of the divine on earth, and . . . from this principle spring basic human rights.” The plan’s overall statement of national objectives—“noble values” of the family and culture, “dignity of the state” including its defense capabilities, “liberty and prosperity of the citizen”—recall the famous “Three Principles of the People” of China’s great statesman Sun Yat-sen. They also recall the Vatican’s tradition of Pope Leo XIII’s 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*: “This economic pattern is based on a logic that surpasses the causes of class struggle, by demanding that the rich spend for reasons of charity, solidarity, and complementarity.”

The Sudanese national plan for the future rejects the conditionalities (austerity and population control) placed on credit by the IMF; but it calls for foreign investment precisely in economic infrastructure: “raising the volume of such investment in the agriculture and agro-industrial sector to the highest possible level” and using oil and mineral export revenues for that purpose.

Sudan has within it—currently stalled by blocked foreign credits—one of the world’s major single water infrastructure projects: the Jonglei Canal to drain Upper Nile swamps and recharge the river’s flow. It is on the route of a potential transcontinental railway from Dakar, Senegal to Djibouti. “The Sudan has the resources of a formidable strategic potential capable of transforming it into a powerful, dignified state of continental stature.” Such a state needs a population of Nigerian (90 million) or Egyptian (60 million) magnitude. It is this that the international financial oligarchy and the U.N. wish to make impossible with policies such as those expressed in *Population and Human Resources Development in the Sudan*.

EIR has broadened its coverage of economic development potential for Africa, beginning with our Jan. 1, 1993 issue entirely dedicated to the subject. Naturally, the Republic of Sudan has been a central feature in our coverage. Some highlights include:

- our two-part interview with Dr. Abdalla Ahmed Abdalla, Sudan’s ambassador to the United States (Feb. 5 and Feb. 12, 1993)
- Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s address to the international Conference on Religions hosted by Sudan (May 14, 1993)
- Dr. Ali Elhag Mohamed, minister of economic planning and investment (July 30, 1993)
- *EIR* devoted its *Feature* to exposing the fact that Sudan was the “next target of the new world order,” in part because of its agricultural potential to feed the continent. (Sept. 3, 1993).