

# Land, Governance, Conflict & the Nuba of Sudan

# GUMA KUNDA KOMEY

Assistant Professor of Human Geography Juba University, Sudan



# Contents



List of Tables & Maps	х
Preface: The Making & Object of the Book	xi
Acknowledgements	xv
Abbreviations & Acronyms	xvii

#### Introduction

National Context, Key Questions & Arguments	1
Falsehood of the independent Sudan	1
National disparity in development and its political implications	4
Land factor in conflict and wars	6
State governance and land-based conflicts	9
Core questions and line of arguement	12
Organization of the book	16

#### PART I Background

#### 1

The Nuba Mountains Region as Social World	
A Synthesis	21
Introduction	21
Land as source and basis of livelihoods	22
The sedentary Nuba	25
The nomadic Baqqara	30
The Nuba marginality, enslavement and dislocation: an historical review	34
Postcolonial state and land grabbing in the region	43
Conclusion	49

# 2

### State Land Policies, Politics & Rights in Sudan

Introduction	51
The precolonial stage and communal land rights	52
The colonial stage and regional differential in land policies	54
The postcolonial state policy and institutionalization of land grabbing	64
Conclusion	69

51

#### Contents

#### PART II THE WAR: CAUSES & IMPACT

# 3

The	War
1,00	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

Root Causes & Ramifications in the Region	73
Nuba marginalization and their peaceful striving	73
The Nuba Mountains Region as a conflict zone	77
Peace villages and forced social transformation: the Reikha case	89
Land alienation and livelihood destruction during the war	95
Conclusion	100
Λ	

#### 4

Baqqara–Nuba Relations in a War Situation	101
Introduction	101
The pre-war symbiotic soccio-economic relations	102
The war and new forms of local markets and exchanges	108
Market-motivated communal peace agreements	115
Conclusion	118

### PART III

# PEACE & POST-CONFLICT DYNAMICS

#### 5

The CPA & the Nuba Questions of	
Land, Identity & Political Destiny	123

The three areas: a bone of contention	123
The contested area of the Nuba Mountains	125
The Comprehensive Peace Agreement and Nuba disappointment	136
Nuba responses to the CPA: a discourse analysis	144
Nuba Land Straregy as a base for ethno-political identity and unity	147
Tribal boundaries: a challenge to the Nuba ethno-political unity	150
Conclusion	153

#### 6

Territory, Ethnic Identity & Boundary Me	iking 154
--	-----------

Introduction	154
Territory/region as a basis for communal identity politics	155
The Nuba autochthonous myth and its political and territorial attachments	157
Territory and politics of liberation: the al-Azraq case	160
Imagined boundaries in a contested territory: the Umm Derafi case	169
Conclusion	183

## Contents

# 7 Contested Communal Lands, Identity Politics & Conflicts

186
189
197
200
203
211
214
216
217
227
246

185