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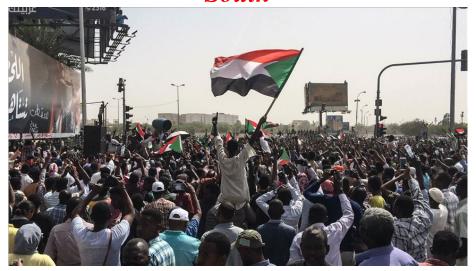
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By Ramzy Baroud 06.05.2023

Proxy wars and superpower rivalries in the Global South



Sources: Orient Monitor

The world is constantly evolving and changing, and in recent years We have witnessed a seismic change that has been reflected in conflicts such as the Russo-Ukrainian War and inter-state tensions United States and China in the Taiwan Strait. The decline of power The American has become apparent, as evidenced by the debacle in Iraq and the Middle East and the recent withdrawal from Afghanistan.

In his American neoconservative strategists argued that Policies of aggressive intervention sustained the great powers emerging countries, such as China, outside domain-designated areas geopolitics of the United States. However, these efforts have failed and the future seems to be heading towards a new world order that it does not focus solely on the priorities of the West.

From the start of the war between Russia and Ukraine in February 2022 and the Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in August of the same year, we have seen a acceleration of global changes in new economic alliances, geopolitical formations, turf wars and political discourses in competence. These changes are manifesting themselves in the Middle East, Africa and much of the Global South.

More than a power struggle

Although the war in Sudan is commonly understood as a power struggle between two rival and corrupt generals, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (also known as Hemedti), is also the The result of a regional and global power struggle. The dimension regional and global conflict in Sudan is a manifestation of order The ever-changing world and intense competition for resources and Critical geographies.

Sudan is one of the most important African countries. rich in natural resources, much of which remains without explode due to conflicts on multiple fronts and levels of the country. The South has experienced a secession that gave rise to the Republic of South Sudan, while in the West, specifically in Darfur, and Across the country, conflicts persist. The civil war between North and South Sudan and the Darfur crisis were also prolonged by interventions by third parties, including Sudan's neighbours and world powers. Unfortunately, in all these cases, the The result has been terrible in terms of human and material losses.

Sudan no exception to proxy conflicts in the South Global, which were one of the main features of the Cold War between Washington and Moscow until the fall of the Union Soviet in 1989-92. However, the dismantling of the USSR alone exacerbated violence, channeled this time through led wars. or defended by the United States in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. With the Intensification of global rivalry, conflicts have resurfaced global, especially in strategic and resource-rich regions, without clear political loyalties.



Power struggle in Sudan, between General Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman al-Burhan and his deputy Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo – Cartoon [Sabaaneh/Orient Monitor].

Sudan will not be the last of these conflicts.

The Complicating the picture in Sudan now is the involvement of others. Regional actors, each with its own interests, who take advantage of the rapid loss of U.S. leadership, which until recently it was the main political and military hegemon of the Middle East.

The current changes in power relations in the Middle East – as in other parts of the world – they are also significant within contexts historical politicians, not merely current.

History upside down

Since 1916, when the Sykes-Picot Agreement was signed between the former colonial powers of France, Great Britain and Tsarist Russia, The Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia were divided into spheres of influence. For decades, global priorities were almost exclusively Westerners, until in 1917, the Revolution Bolshevik opened up the possibility of a new global bloc that would It will rival Western domination.

However, the The emergence of this new bloc was delayed, and it was in 1955 that it was born. the Warsaw Pact, "unifying the Soviet Union and its allies against the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a Western military alliance that had seen the light six years earlier."

During The Cold War, the rivalry between the two blocs was reflected in a fierce economic, political and military competition, which included conflicts of Low degree, proxy wars and two ideological discourses that they defined world politics for much of the twentieth century.

The The end of the Cold War in the 1990s brought with it a Western triumphalism that manifested itself in colonial wars in places like Panama, Iraq, Serbia, Afghanistan and Iraq

again. China was A worthy adversary and a prized ally, but not a political actor global important at that time.

The historic visit of the US President Richard Nixon to Beijing in 1972 had a great impact, and although it frustrated efforts to unify the East against the U.S.-Western imperialism gave Washington a huge advantage and a strategic boost over its rivals. Now, however, History is changing in a way that only a few geopoliticians They could have predicted.

The new competences

The The path to the transformation of the world is not completely clear, But there are numerous signs that indicate it is happening. However The magnitude of this metamorphosis varies between different regions. The Geopolitical conflict between old and emerging powers is more evident in some parts of the world, such as the Middle East, Africa, South America, East Asia and the Pacific. In each of these regions, Changes in power relations and dynamics are taking place.

By For example, in the Middle East, Iran is emerging from its isolation. imposed by the West, while Saudi Arabia is defying its former status as a client regime. This last movement is especially worrisome for Washington, as it undermines two layers of Western domination in the region: the one that followed the Sykes-Picot agreement of 1916, which divided the region into subregions under the "protection" and Western influence, and that resulting from the invasion of Iraq by The United States and NATO.

For many years, Washington has dominated the Middle East without serious competition thanks to its huge Political influence, growing military presence and the use of its currency as a weapon. However, Russia and China have been claiming their Rights in the region for years, albeit using mechanisms different from the Western style of former colonialism and neocolonialism. While Russia draws on its long tradition Soviet cooperation, China draws on an older history of friendly trade and cultural exchanges.

With its most frank and unapologetic foreign policy, China's status as New superpower has been demonstrated in unprecedented ways in Middle East. The recent agreements between Iran and Saudi Arabia are a great achievement for the new China's political orientation, though the way forward To go is still very difficult due to the contenders foreign and to the old and new conflicts in the region. For If China succeeds, China must present itself as a new and better model that is Counteract Western exploitation and violence.

Without embargo, the United States and its Western and regional allies remain having a significant influence in the region. For example, the UAE is emerging as a powerful player in the current war in Sudan.

Is Likely the current struggle for resources, influence and dominance lead to minor but bloody conflicts, especially in countries politically and socially unstable. Sudan fits into this category, which makes their current war especially worrisome. Although Much has been said and written about the enormous wealth of subjects. Sudan's agricultural potential and gold, the struggle for control This country is essentially a turf war, because of its Incomparable geopolitical situation.

Different countries, such as Egypt, Ethiopia, United Arab Emirates, Israel and others want to leave victorious in this struggle. Russia is closely monitoring the situation from its various African bases. United States, Great Britain and France distrust the dire consequences of direct intervention and of the equally expensive price of not intervening. For its part, China is assessing the challenges and opportunities presented by the situation. The outcome of Sudan's bloody war is very likely to have a major impact not only on the political balances of this country, but also on the power relations of the entire region.

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