



# **Unitary system of governance and promotion of sustainable peace: (a case of South Sudan 2011 – 2020)**

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## **Introduction**

The unitary system of governance entails a process by which the activities of an institution, particularly those regarding planning and decision-making, framing strategy, and policies, become concentrated within a particular geographical location or group. As such, important planning and decision-making power are possessed by a central authority. Unitary systems are often viewed positively because of their superior capacity to mobilize resources and rapidly implement policies. For example, some studies demonstrate that unitary political systems are more successful in mobilizing revenue with a minimum of backlash (Boffa, Piolatto, & Ponzetto, 2016).

Others have demonstrated that unitary systems are better able to organize the limited resources of societies at low

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levels of economic development to maximize economic growth (Nasution, 2017). Because in a unitary system divisions, branches, or subnational units do not make important decisions, they are relegated to mere implementing outposts.

### **Study objectives**

The study was guided by the following objectives:

1. to analyse the performance of the unitary system in South Sudan,
2. to find out the challenges of realizing sustainable peace in a unitary system of governance in South Sudan, and
3. to propose a sustainable governance system for South Sudan

### **Methodology**

The study used the case study research design and used both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Data were collected from 219 respondents drawn from government, academia, professional bodies, students, opinion leaders, and civil society. Data were collected using questionnaires, interview guides, and focus group discussions. The collected data collected were edited, coded, and analyzed using SPSS.



## **Key findings**

The study found that centralization is not an instrument of sustainable peace in South Sudan. It was found that the people of South Sudan were not properly consulted when the current system was being designed: Consultation was through opinion polls and at regions. The study found that most respondents didn't feel that the unitary system is generally serving the country well.

The study further found that the challenges of realizing sustainable peace are mainly economic and that a federal system would be better at removing the challenge because it would spur economic development in addition to facilitating the realization of better service delivery, administrative efficiency, unity, and healthy competition.

## **Key recommendations**

The study recommended that South Sudan should adopt a federal structure because a federal system is a conflict mitigation and diversity management tool. After all, it creates a more accommodating and inclusive system where minority groups have control over some portion of power and territory. The Federal system should also be adopted because it propagates rapid social and economic development by bringing the government closer to the people and therefore encouraging public participation in governance.



## Key references

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