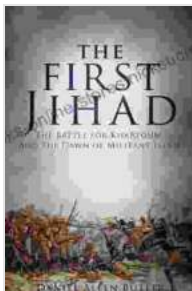


# Khartoum: The Genesis of Militant Islam and Its Far-Reaching Impact

## : The Crossroads of Faith and Conflict

Nestled at the confluence of the Blue and White Nile rivers, Khartoum has been a strategic crossroads throughout history. The capital of Sudan, it has witnessed pivotal moments that have shaped the course of Islam and the world.



### The First Jihad: Khartoum, and the Dawn of Militant

**Islam** by Daniel Allen Butler

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
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Print length : 267 pages



In the late 19th century, Khartoum became the epicenter of a movement that would forever alter the landscape of global politics: the rise of militant Islam.

## The Mahdist Revolution: A Call for Islamic Renewal

In the 1880s, Sudan was under British colonial rule. However, the people were deeply resentful of the foreign occupation and longed for independence.

In this climate of discontent, a charismatic religious leader named Muhammad Ahmad emerged. He proclaimed himself the Mahdi, a messianic figure who would lead the people to victory.

Muhammad Ahmad's teachings resonated with the Sudanese people. He preached a return to pure Islamic principles and promised to establish a just and equitable society.

### **The Battle of Omdurman: A Clash of Civilizations**

In 1898, the British forces under General Kitchener confronted the Mahdist army outside Khartoum. The battle that ensued, known as the Battle of Omdurman, was one of the most decisive battles in African history.

The British, equipped with superior weaponry and technology, slaughtered the Mahdist forces. Muhammad Ahmad was killed in the battle, and the Mahdist movement collapsed.

### **The Rise of Hassan al-Banna and the Muslim Brotherhood**

In the aftermath of the Mahdist Revolution, Sudan remained a hotbed of Islamic activism. In 1928, a young schoolteacher named Hassan al-Banna founded the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.

The Muslim Brotherhood quickly spread beyond Egypt to Sudan and other parts of the Muslim world. It advocated for a return to Islamic law and the establishment of an Islamic state.

In Sudan, the Muslim Brotherhood played a significant role in the resistance against British colonial rule. After Sudan's independence in 1956, the organization became a powerful political force.

### **The 1989 Coup and the Rise of Al-Qaeda**

In 1989, a military coup led by General Omar al-Bashir seized power in Sudan. Al-Bashir established an Islamist regime that implemented strict Islamic laws.

Sudan became a haven for international terrorists, including Osama bin Laden and his terrorist organization, Al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda used Sudan as a training ground and a base for planning attacks against the West.

The 1998 US embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, as well as the 2001 attacks on September 11th, were all orchestrated from Sudan.

### **The Darfur Genocide: A Humanitarian Crisis**

In 2003, a conflict erupted in the Darfur region of Sudan. The Sudanese government and its allied militias waged a campaign of genocide against ethnic minority groups.

Approximately 300,000 people were killed and over 2.5 million were displaced. The Darfur genocide became one of the worst humanitarian crises of the 21st century.

### **The Arab Spring and the Sudanese Revolution**

In 2011, the Arab Spring uprisings spread throughout the Middle East and North Africa. In Sudan, protests erupted against Al-Bashir's authoritarian regime.

In 2019, after months of sustained demonstrations, Al-Bashir was overthrown. A transitional government was established, but Sudan continues to face numerous challenges, including economic instability and political unrest.

## **: The Legacy of Khartoum**

Khartoum, once a bustling crossroads of trade and culture, has become synonymous with militant Islam and humanitarian crisis.

The Mahdist Revolution, the Muslim Brotherhood, Al-Qaeda, and the Darfur Genocide all have their roots in Khartoum. The city has played a pivotal role in shaping the course of Islam and the world.

As Sudan continues to navigate its complex political and social landscape, the legacy of Khartoum will continue to be debated and studied.

## **Additional Resources:**

\* [Khartoum on Wikipedia](#) \* [The Battle of Omdurman](#) \* [The Sudanese Revolution](#)

## **Image Credits:**

- Muhammad Ahmad by Unknown - CC BY-SA 4.0
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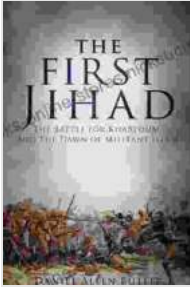
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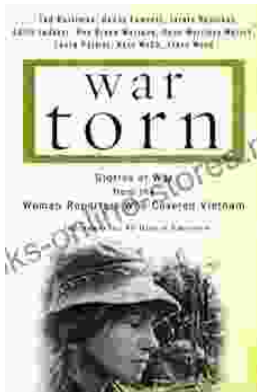
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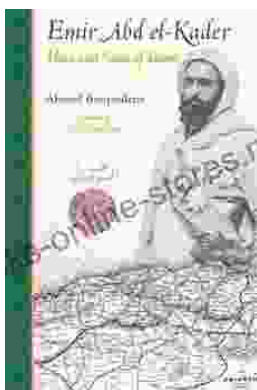


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