



ZMO-Kolloquium 2011/2012

Not all about Islam: Current Political Conflicts in Africa, the Middle East and Asia

Thursday, September 29th, 2011, 6 pm

The Way to the New? Republics of Sudan

Lecture by Dr. Einas Ahmed

Venue:

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

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On the 7th of January 2011, an unprecedented event in the history of the Africa took place in Khartoum: the birth of the Republic of Southern Sudan, the 54th state of the continent is declared. The recognition of this youngest state in the whole world by the international community including the African Union is indeed an exclusive episode in that, it was the occasion for the international delegations who were well represented in the podium where the event took place to confirm the "the Right for Self Determination" for the people of Southern Sudan; more significantly, it represents a real challenge to the historical sacrosanct principle of "intangibility of borders inherited from the colonial period" which has prevented the disintegration and guaranteed the survival of many African states since their independence. Africa's secessionist deficit has been largely attributed mainly to this principle and to many scholars also to the "lack of economic resources which pushed communal contenders to avoid the strategy of regional self-determination". Although, the oil resources was an important factor in the political dynamics which led to the secession of Southern Sudan, however, other factors led to this outcome. On top of these is the paradox convergence of two initially exclusive and antipode political projects both with nationalistic outlooks: the "Civilisational Project" of the National Congress Party with its "Islamic" face, and the "New Sudan" project with its secular face of the Sudan Popular Liberation Movement. Although, initially the two projects were of nationalistic and hegemonic outlooks, nevertheless the way the conflict was perceived and protracted as Muslims versus non Muslims and Arabs versus non Arabs and the way it was managed has largely contributed to the emergence of two "new republics": the Second Republic declared recently by the President Omer al-Beshir and the Republic of Southern Sudan. Looking closely to the political dynamics during the transitional period and to the controversy over the definition of Southerner entitled to vote, the current debate over the post referendum arrangements particularly the issue of nationality will reveal that all is not about religion.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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