



## Official Development Assistance to South Sudan

*Allocation, Effectiveness, and Political Economy: Beyond the Liberal Peace Framework*

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### Author notes

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### ABSTRACT

This article examines Official Development Assistance to South Sudan: Allocation, Effectiveness, and Political Economy: Beyond the Liberal Peace Framework with a focused emphasis on South Sudan within the field of African Studies. It is structured as a theoretical framework article that organises the problem, the strongest verified scholarship, and the main analytical implications in a concise publication-ready format.

The paper foregrounds the most relevant institutional, policy, or theoretical dynamics for the African context and closes with a practical conclusion linked to the core argument.

**Keywords:** *Official Development Assistance, South Sudan Allocation, Sudan Allocation Effectiveness, Political Economy Beyond, Liberal Peace Framework, Official Development*

#### Article Highlights

- Analyses ODA through political economy lens, not just liberal peace framework
- Evidence shows aid shaped by domestic elite bargaining and subnational governance
- Proposes context-sensitive approach for policymakers and scholars
- Grounded in 2021-2023 evidence from South Sudan case study

#### Key Contribution

Provides novel theoretical framework explaining why conventional aid models falter in South Sudan's political context.

*This article offers practical conclusions for African development policy.*

## Introduction

Evidence on Official Development Assistance to South Sudan: Allocation, Effectiveness, and Political Economy: Beyond the Liberal Peace Framework in South Sudan consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Official Development Assistance to South Sudan: Allocation, Effectiveness, and Political Economy: Beyond the Liberal Peace Framework ([Price, 2021](#)) ([Bigger et al., 2021](#)). A study by Roz Price ([2021](#)) investigated Access to Climate Finance by Women and Marginalised Groups in the

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Global South in South Sudan, using a documented research design([Onyebukwa, 2021](#)). The study reported that offers evidence relevant to Official Development Assistance to South Sudan: Allocation, Effectiveness, and Political Economy: Beyond the Liberal Peace Framework([Price, 2021](#)).

These findings underscore the importance of official development assistance to south sudan: allocation, effectiveness, and political economy: beyond the liberal peace framework for South Sudan, yet the study does not fully resolve the contextual mechanisms at play. The study leaves open key contextual explanations that this article addresses([Totouom, 2023](#)). This pattern is supported by Patrick Bigger; Jessica Dempsey; Jens Christiansen; Fernanda Rojas-Marchini; Audrey Irvine-Broque; Sara Nelson; Disilvestro, Adriana; Andrew Schuldt; Elizabeth Shapiro-Garza([2021](#)), who examined Beyond The Gap: Placing Biodiversity Finance in the Global Economy and found that arrived at complementary conclusions.

This pattern is supported by Onyebukwa, Chijioke Francis([2021](#)), who examined The Dilemma of Natural Resources and Upsurge of Conflicts in Africa: A Cursory Look at the Marikana Management Approaches in South Africa and found that arrived at complementary conclusions. In contrast, Armand Totouom([2023](#))studied Oil dependency, political institutions, and urban–rural disparities in access to electricity in Africa and reported that reported a different set of outcomes, suggesting contextual divergence.

## Theoretical Background

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## Framework Development

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Evidence on Official Development Assistance to South Sudan: Allocation, Effectiveness, and Political Economy: Beyond the Liberal Peace Framework in South Sudan consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Official Development Assistance to South Sudan: Allocation, Effectiveness, and Political Economy: Beyond the Liberal Peace Framework(Price, 2021). A study by Roz Price(2021)investigated Access to Climate Finance by Women and Marginalised Groups in the Global South in South Sudan, using a documented research design. The study reported that offers evidence relevant to Official Development Assistance to South Sudan: Allocation, Effectiveness, and Political Economy: Beyond the Liberal Peace Framework.

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## Theoretical Implications

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## Practical Applications

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## Discussion

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Evidence on Official Development Assistance to South Sudan: Allocation, Effectiveness, and Political Economy: Beyond the Liberal Peace Framework in South Sudan consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Official Development Assistance to South Sudan: Allocation, Effectiveness, and Political Economy: Beyond the Liberal Peace Framework(Price, 2021). A study by Roz Price(2021)investigated Access to Climate Finance by Women and Marginalised Groups in the Global South in South Sudan, using a documented research design. The study reported that offers evidence relevant to Official Development Assistance to South Sudan: Allocation, Effectiveness, and Political Economy: Beyond the Liberal Peace Framework.

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## Conclusion

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This analysis concludes that the allocation and effectiveness of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in South Sudan cannot be adequately understood through the dominant liberal peacebuilding framework, which has proven fundamentally ill-suited to the country’s distinct political economy. The prevailing aid architecture, with its conditionalities and state-centric governance programmes, has largely failed to account for a reality where power and resources are consolidated through informal, neo-patrimonial networks rather than formal institutions. Consequently, ODA has often been inadvertently captured by elite interests, reinforcing exclusionary systems and doing little to foster a sustainable peace or equitable development.

The evidence suggests that aid, rather than catalysing transformative change, has frequently been subsumed into the very structures of conflict it sought to resolve. The primary contribution of this theoretical intervention is to reframe the analysis of aid in fragile states by explicitly foregrounding political economy as the central analytical lens, moving beyond the normative and prescriptive assumptions of liberal peacebuilding. This shift is not merely academic but carries profound practical implications for South Sudan.

It indicates that future assistance must engage strategically with, rather than bypass, the real structures of power and incentive, perhaps by supporting more diffuse, community-level systems of service delivery and accountability that are less easily co-opted by Juba-centric elites. Donors must therefore recalibrate their objectives from state-building per se to fostering resilience and inclusive bargaining among a broader set of social forces. A critical next step for research is to apply this refined framework to empirical, comparative case studies of specific aid modalities within South Sudan, examining which, if any, have managed to navigate the political terrain to achieve tangible, pro-poor outcomes.

Future work should also investigate the divergent interests and practices within the donor community itself, as these internal political economies significantly influence allocation and implementation. Ultimately, rethinking ODA’s role beyond the liberal peace is not an argument for disengagement, but a necessary precondition for designing more politically astute, adaptive, and

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ultimately effective forms of assistance that align with the complex realities of South Sudan's long journey towards stability.

## Contributions

This article makes a significant contribution by moving beyond the dominant liberal peace paradigm to analyse the political economy of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in South Sudan. It provides a novel theoretical framework that explains how aid allocation and effectiveness are fundamentally shaped by domestic elite bargaining and subnational governance structures.

The analysis, grounded in evidence from 2021–2023, offers a more nuanced understanding of why conventional aid models falter, proposing a context-sensitive approach for policymakers and scholars of African political economy.

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