

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Making of Police Professionalism in Sudan: Historical Insights

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Abstract

This paper explores the establishment and development of police professionalism in Sudan, tracing its historical trajectory from colonial-era beginnings to contemporary advancements. It examines the influence of colonial administration, post-independence reforms, and the sociopolitical dynamics that shaped the evolution of police doctrine in Sudan. Key aspects include the adoption of modern policing principles, the challenges of localizing professional standards, and the impact of societal and cultural factors on law enforcement practices. The study highlights milestones in the professionalization of Sudan's police force, offering valuable insights into the interplay between history, governance, and policing in the region.

KEYWORDS

Police Professionalism, Sudan, Historical Development, Policing Doctrine, Colonial Administration, Law Enforcement, Governance, Professional Standards, Socio-political Dynamics.

INTRODUCTION

Police professional doctrine plays a crucial role in shaping the conduct and performance of law enforcement agencies. The establishment and development of such a doctrine require a comprehensive understanding of the historical, social, and political context of a country. This study focuses on the establishment and development of police professional doctrine in Sudan, a country that has faced significant challenges related to law and order, governance, and security. The study aims to provide a historical overview of the evolution of police professional doctrine in Sudan and its impact on law enforcement practices in the country.

The police force is an essential institution that plays a vital role in maintaining law and order, protecting citizens' rights, and promoting social stability. To effectively fulfill these responsibilities, police agencies need to operate within a set of professional standards and principles, known as police professional doctrine. However, the establishment and development of police professional doctrine in many countries have been shaped by various historical, social, and political factors, which can affect the effectiveness of law enforcement

agencies.

Sudan, a country that has faced significant challenges related to law and order, governance, and security, is no exception to this trend. The Sudanese police force has been subject to various internal and external influences throughout its history, which have affected the establishment and development of its professional doctrine. Understanding the evolution of police professional doctrine in Sudan is crucial for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders involved in promoting effective policing in the country. This study provides a historical overview of the establishment and development of police professional doctrine in Sudan, with a focus on the factors that have shaped its evolution. The study aims to identify the key drivers that have influenced the establishment and development of police professional doctrine in Sudan and to analyze the distinct phases of its evolution over time. By doing so, this study can contribute to a better understanding of the complex and multifaceted process of establishing and developing police professional doctrine in Sudan.

METHODS

This study employs a qualitative research design that draws on primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include interviews with police officials, experts, and stakeholders in Sudan, while secondary sources include published and unpublished documents, reports, and academic articles. The study uses content analysis to analyze the data collected from the interviews and secondary sources. This study employs a qualitative historical research approach to explore the development of police professionalism in Sudan. Historical research is particularly suited to examining the evolution of policing practices over time, as it allows for a detailed analysis of past events, their contexts, and their impacts on contemporary systems. The methodology integrates multiple sources of data, including archival records, academic literature, and comparative analyses, to build a comprehensive understanding of the subject.

Primary data collection involves extensive archival research, which includes reviewing colonial administrative records, legislative documents, and government policies related to the establishment and reform of Sudan's police force. These documents provide valuable insights into the initial frameworks and principles that shaped policing during the colonial era. Secondary sources, such as books, journal articles, and reports, are also analyzed to contextualize historical events and identify broader themes in the professionalization process.

Additionally, thematic analysis is used to examine patterns and trends in the data. This method involves categorizing key developments, such as the introduction of training programs, the localization of policing practices post-independence, and the influence of sociopolitical factors on police reforms. By identifying these themes, the study highlights the milestones and challenges in building a professional police force in Sudan.

To enrich the analysis, the study incorporates a comparative perspective by examining the policing systems of neighboring countries and other former colonies. This approach provides a contextual framework, allowing for an understanding of how Sudan's trajectory aligns with or diverges from regional and global trends in police professionalization.

This study employs a qualitative research design that draws on primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include official government documents, laws and regulations, reports and publications from the Sudanese police force, and other relevant organizations. The secondary sources include academic literature, news articles, and other relevant publications that provide insights into the historical, social, and political context of Sudan.

The study begins by conducting a comprehensive review of the literature on the establishment and development of police professional doctrine in Sudan. This review helps to identify the key historical, social, and political factors that have influenced the evolution of police professional doctrine in the country.

The study then conducts a thematic analysis of the primary and secondary sources to identify the distinct phases of the evolution of police professional doctrine in Sudan. The analysis also seeks to

identify the key drivers that have shaped the establishment and development of police professional doctrine in each phase.

To ensure the reliability and validity of the findings, the study employs a triangulation approach, which involves cross-checking the findings from multiple sources and using multiple researchers to analyze the data. This approach helps to minimize biases and ensure that the findings are grounded in the available evidence.

RESULTS

The results of this study indicate that the establishment and development of police professional doctrine in Sudan has been shaped by various factors, including colonial legacy, political instability, civil wars, and external influences. The study identifies three distinct phases in the evolution of police professional doctrine in Sudan: the colonial period, the post-independence period, and the contemporary period. Each phase is characterized by specific challenges and opportunities that have shaped the development of police professional doctrine in the country.

DISCUSSION

The evolution of police professionalism in Sudan reflects the complex interplay of historical, cultural, and political influences. This discussion delves into the key phases and factors that have shaped the development of policing in the country, from its colonial foundations to contemporary challenges.

Colonial Foundations

The establishment of Sudan's police force during the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium (1899–1956) laid the groundwork for modern policing in the region. British colonial administrators introduced a centralized and hierarchical police structure modeled on their practices. While these systems aimed to maintain order and support colonial governance, they often prioritized the interests of the ruling powers over those of the local population. The adoption of foreign policing doctrines presented challenges in aligning the force with Sudanese cultural and societal norms, creating a sense of alienation between the police and the communities they served.

Post-Independence Reforms

With Sudan's independence in 1956, significant efforts were made to transform the police force into an institution reflective of national sovereignty. Early reforms focused on localizing leadership, redefining the force's role in a post-colonial state, and aligning its practices with the aspirations of the Sudanese people. However, these reforms were often constrained by limited resources, political instability, and the lingering influence of colonial-era policies. The establishment of police training academies and the introduction of professional standards marked early steps toward modernization, but challenges remained in creating a truly community-oriented policing model.

Professionalization Milestones

The professionalization of Sudan's police force involved the gradual introduction of training programs, ethical guidelines, and specialized units to address emerging security needs. Training academies became central to equipping officers with skills and knowledge, while legal frameworks sought to establish accountability and uphold the rule of

law. Despite these advancements, systemic issues such as corruption, lack of resources, and political interference often hindered the effective implementation of professional standards.

Sociopolitical Influences

Political instability, including military coups, civil wars, and periods of authoritarian rule, significantly impacted the trajectory of Sudanese policing. In many instances, the police were used as tools for political suppression rather than agents of public safety and justice. This dual role created tensions between the force's professional obligations and its political directives, undermining public trust in law enforcement. Efforts to reform the police have often been shaped by the prevailing political climate, with varying degrees of success.

Cultural and Societal Dynamics

Sudan's diverse cultural landscape has posed unique challenges and opportunities for police professionalization. Traditional community policing practices, such as local mediation and tribal justice systems, have coexisted with formal policing structures. In some cases, these practices have complemented modern policing by fostering trust and cooperation. However, disparities in access to justice and the marginalization of certain communities have highlighted the need for a more inclusive approach to policing that respects cultural diversity.

Regional and Global Contexts

The development of Sudan's police force has been influenced by regional and international trends in law enforcement. Collaborations with international organizations and neighboring countries have introduced modern techniques and technologies to Sudanese policing. These partnerships have also emphasized the importance of human rights, accountability, and community engagement in building a professional police force. However, the implementation of these principles has often been uneven, reflecting the challenges of adapting global standards to local contexts.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that the establishment and development of police professional doctrine in Sudan is a complex and multifaceted process that requires a comprehensive understanding of the historical, social, and political context of the country. The study also identifies several challenges facing the police force in Sudan, including inadequate training, low salaries, corruption, and political interference. The study recommends that the government and other stakeholders take concrete steps to address these challenges and promote the development of a professional and accountable police force in Sudan.

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