Christian Contributions to the World’s Newest Nation

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South Sudan represents the unique case of a new nation born of transnational religious advocacy and now sustained by enduring Christian contributions. Hertzke documents how Christian solidarity activists and their Jewish allies championed the cause of the African peoples of southern Sudan, who were victims of slavery and a genocidal assault by the Islamist regime in Khartoum. This campaign led to a negotiated peace in 2005 and subsequent referendum for independence in 2011. The new nation is fragile, devastated by two decades of war, bereft of infrastructure, afflicted by internal tribal strife, weakened by government corruption, and beset by continued military pressure on its border with Sudan. Based on field research in South Sudan, Hertzke documents how indigenous Christian leaders and international Christian NGOs are playing a pivotal role in challenging corruption, providing education and opportunity, healing broken lives, building civil society, promoting reconciliation, and fashioning a national identity for the vulnerable people of South Sudan. If this fledgling nation prevails, it will owe its success to this remarkable Christian influence.