

Issues of Violence in the Democratisation Process in Uganda (Abstract)

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Analysts of contemporary Ugandan politics tend to lament the repercussions of violence as if it is a recent phenomenon. In fact, violence is as old as humanity itself. The Biblical stories of the struggle between God and Satan, the murder of Abel by Cain and the rise and fall of kingdom, clearly show how violence has been part of human development.

The pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial Ugandan societies have all had much experience of violence. The purpose of this paper is to explain that Uganda itself was a creation of violent struggles between the British and pre-colonial social forces. Furthermore, colonialism was established and maintained by force. It was also challenged by the threat of violence, which led the British to reform the colonial system and negotiate independence with the natives.

The post-colonial State maintained the use of violence as an instrument of control. It thus frustrated the democratic hopes for which the people had fought. Violence led to the destruction of the Ugandan State and its economy.

On the other hand, Uganda is a unique example of the use of violence as an instrument of transformation to reconstruct the State.

Despite all the obstacle, the establishment of a new constitutional order and an alternative model of governance, the building of an economy that has already recorded impressive rates of growth, and the revitalisation of civilian-military relations have created hopes for a better future.

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