ENHANCING SOUTH SUDAN’S VISION THROUGH REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION: AN ANALYSIS OF SOUTH SUDAN’S VISION 2040
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A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTERS OF ARTS IN DIPLOMACY TO THE INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (IDIS) UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
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This study examines the possibility of enhancing South Sudan’s Vision through regional cooperation and integration, the study analyses South Sudan’s Vision 2040 and the way South Sudan can benefit from cooperation and integration union. The study establishes challenges and advantages that South Sudan could face if it became a member of East Africa Community. It also analyzes how South Sudan uses strategies of enhancing South Sudan Vision 2040. The overall objective of the study is to analyse the role of regional cooperation and integration in enhancing South Sudan’s Vision 2040. The study provides an overview of South Sudan’s Vision 2040; examines the effectiveness of regional cooperation and integration in enhancing South Sudan’s Vision 2040; and analyzes the challenges facing the achievement of South Sudan’s Vision 2040. The study is based on realism theory of international relations: that states are the major actors in world affairs, the international environment severely penalizes states if they fail to protect their vital interests or if they pursue objectives beyond their means; hence states are sensitive to costs and behave as unitary agents. The study argues that enhancing South Sudan’s vision 2040 requires regional cooperation and integration. For the new nation to achieve the country’s vision it requires collective action of both state and non-state actors due to the anarchic nature of the international system. The study further establishes that integration and cooperation are motivated by a balance of absolute and relative gains and the extent of durability of such cooperative arrangement. The research project identifies possible ways of enhancing South Sudan vision through regional cooperation and integration. The methodology of the research involved the collection of both secondary and primary data. Data for study was collected using content analysis, scientific analysis and interview methodologies. The key findings in this research revealed that the Elemi Triangle border dispute between Kenya and South Sudan is a key challenge for the government of South Sudan in its quest for regional cooperation and integration and South Sudan needs to understand all the principles of EAC. It is argued that South Sudan should conduct a careful analysis of the implications of joining the EAC and, with its findings in hand, astutely negotiate the terms of its EAC membership. Another key finding is the issues of microfinance.