Acknowledgment

Starting and finalising a task of this nature is not always easy, and most often, is not the feat of a single individual. Many people contributed to this achievement and it is apt that they be recognised. While it might not be possible to acknowledge all, for they are legion, I endeavour to include as many as possible that surface on my mind.

It must be stated at the onset that without the special Grace of God, this task would have amounted to nought. My greatest gratitude, therefore, goes to the Great God of the Universe who always protected, cared, and provided for me. Of course, my physical manifestation I owe to my wonderful parents who, not only were the channel through which I came to exist in the flesh, but were also my first teachers literally and figuratively. It was my parents that fired that initial interest of knowledge acquisition and dissemination in me. I can remember clearly when as a little boy, I was 'forced' out of necessity to accompany my Dad to school where he was teaching. I can also remember clearly Mum making sure that her little boy always had something to eat. I cannot forget the encouragement I received from my Dad and Mum throughout my academic life, but especially when I announced to them my intention of going back to school for this terminal degree. Without their wholesome support, maybe, this task would not have been completed; my sincere thanks and appreciation to you my dear parents.

During the course of this degree, I was once more bestowed with God's blessing with a beautiful and dependable wife. While such could have been a distraction to some, it became a source of inspiration to me. She prodded me not to lose hope, especially when finances were

lean; as it was always. To my loving wife, Chinyere, I say a big thank you. The joy of completing this task was doubled with the beautiful gift from God of a Bouncing Baby Boy, whom I named Kenechukwu. I could not have asked for more, as I will always remember the year of my degree with the birth of my son.

My siblings as always played a significant role in the achievement of this honour. Not only did they support me through prayers, but also financially. I owe Ngozi, Edith, Chijioke, Ify, Amaka, and Onyinye a lot. I pray that I will be able to repay the love and understanding which you have showered me with.

I would want to thank Dr. Abdul Lamin for his diligent supervision and support throughout the different stages of this work, and most especially for his providing me with accommodation for three years. The financial implications of this research would not have been easily borne by me without the support of the team from the department of International Relations. I would, therefore, use this opportunity to thank the head of department, Prof. Gilbert Khadiagala for his very generous support both financially and otherwise, Prof. Rod Alence who made it possible for me to be appointed a Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Africa's International Relations (CAIR), Prof. Rok Ajulu for his earlier insight and advise on how to go about the research, Prof Garth Shelton for his encouragement, Prof Eric Worby for encouraging me to present parts of the research in international conferences, Miss Elizabeth King and Ms Hazel Hloma, both administrative staff during the time. I also want to thank Professors Clifford Odimegwu and Vincent Nmehielle for their advice and mentorship throughout the period. My sincere appreciation also goes to Prof Obi Aginam for his encouragement and believing in my scholarship. The Financial Aid Office of the University deserves mention here, as it provided me with three years Postgraduate Merit Award and Two years of University Council Award which equally contributed to making the financial burden on me less. To my colleagues in the department, especially, Charles Nyuykonge, Mopeli Moshoeshoe, David Kode, Leslie Nyagah, Joe Muyangabo, Patricia Bossomo, Trust Mvutungayi, Said Omar, and Said Antoissi; I thank you all for your different contributions to making my stay in the department worthwhile, and for the different academic discussions that we had over time in trying to untie knotty issues.

My fraternal brothers, especially those of the National Association of Seadogs (NAS), Okavango, were very instrumental to this achievement. Through their in-house 'scholarship' I was able to tide over some of the most difficult times during the course of the research. Through their fraternal love and understanding, I was able to sail through the very rough seas. Ahoy to you!

During the period, I also made both academic and social friends, and it will not be out of place to recognise especially those that made the concrete walls of the university bearable. These include, Osita Ezeliora, Emeka Egbeonu, Emeka Amechi, Peter Nwafor, Senayon Olaoluwa, and Chinonye Onyeari. I will not forget for instance, the numerous times we sat together on Fridays, at the 'website' from where we migrated to the watering hole at PIGS to continue our discussion on academic and socio-political issues. The West African Students Union (WASU) deserves a mention here. The union provided one with an avenue for social interaction which was necessary at times to cool off the steam of academics. The library staffs at Wartenweiler, Cullen, and the Law libraries were very helpful in locating the much needed texts during the research.

Many others contributed in one way or the other to the achievement of this feat. I would like to mention specifically the following; Aduba, Andy, Arisa, Awa, Barclays, Buchi, Charles, Chiemela, Chikezie, Chiedozie, Chizoba, Chris, Collins, Dave, Demu, Franklin, Fidel, Folly, Jude, Kalu, Kelvin, Kempi, Ken, Kingsley, Mathew, Mecha, Mba, Obiora, Offiong, Ovie, Patrick, Peter, Prince, Remi, Robert, Seyi, Solly, Tony, Toju, and Valentine. Special mention needs to be made of my sister in law, Ngozi Nwobbi for her indirect support.

I would also want to use this opportunity to thank all those that requested anonymity for their part in facilitating the interviewing of the participants in Darfur and other Darfurians scattered outside Sudan as a result of the conflict.