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### Revolution Starts Silent

The sound of the aircraft is deafening, even with the roaring wind. The shaking hands and shouts of children is louder, however what seems to out shine all the noise is the booming thunder of a bomb. A bomb let down over the heads of Nubans, by the governemnt in which they live under. A government meant to protect their people, scarring the children forever. Even those too young to read know that the sound of a hovercraft only means one thing, danger. In the *Hunger Games Trilogy* by Suzanne Collins, the totalitarian society in which the Capital is better off than those in the 13 districts. However, in the *Hunger Games Trilogy*, there is more unity than in Sudan. Also, unlike in Sudan, there is no interference with other countries. Moreover, those in the Districts have strength in numbers, as well as time to prepare for attacks. Most importantly, in Sudan, there is no platform for revolution. Although Sudan and the *Hunger Games* aren't ideal, the former is better because it has unity, no interference, strength in numbers, time to prepare, and a platform for revolution.

To begin, unlike in Sudan, there is unity among the districts in the Hunger Games society. Suzanne Collins' book, *The Hunger Games*, takes place in Panem, where the teen protagonist, Katniss Everdeen volunteered to take her younger sister's spot in the 74th annual Hunger Games. Those reaped for the Hunger Games have to fight to the death . There can only be one winner, however, Katniss and Peeta Mellark , her district companion, ended up both winning the 74th Hunger Games by faking their love for each other. All this happens while those

in the Capitol watch the blood fest with joy, making bets on who will survive with sick satisfaction. Even though the society in Panem is less than ideal, those in Sudan have it worse. Throughout the districts, there is peace. Those in each district help each other with hardships as best they can. In *Mockingjay*, the last book in the Hunger Games trilogy by Suzanne Collins, Katniss' mother helps with injuries of those who survived the bombing of District 12. Also, in *Catching Fire*, those from District 11 were portrayed to deeply care for Rue and Thresh, the two who died from District 11 in the 74th Hunger Games. On the other hand, in Sudan, women are considered less than males in status (Countries and Their Cultures). This is unlike how it is in the Hunger Games, where Katniss is the one doing the hunting and taking care of her family. An article by Clever Up explains that the way Peeta and Katniss were written was to show how the gender role stereotypes are switched. This makes Katniss the strong and independent one, while Peeta is more emotional and dependent. According to "Sudan Travel Advisory," there is civil unrest, kidnapping, armed robbery, home invasion, and carjacking. In the Hunger Games, the most common crime was against the Capitol and done because of lack of food. Like Katniss did throughout all the Hunger Games, people hunted for food in the forest which was illegal and could be punished by death.

Some people may say that the Career packs consisting of tributes from Districts One, Two, and Four were not in unity with the other districts. By just focusing on how the districts act during the game overlooks that everyone is fighting to survive in the Hunger Games. In Hans Villarica's article, "How the Unrelenting Threat of Death Shapes Our Behavior," he states that "...hundreds of published academic papers have shown that worrying about death affects everything from our prejudices and voting patterns..." This perfectly describes how the actions of those in the Career packs cannot be determined based on a life or death situation. While unity

plays a big role in why the Hunger Games is a better place to live, there also were not any interferences.

In addition, the Hunger Games doesn't have any interference with other countries. According to Britannica, Omar al Bashir was the president of Sudan from 1993 to 2019. When a group of Sudanese people from Darfur spoke out against unfair treatment, Omar terrorized those in the region and stopped organizations from giving the civilians aid of any sort (Britannica). In other regions like the Nuba Mountains, Omar sent aircrafts to bomb the civilians as well as blocking vaccines for those that needed them, injuring many, scarring children with the memories (The Heart Of Nuba). In the Hunger Games, there were never any other countries that stepped in to help either side. This allowed a fair attack between the Capitol and the districts. If the Capitol ended up making allies with another country, then it would be over for those in the districts because they already were at a disadvantage. One may argue that interference from bigger countries can help those that are treated unfairly by their own government. However, in Joshua T. Counselman's paper, "Highway to the Danger Zone: The Effect of Foreign Intervention on Political Stability," he explains that though foreign interference can sometimes be helpful, the result often ends in ruined political stability and negative economic consequences. Having no foreign interference is an advantage that the Hunger Games have over Sudan, but they also have strength in numbers.

Equally important, those in the districts were able to find strength in their numbers. The reason for the revolution throughout *Catching Fire* and *Mockingjay* was because President Snow was not meeting the needs of those in the districts. Because of the unfair treatment, those from each district started to rebel, finding strength in numbers. Nevertheless, when those in Darfur tried to speak out and rebel against Omar, he committed genocide. The New York Times stated

that Omar was also accused of “war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur, including murder, torture and rape, allegations that he has rejected over the years.” Moreover, in District 13, the district that was said to be bombed and destroyed by the Capitol, there were missiles and planes, as well as people that were all underground, against the Capitol. District 13 allowed the revolution to come alive with all the districts, instead of timely rebellions districts did alone. Admittedly, Sudan is fairly populated and had the numbers to pull off a revolution against their government. Nonetheless, those in District 13 had weapons to overthrow the Capitol. Those in Sudan didn’t have anything to fight with except their words. Sudan has a lot of disadvantages in strength, but they also don’t have time to prepare for attacks.

Another reason why it is better to live in the Hunger Games society is because they have time to prepare for attacks. Foremost, Katniss always seemed to know when trouble would arise. “‘Only you’ll have to do even better if the uprisings are to be averted,’ he [President Snow] says. ‘This tour will be your only chance to turn things around,’”(Collins 29). This quote, from *Catching Fire*, is said by President Snow to Katniss, warning her that if she does not reach his expectations, she will be in danger. This allows Katniss to have a chance to change Snow’s mind, or in the very least, expect the trouble coming her way. On the contrary, in Sudan, Omar Bashir didn’t have a reason to send planes to bomb them, other than the fact that he believed that Black lives were less than (Do Black lives matter in Sudan?). Omar Bashir believed that those with African descent were less than Arabs (The Heart Of Nuba). While I grant that Katniss did not get a warning about having to be part of the 75th Hunger Games, Katniss knew something would happen. In *Catching Fire*, Katniss did not meet President Snow’s expectations, leaving her with an idea that problems would come up. With time to prepare for attacks, a platform for revolution is all the Hunger Games society needs to overcome the corrupt government.

Though the Hunger Games seems to be the biggest downfall of living there, it is a platform for revolution. There is no denying that the Hunger Games is traumatizing and children are forced to kill each other, but it also acts as a platform for revolution. Without Katniss being a player in the Hunger Games, no one would know her name. Katniss and Peeta unconsciously started uprisings with their show of love. Without their show of defiance by indirectly going against the Capitol, there would be no drive for equal treatment, or the start of the rebellions towards the Capitol. And yet, those in Sudan are being restrained from certain social media sites and posts (“How Sudanese resistance committees are shadowbanned on Facebook”). Those in Sudan are censored from certain information, not allowing them to have a platform of revolution. Also, the Hunger Games society has District 13. In *Mockingjay*, Beetee is able to hack into all the televisions, and broadcast an announcement of revolution for all. This was only able to happen because in District 13, there is technology that Beetee is able to use. In the regular districts, they wouldn’t have access to the technology, giving the Hunger Games society an advantage to Sudan. Those on the other side may say that those in Sudan could make plans without technology. Nevertheless, I would be remiss not to mention that Sudan is around 719.71 miles wide and 559.29 miles long (World Population Review.) To be able to get a message all the way around Sudan would be complicated to say the least. Because of this, the Hunger Games is a necessary platform for revolution.

The Hunger Games society is better than the corrupt country of Sudan because there is unity, no interference, strength in numbers, time to prepare, and a platform for revolution. In Sudan, there isn’t any unity, however among the districts in Panem, the people live in harmony. Furthermore, the Hunger Games has an advantage because there is no interference from other countries like there is in Sudan. Though both the Hunger Games and Sudan are well populated,

the people in Panem are able to find strength in their numbers. In addition, those in the Hunger Games are given slight warnings as to when a crisis will hit, giving them time to prepare. Subsequently, the annual Hunger Games acts as a platform for revolution that those in Sudan do not have. As stated in *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, a documentary based on Jared Diamonds' findings in New Guinea, geography is the biggest concept that sets us apart in the world today. Bombed hospitals and schools, the constant, unrelenting fear that one day, your child may not be safe, it is just too much. Omar Bashir may not be the president anymore, but the scars he left will never leave those who endured his genocide.

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