

## **Memory of War: Victimhood as a Regime Survival Card in Uganda's Revolutionary Politics**

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In revolutionary political system, lies a strong collective memory that attempts to organize and enforce national identity as a cultural property. National identity nurtured by the nexus between lived war representations (victim and/or perpetrator) and discourses on collective memory of war therefore, presents itself as a kind of politics with repetitive series of nation-state narratives, metaphorically suggesting how the putative qualities of the nation's past reinforce the qualities of the present state of affairs. This has two implications; it on one hand allows for changes in a narrative's cognitive claims, which form core of its constitutive assumptions about the nation's past- a past collectively viewed as a fight against profanity and restoration of political sanctity; On the other hand, it subjects memory to new scientific heuristics involving interpretations, transformation and distribution of such memories. In this piece, we interrogate the intricate memory entanglement in gaining and consolidation of political power.

Of great importance are politics of remembering, forgetting and utter repudiation of memory of war while asserting control and restraint over who governs. The ability to understand and internalize the dynamics of how the knowledge of the political past's apocalypse relates to processes informing its relevance in the present, gives a precise definition of Power and Politics in Uganda (and perhaps elsewhere in revolutionary-dominated nation-states).

**Keywords:** Memory of war, victimhood, discourse, regime survival