Prior research has revealed that there are several different causes to state failure. However, there are ongoing disputes about what truly causes states around the world to fall into complete failure. My research first analyzes several different known perspectives for why states fail. After analyzing these different thoughts, I then will compile a new, and more modern set of causes/reasons that best explain state failure. Once the causes/reasons are compiled I will put them to the test in a case study of South Sudan. I will examine the South Sudan from a diverse number of angles, and apply my newly minted criteria for state failure: Modern Causes and Reasons for State Failure. In studying South Sudan, I hope to find what is really the root cause of state failure, as well as discover any new pieces to the ever-growing puzzle that is state failure.