

Somalia: Port Agreement between Somaliland and Ethiopia

January 6, 2024

January 6, 2024: **Mogadishu, Somalia:** Somalia has nullified a port agreement between **Ethiopia's** Prime Minister, **Abiy Ahmed** and **Somaliland's** President, **Muse Bihi**, which would have seen **Ethiopia recognize Somaliland** in return for a **50-year lease on a naval base** with access to **Somaliland's Berbera port for commercial marine operations**. This has inflamed tensions across the region.

In an interview with **Ethiopia's Broadcasting Corporation (EBC)**, **Redwan Hussein**, Security Adviser to Prime Minister **Abiy Ahmed**, said his country would be granted **20 Km of land across Somaliland's Gulf of Aden coast for a period of 50 years**, with **Ethiopia granting Somaliland an equivalent value of shares in Ethiopian Airlines** to the land acquired.



*8th and 10th President **Hassan Sheikh Mohamud***

From 16 September 2012 to 16 February 2017 and from 23 May 2022 to present

Somalia's President **Hassan Sheikh Mohamud** signed a bill on Saturday voiding a preliminary agreement for Somaliland to provide landlocked Ethiopia with port access to Somaliland's coast.

Urging Ethiopia and Somaliland to reverse course, Somalia's President said a **"Somali territory cannot be exchanged for a [share] in a company like Ethiopian Airlines, Ethiopian Telecom, GERD ... even if you combine them, we cannot swap**

for a territory”. Somalia also recalled its ambassador from Ethiopia and has appealed to the international community for support.

USA (an aid-giver for both Somalia and Somaliland), **UK, EU, Organization of Islamic Cooperation** and **Arab League** have called on both the countries to negotiate for a settlement.

BACKGROUND: **Somaliland** declared independence from Somalia in **1991** amid a civil war in the country’s south. Since then, **Somaliland** has operated autonomously. **Hargeisa** (Hargeysa in the map on page 13) is **Somaliland’s capital**. **Somaliland** claims the borders of the former British protectorate of Somaliland in Northern Somalia.

In 2019, Ethiopia bought a **19 percent stake in the Port of Berbera**, with Somaliland retaining 30 percent and **Dubai Port manager** (DP World holding) 51 percent. DP will finance an upgrade of the port through an investment of \$442 Mn. In return, DP World will manage the port for 30 years.

UAE’s investment in Berbera has previously sparked controversy in Somalia with Parliament voting in 2018 for the deal to be declared null and void. However, the Parliament could not stop the project.



Puntland, oil-rich, semi-autonomous territory; Population: 4.9 Mn

January 8, 2024: **Garowe**, Puntland: The incumbent President **Said Abdullahi Deni** is attempting to secure a second term in office. But the diverse group of opposition politicians have come together to prevent **Deni’s** re-election.

The Opposition forum says that the recently established **Puntland Election Commission** (PEC) is going to manipulate the outcome of the election in favor of

Deni. The President and his allies argue that the State is ready for a **direct election of President** through one-person-one-vote election on February 25, 2024.

According to the opposition's timetable, Puntland will hold Presidential elections on January 8, through indirect election by the vote of 66 lawmakers at a meeting in **Garowe, the regional capital.** (Garooowe in the map on page 13)

Bloomberg has reported that **Jama Abdullahi Mohamed**, Somalia's ambassador to Turkey, has quit to run for vice president of Puntland, the oil-rich, semi-autonomous territory in the eastern part of the country that holds elections on Monday.

Puntland State has been successfully organizing a peaceful selection of members of the **House of the People**, holding presidential elections and transfer of power every five years on 8th of January in the last 15 years.

In 2023 the State has successfully conducted one-person-one-vote local elections in 33 districts **for the first time** since it was founded. However, the district council elections held on May 25, 2023, in **three districts in Nugal, including the capital Garowe**, experienced **opposition boycotts** leading to the **non-participation of approximately 80,000 voters.** This conflict, compounded by **amendments to constitutional articles**, escalated into **violent clashes in Garowe in June 2023.**

The resulting tensions have now permeated the ongoing parliamentary and presidential elections, given that the current president's term is scheduled to conclude on January 8, 2024.

Note: Please read about 1. *18 REGIONS of SOMALIA on pages 10-11*; 2. *CONSTITUTION of Somalia, approved on June 23, 2012 on page 12*; 3. *BACKGROUND on Efforts for setting up a Transitional Government on pages 12-16*; 4. *BACKGROUND on MILITARY RULE (1969-91) in SOMALIA on pages 16-19*; 5. *BACKGROUND on the HISTORY (ancient to modern) of SOMALIA on pages 19-24*; 6. *BACKGROUND on the DERVISHES on pages 24-26 and 6. BACKGROUND on the HAWD RESERVE AREA on pages 26-28.*

----CONTEXT of the above TWO NEWS ITEMS (in 12 Historical snippets)----

Both the above [news-items are related to the History of Somalia.](#)

----12 snippets on the political HISTORY of Somalia, during the 20th century----

History 1.0: ITALY in SOMALIA: The dawn of fascism in the early 1920s heralded a change of strategy for Italy, as the North-Eastern sultanates in the region were soon to be forced within the boundaries of **La Grande Somalia** ("Greater Somalia") according to the plan of **1923** for the **Italian Somaliland**. In 1925, Italy acquired **Oltre Giuba**, present-day **Jubaland region**.

The Italians began local infrastructure projects, including the construction of hospitals, farms and schools. Italy, under **Benito Mussolini**, attacked **Abyssinia** (Ethiopia) in 1935, with an aim to colonize it. The invasion was condemned by the **League of Nations**, but little was done to stop it or to liberate occupied Ethiopia.

Note: Please see page 18 of "Ethiopian History: Original Bible, Moses & 10 Commandments" dated December 2, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/ethiopian-history-bible-moses-10-commandments/> for exile of the Ethiopian King for 5 years when Italy took over Ethiopia..

In 1936, Italian Somalia was integrated into Italian East Africa, alongside Eritrea and Ethiopia, as the **Somalia Governorate**. On 3rd August 1940, Italian troops, including Somali colonial units, crossed from Ethiopia to invade British Somaliland, and by **14 August, 1940**, succeeded in taking **Berbera** from the British. (Please see **Berbera** in the map on page 13.)

History 2.0: WW II and BRITISH CAMPAIGN in SOMALIA: A **British** force, including troops from several African countries, launched the **campaign in January 1941 from Kenya** to liberate British Somaliland and Italian-occupied Ethiopia and conquer Italian Somaliland. **By February most of Italian Somaliland was captured and, in March, British Somaliland was retaken from the sea.** The forces of the British Empire operating in Somaliland comprised the **three divisions** of **South African, West African, and East African** troops. They were assisted by Somali forces led by **Abdulahi Hassan** with Somalis of the **Isaaq, Dhulbahante, and Warsangali** clans. At the end of World War II, Britain had control of both British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland as protectorates.

History 3.0: UN TRUSTEESHIP of ITALIAN SOMALILAND: In 1945, during the **Potsdam Conference**, the United Nations granted Italy trusteeship of Italian Somaliland as

the **Trust Territory of Somaliland**, on the condition first proposed by the **Somali Youth League (SYL)** and other nascent Somali political organizations, such as **Hizbia Digil Mirifle Somali (HDMS)** and the **Somali National League (SNL)**—that Somalia achieve independence within ten years.

British Somaliland remained a protectorate of Britain until 1960.

The people in the **Trust Territory of Somaliland** under the UN mandate, were able to gain experience in Western political education and self-government. The people in British Somaliland had no experience of modern administrative or political systems. The disparity between the two territories in economic development and political experience caused serious difficulties in 1960, when integrating the two parts.

History 4.0: TERRITORIES claimed by SOMALIA: BRITAIN CEDES HAUD to ETHIOPIA and NFD to KENYA: In 1948, under pressure from their World War II allies and to the dismay of the Somalis, the British returned **the Haud** (an important Somali grazing area) to Ethiopia, based on a **treaty they had signed in 1897 in which the British ceded Somali territory to the *Ethiopian Emperor Menelik* in exchange for his help against possible advances by the French.**

Britain included the conditional provision that the Somali residents would retain their autonomy, but **Ethiopia immediately claimed sovereignty over the area.** This prompted an unsuccessful bid by Britain in 1956 to buy back the Somali lands it had turned over.

Britain also granted administration of the almost exclusively Somali-inhabited **Northern Frontier District (NFD)** to **Kenyan nationalists.** This was despite a plebiscite in which, according to a British colonial commission, almost all of the territory's ethnic Somalis favored joining the newly formed Somali Republic.

History 5.0: FRENCH SOMALILAND: A referendum was held in neighboring **Djibouti** (then known as **French Somaliland**) in 1958, on the eve of Somalia's independence in 1960, to decide whether or not to join the Somali Republic or to remain with France. The referendum turned out **in favor of a continued association with France,** largely due to a combined yes vote by the sizable **Afar ethnic group** and resident

Europeans. There was also widespread vote rigging, with the French expelling thousands of Somalis before the referendum reached the polls.

The majority of those who voted 'no' were Somalis who were strongly in favor of joining a united Somalia, as had been proposed by **Mahmoud Harbi**, Vice President of the Government Council. Harbi was killed in a plane crash two years later. **Djibouti** finally gained independence from France in 1977, and **Hassan Gouled Aptidon**, a Somali who had campaigned for a 'yes' vote in the referendum of 1976, eventually became Djibouti's first president (1977–1999).

History 6.0: REPUBLIC of SOMALILAND (Estd. May 1991): Following a meeting of the Somali National Movement and northern clans' elders, the northern former British portion of the country declared its independence as the Republic of Somaliland in May 1991. Although de facto independent and relatively stable compared to the tumultuous south, it has not been recognized by any foreign government.

History 7.0: SOMALI REPUBLIC: On 1st July 1960, five days after the former British Somaliland protectorate obtained independence as the State of Somaliland, the territory united with the Trust Territory of Somaliland to form the **Somali Republic**, albeit within boundaries drawn up by Italy and Britain. A government was formed by **Abdullahi Issa** and **Muhammad Haji Ibrahim Egal** with other members of the trusteeship and protectorate governments, with **Abdulcadir Muhammed Aden** as President of the Somali National Assembly, **Aden Abdullah Osman Daar** as President of the Somali Republic, and **Abdirashid Ali Shermarke** as Prime Minister (later to become president from 1967 to 1969).

On **20 July 1961** and through a popular referendum, a **new constitution** was ratified popularly by the people of Somalia under Italian trusteeship. Most of the people from the former British Somaliland Protectorate did not participate in the referendum. The small number of Somalilanders who participated in the referendum voted against it.

In 1967, **Muhammad Haji Ibrahim Egal** became Prime Minister, a position to which he was appointed by President **Shermarke**.

Egal would later become the President of the autonomous Somaliland region in NorthWestern Somalia.

On **15 October 1969**, while paying a visit to the northern town of **Las Anod**, Somalia's then President **Abdirashid Ali Shermarke** was shot dead by one of his own bodyguards.

History 8.0: President **Abdirashid Ali Shermarke's** assassination was quickly followed by a **military coup d'état on 21 October 1969** (the day after his funeral), in which the Somali Army seized power without encountering armed opposition — essentially a bloodless takeover. The putsch was spearheaded by **Major General Mohamed Siad Barre**, who at the time commanded the army.

The army ruled under two different Constitutions, approved through referenda. By 1991, the Somalian economy had been mis-managed so much that along with cruel oppression, the country suffered from hyper-inflation.

On **January 26, 1991**, **Said Barre** was ousted by a coalition of Leaders of clans of Somalia and external forces of **Ethiopia's then-ruling Derg regime** and Libya's leftist General **Muammar Gaddafi** regime (1969-2011).

Note: *Please read the BACKGROUNDER on MILITARY RULE (1969-91) in SOMALIA on pages 16-19.*

History 9.0: After the collapse of the **Somali Democratic Republic** on January 26, 1991, Somalia was left without a central government. In the same year, a multi-phased international conference on Somalia was held in neighboring Djibouti. **Aidid boycotted the first meeting in protest.**

Owing to the legitimacy bestowed on **Ali Mahdi Mohamed** by the Djibouti conference, he was recognized by the **international community** as the **new President of Somalia.**

Djibouti, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Italy were among the countries that officially extended recognition to Mohamed's administration.

However, President **Mohamed** was not able to exert his authority beyond parts of the capital. Power was instead with other faction leaders in the southern half of Somalia and with autonomous sub-national entities in the north.

Aidid had rejected the appointment of Mohamed as the interim president, right after the Conference.

History 10.0: INSTABILITY: 'The **Atrocity Period** of six years (1988-1993)', during which violence or hostilities caused 50,000 to 100,000 civilian deaths included the ending-period of **Said Barre** and a few years of instability, after the long period of dictatorial regime came to an end in 1991.

In the South, armed factions led by **United Somali Congress (USC)** commanders **General Mohamed Farah Aidid** and **Ali Mahdi Mohamed**, in particular, clashed as each sought to exert authority over the capital.

The Djibouti conference was followed by **two abortive agreements** for national reconciliation and disarmament, which were signed by 15 political stakeholders:

1. an agreement to hold an **Informal Preparatory Meeting on National Reconciliation**,
2. the **1993 Addis Ababa Agreement** made at the Conference on National Reconciliation.

Note: *Please read the* BACKGROUNDER on Efforts for setting up a Transitional Government *on pages 12-16.*

In the early 1990s, due to the protracted lack of a permanent central authority, Somalia began to be characterized as a "**failed state**".

History 11.0: After the ousting of **Said Barre** on **January 26, 1991**, a stable central government could not be established till 2000. Many leaders of groups of civilians, militias and military met at Peace Conferences and tried to set up **Transitional Institutions and Government**. A number of efforts were made over **more than a decade** till **20 August 2012**.

In July 2012, three **European Union** operations were launched **to engage with Somalia**:

1. **European Union's Military Training mission** (EUTM Somalia), established in 2010 with the aim of training and mentoring the Somali Armed Forces
2. **EU Naval Force Somalia Operation Atalanta** is a military operation launched in 2008 to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia. The operation is conducted by the **European Union Naval Force** (EU NAVFOR) and aims to protect vulnerable vessels, deter and disrupt piracy, and monitor fishing activities off the coast of Somalia off the Horn of Africa, and EUCAP Nestor.
3. **EUCAP Nestor** is the **European Union's Civilian Maritime Security Mission** in the Horn of Africa, launched in 2012 with the aim of enhancing the maritime security capabilities of countries in the region, including Somalia. The mission provides strategic advice and training to local maritime security forces, and works to promote regional cooperation on maritime security issues.

As a part of the official "Roadmap for the End of Transition", a political process that provided clear benchmarks leading toward the formation of permanent **Democratic Institutions in Somalia**, the Transitional Federal Government's interim mandate ended on 20 August 2012. The Federal Parliament of Somalia was concurrently inaugurated.

History 12.0: Federal government (August 2012): The Federal Government of Somalia, the first permanent central government in the country since the start of the civil war, was established in August 2012. In August 2014, the Somali government-led Operation Indian Ocean was launched against insurgent-held pockets in the countryside.

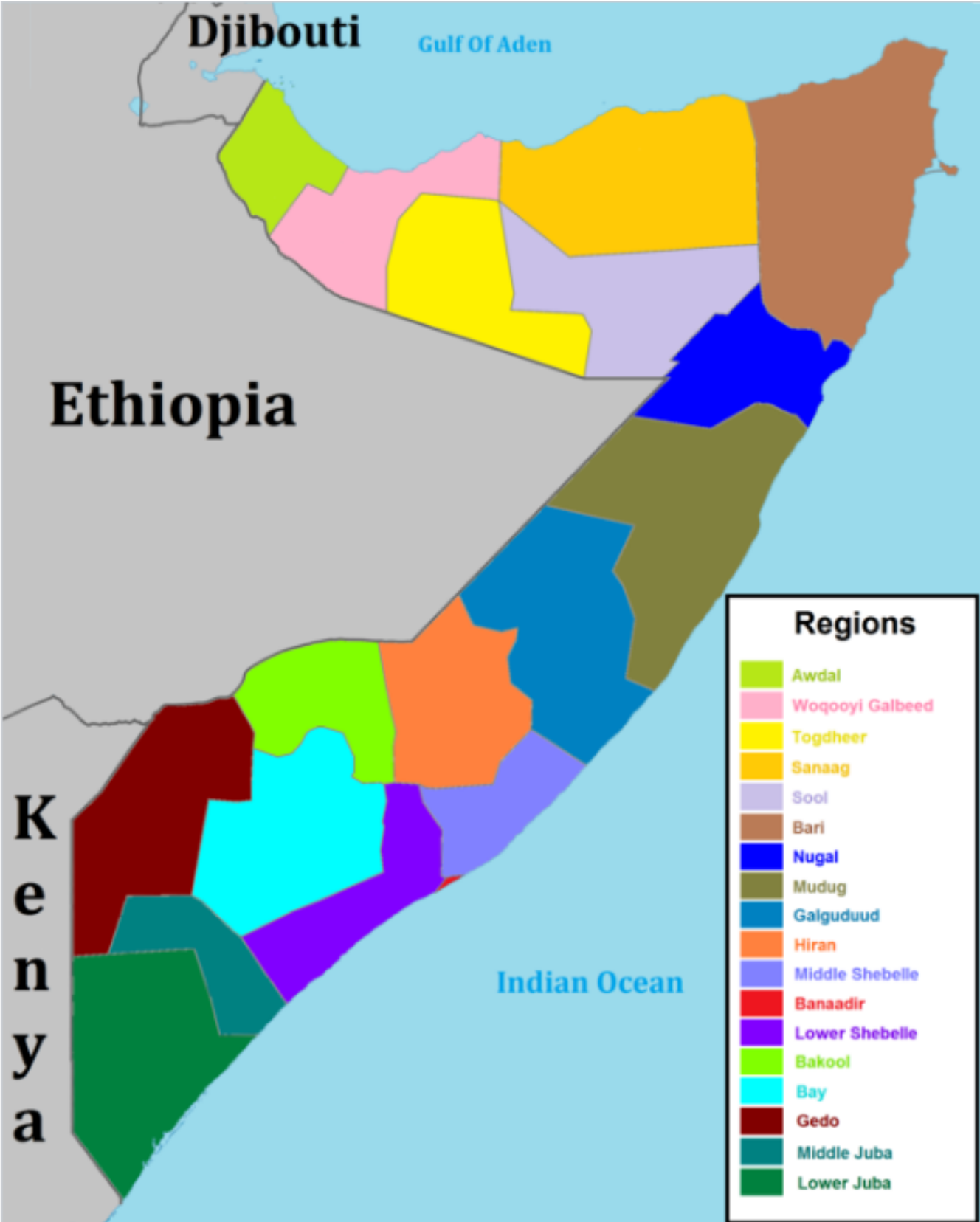
One of the key challenges, the Federal Government of Somalia has faced, is the lack of control over large parts of the country. The government has been working to establish security and stability in these areas, but progress has been slow. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working to establish relationships with other countries and international organizations.

In conclusion, the Federal Government of Somalia has been working to establish itself as a legitimate government since its inception in 2012. The government has

been working to establish security and stability in the country and establish relationships with other countries and international organizations. While progress has been slow, the government has made some strides in these areas.

----18 REGIONS of SOMALIA----

Name	Area (Km²)	Population	Capital
1. Awdal	21,374	1,010,566	Borama
2. Bari	70,088	719,512	Bosaso
3. Nugal	26,180	392,697	Garowe
4. Mudug	72,933	717,863	Galkayo
5. Galgudu	46,126	569,434	Dusmareb
6. Hiran	31,510	520,685	Beledweyne
7. Middle Shabelle	22,663	516,036	Jowhar
8. Banaadir	370	1,650,227	Mogadishu
9. Lower Shabelle	25,285	1,202,219	Barawa
10. Togdheer	38,663	721,363	Burao
11. Bakool	26,962	367,226	Xuddur
12. Woqooyi Galbeed	28,836	1,242,003	Hargeisa
13. Bay	35,156	792,182	Baidoa
14. Gedo	60,389	508,405	Garbahaarreey
15. Middle Juba	9,836	362,921	Bu'aale
16. Lower Juba	42,876	489,307	Kismayo
17. Sanaag	53,374	544,123	Erigavo
18. Sool	25,036	327,428	Las Anod



----CONSTITUTION of Somalia, approved on **June 23, 2012**----

The national constitution, approved on **June 23, 2012**, lays out the basic way in which the government is to operate. Under the new constitution, Somalia was renamed as the **Federal Republic of Somalia**. The President is elected by the Parliament and serves as the head of state. The Prime Minister, who serves as the head of government and leads the Council of Ministers, is chosen by the President. The Council of Ministers of the Federal Government is referred to as the Cabinet.

The Federal Parliament serves as the legislative branch of government. It is composed of two chambers: the House of the People and the Upper House. The House of the People is the lower chamber and is made up of 275 members who are elected by the people. The Upper House is the upper chamber and is made up of 54 members who are appointed by the state governments.

----BACKGROUND on Efforts for setting up a Transitional Government ----

TRANSITIONAL INSTITUTIONS: The **Transitional National Government (TNG)** was established in April–May 2000 at the **Somalia National Peace Conference (SNPC)** held in Arta, Djibouti. **Abdiqasim Salad Hassan** was selected as the President. An interim administration was formed to guide Somalia to its Third Republican Government. The TNG's internal problems led to the **replacement of the Prime Minister four times in three years**, and the administrative body's reported **bankruptcy in December 2003**. Its mandate ended at the same time.

10 October 2004 TO 20 August 2012: Legislators elected **Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed** as the **first President** of the **Transitional Federal Government (TFG)**, the Transitional *National* Government's successor. It was established as one of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) of government as defined in the **Transitional Federal Charter (TFC)** adopted in November 2004 by the **Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP)**. The cabinet reported through the Prime Minister to the President.

Islamic Courts Union (ICU): In 2006, ICU, assumed control of much of the southern part of the country for 6 months and imposed Shari'a law.

TFG sought to re-establish its authority, and with the assistance of **Ethiopian troops**, **African Union peacekeepers** and **air support by USA**, drove out the ICU and solidified its rule. On **8 January 2007**, TFG President **Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed** entered **Mogadishu** with the **Ethiopian military support** for the first time since being elected to office. The government then relocated to **Villa Somalia** in the capital from its **interim location in Baidoa**. This marked the first time since the fall of the **Siad Barre regime in 1991** that the federal government controlled most of the country.



AL SHABAAB INSURGENCY: Al-Shabaab opposed the Ethiopian military's presence in Somalia and continued an insurgency against the TFG. Throughout 2007 and 2008, Al-Shabaab scored military victories, seizing control of key towns and ports in both central and southern Somalia. By January 2009, **Al-Shabaab and other Islamist militias** had forced the Ethiopian troops to retreat, leaving behind an **under-equipped African Union peacekeeping force to assist the Transitional Federal Government's troops**.

Al-Shabaab emerged as the radical youth wing of Somalia's ICU, which controlled, for six months, **Mogadishu** in 2006, before being forced out by Ethiopian forces.

Al-Shabaab is a militant Islamist group, based in Somalia and active elsewhere in East Africa. The group incorporates elements of **Somali**

nationalism into its Islamist cause . Al-Shabaab is known for its **brutal tactics, including suicide bombings, beheadings,** and UK and other forms of violence. The group has been designated as a **terrorist organization** by several countries, including UAE, USA and UK.

Owing to a lack of funding and human resources, an arms embargo that made it difficult to re-establish a national security force, and general indifference on the part of the international community, **Yusuf** found himself obliged to deploy thousands of troops from Puntland to Mogadishu to sustain the battle against insurgent elements in the southern part of the country. Financial support for this effort was provided by the autonomous region's government. This left little revenue for Puntland's own security forces and civil service employees, leaving the territory vulnerable to piracy and terrorist attacks.

On 29 December 2008, **Yusuf** announced before a united parliament in Baidoa his resignation as President of Somalia. In his speech, which was broadcast on national radio, Yusuf expressed **regret at failing to end the country's seventeen-year conflict** as his government had been mandated to do. He said that the Speaker of Parliament would succeed him in office per the **Transitional Federal Charter (TFC)**.

Efforts to end the transitional period: Between 31 May and 9 June 2008, representatives of Somalia's federal government and the **Alliance for the Liberation of Somalia (ARS)** participated in peace talks in Djibouti brokered by the former United Nations Special Envoy to Somalia, **Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah**. Parliament was subsequently expanded to 550 seats to accommodate ARS members, which then elected **Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed**, as President.

To blunt the ideological appeal of the Islamist militias, the conference ended with a signed agreement **calling for the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops** in exchange for the cessation of armed confrontation. Furthermore, to obtain a truce from **Al-Shabaab** and **Hizbul Islam**, the two main Islamist groups in opposition, in March 2009, the TFG announced that it would re-implement Shari'a as the nation's official judicial system.

With the help of a **small team of African Union troops**, the TFG began a counteroffensive in February 2009 to assume full control of the southern half of the country. To solidify its rule, the TFG formed an alliance with the **Islamic Courts Union**, other members of the **Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia**, and **Ahlu Sunna Waljama'a, a moderate Sufi militia**.

However, the conflict continued in the southern and central parts of the country. Within months, the TFG had gone from holding about 70% of south-central Somalia's conflict zones, to losing control of over 80% of the disputed territory to the Islamist insurgents.

In October 2011, a coordinated operation, **Operation Linda Nchi** between the **Somali and Kenyan militaries and multinational forces** began against the Al-Shabaab in southern Somalia. By September 2012, **Somali, Kenyan, and Raskamboni forces** had managed to capture Al-Shabaab's last major stronghold, the **southern port of Kismayo**.



Population: 12.7 Mn, GDP: \$7.6 Bn, GDP per capita: \$544 (211th)

Kismayo is a port in the Southern part of **Somalia**

After fighting with Al-Shabaab, **Raskamboni** managed to **capture Kismayo with the help of Kenya**.

The Rakamboni Movement is a jihadist Islamic movement led by **Sheikh Ahmed Madobe**, the current **President of the Jubaland state in Southern Somalia**. The group was **founded in 2006** as the **Ras Kamboni Brigades**. **Both Raskamboni and Al-Shabaab** were inspired by ICU. But, **Raskamboni** is opposed to **Al-Shabaab** and has been involved in numerous armed clashes with Al-Shabaab militiamen.

----BACKGROUND on MILITARY RULE (1969–1991) in SOMALIA-----

21 October 1969 to 26 January 1991: Rule by **Siad Barre**

Alongside **Barre**, the **Supreme Revolutionary Council (SRC)** that assumed power after President Sharmarke's assassination was led by **Brigadier General Mohamed Ainarshe Guled, Lieutenant Colonel Salaad Gabeyre Kediye** and **Chief of Police Jama Korshel**.

Kediye officially held the title "**Father of the Revolution**".

Barre shortly afterwards became the head of the SRC. The SRC subsequently renamed the country the **Somali Democratic Republic**, dissolved the parliament and the Supreme Court, and suspended the constitution.

The revolutionary army established **large-scale public works programs** and successfully implemented an **urban and rural literacy campaign**, which helped dramatically increase the literacy rate. In addition to a nationalization program of industry and land, the new regime's foreign policy placed an emphasis on Somalia's traditional and religious links with the Arab world, eventually **joining the Arab League in February, 1974**.

In 1974, **Barre** also served as **Chairman** of the **Organisation of African Unity (OAU)**, the predecessor of the African Union (AU).

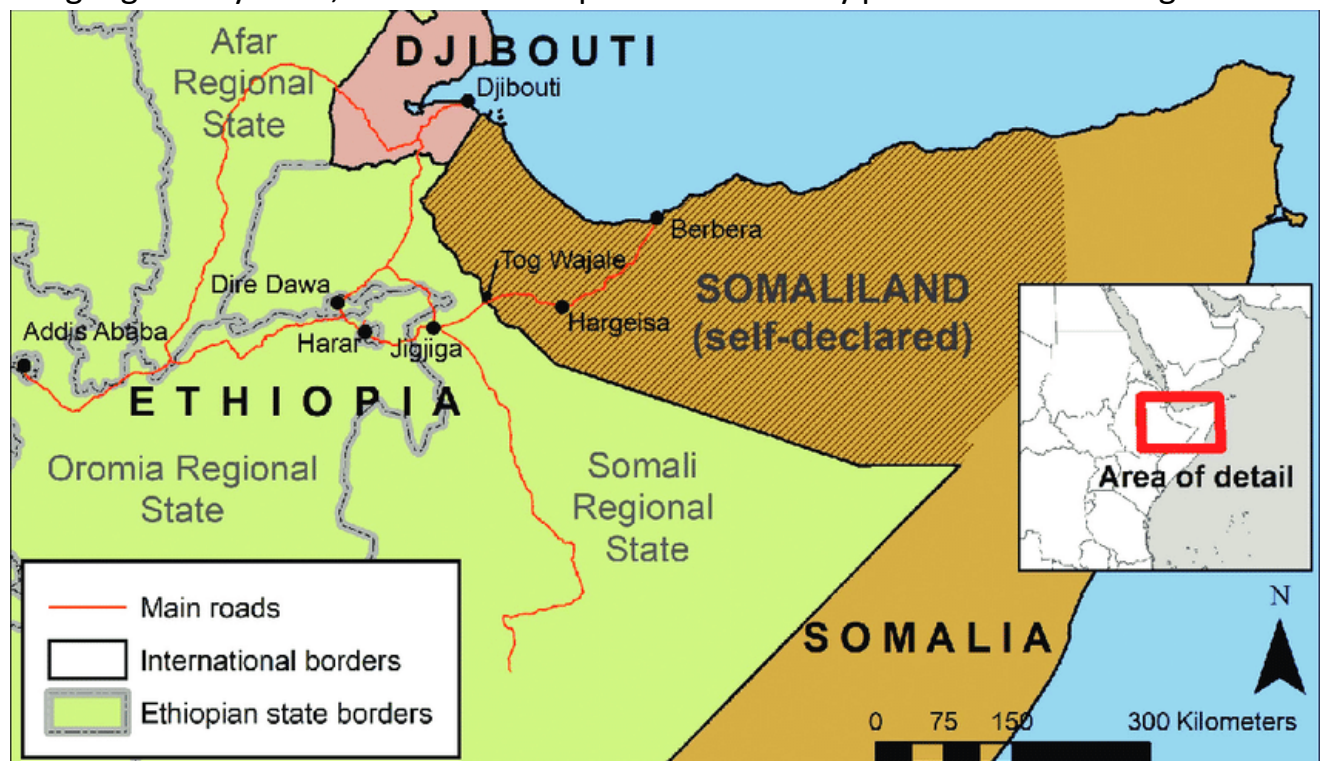
In July 1976, Barre's SRC disbanded itself and established in its place the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party (SRSP), a one-party government based on scientific socialism and Islamic tenets. The SRSP was an attempt to reconcile the official state ideology with the official state religion by adapting Marxist precepts to local circumstances. Emphasis was placed on the Muslim principles of social progress, equality and justice, which the government argued formed the core of scientific

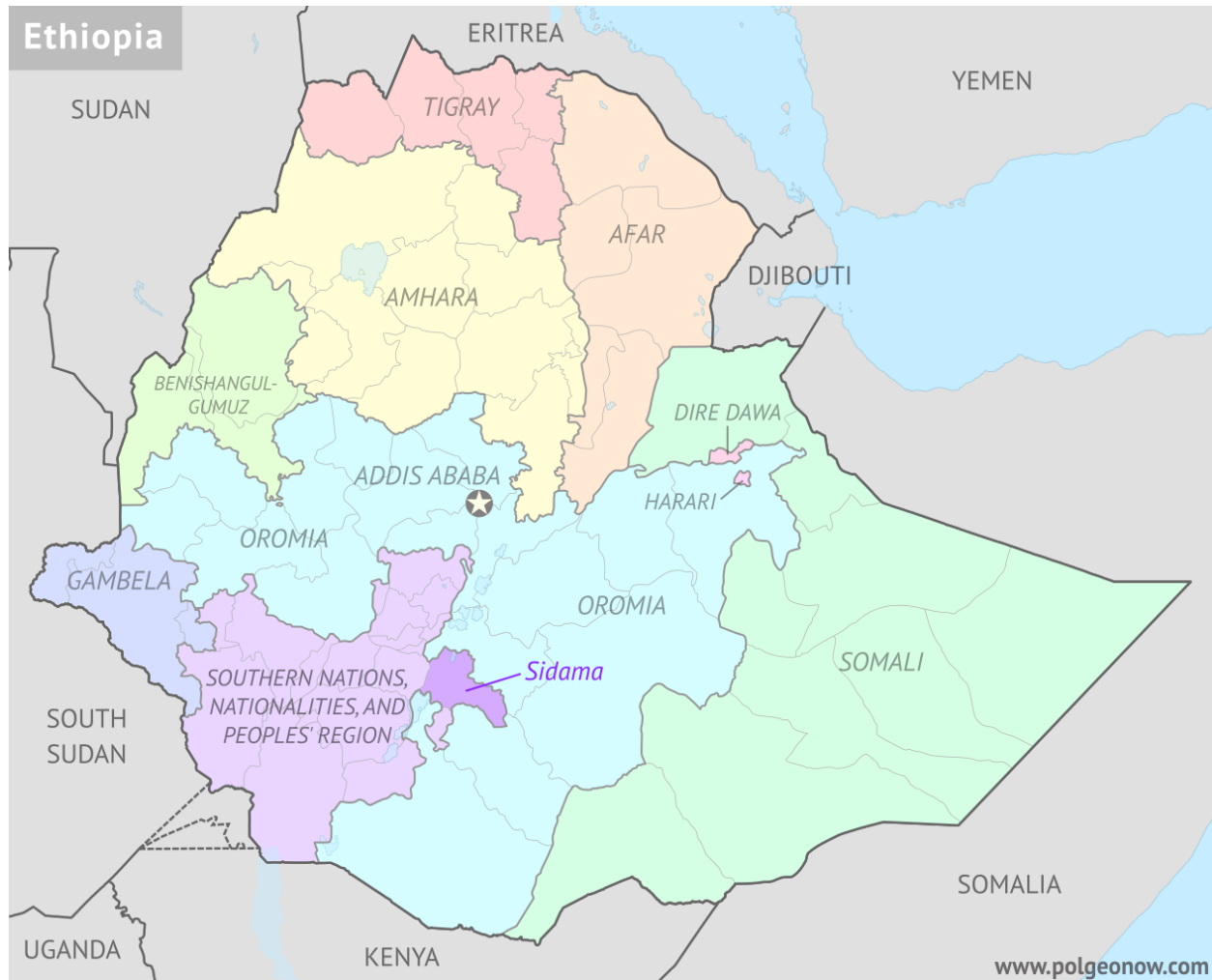
socialism and its own accent on self-sufficiency, public participation and popular control, as well as direct ownership of the means of production. While the SRSP encouraged private investment on a limited scale, the administration's overall direction was essentially communist.

In July 1977, the **Ogaden War** broke out after Barre's government used 'national unity' to justify an aggressive incorporation of the **predominantly Somali-inhabited Ogaden region of Ethiopia** into a **Pan-Somali Greater Somalia**, along with the **rich agricultural lands of South-Eastern Ethiopia** and strategically important areas as far north as Djibouti. In the 1st week of the conflict, Somali armed forces took southern and central **Ogaden** (*Please see the map on page 13.*) and for most of the war, the Somali army scored continuous victories on the Ethiopian army and followed them as far as **Sidamo** (*Please see the map on page 18, below.*).

By September 1977, Somalia controlled 90% of Ogaden and captured strategic cities such as **Jijiga** and put heavy pressure on **Dire Dawa**, threatening the train route from the latter city to Djibouti.

REVERSAL: During the siege of Harar, a massive **Soviet intervention** with **20,000 Cuban soldiers** and thousands of experts came to the aid of Ethiopia's communist Derg regime. By 1978, the Somali troops were ultimately pushed out of the Ogaden.





This shift in support by the Soviet Union, in 1977, motivated the Barre government to seek allies elsewhere. It eventually asked for **help from USA**. All in all, Somalia's **initial friendship with the Soviet Union** and **later partnership with USA** enabled it to build the **largest army in Africa**.

Despite Somalia's defeat, some local groups continued to become part of Somalia or be independent of Ethiopia.

2007: Abole oil field raid by **Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF)**: In this raid, 72 Chinese and Ethiopian oilfield workers were killed. It has led to a series of military reprisals against ONLF.

A **new constitution** was promulgated in 1979 under which elections for a **People's Assembly** were held. However, Barre's **Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party (SRSP)** continued to rule. In October 1980, the SRSP was disbanded, and the **Supreme**

Revolutionary Council was re-established in its place. By that time, Barre's government had become increasingly unpopular. Many Somalis had become disillusioned with life under military dictatorship.

CIVIL WAR: The regime was weakened further in the 1980s as the Cold War ended and Somalia's strategic importance was diminished. The government became increasingly authoritarian, and **Resistance Movements**, encouraged by Ethiopia, sprang up across the country, leading to the **Somali Civil War**. Among the **Resistance Movements** were the **Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF)**, **United Somali Congress (USC)**, **Somali National Movement (SNM)** and the **Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM)**, together with the non-violent political oppositions of the **Somali Democratic Movement (SDM)**, the **Somali Democratic Alliance (SDA)** and the **Somali Manifesto Group (SMG)**.

Barre responded by ordering punitive measures against those he perceived as locally supporting the guerrillas, especially in the northern regions. The clampdown included **bombing of cities**, with the northwestern administrative centre of **Hargeisa**, a SNM stronghold, among the targeted areas in 1988. The bombardment was led by **General Mohammed Said Hersi Morgan**, **Barre's** son-in-law.

During 1990, in the capital city of **Mogadishu**, the residents were prohibited from gathering publicly in groups greater than three or four. Fuel shortages caused long lines of cars at petrol stations. Inflation had driven the price of pasta (ordinary dry Italian noodles) to 5 U.S. dollars per Kgm. The price of khat, imported daily from Kenya, was also 5 dollars per standard bunch. **Paper currency notes were of such low value that several bundles were needed to pay for simple restaurant meals.**

ENVIRONMENT just before Barre's ouster:

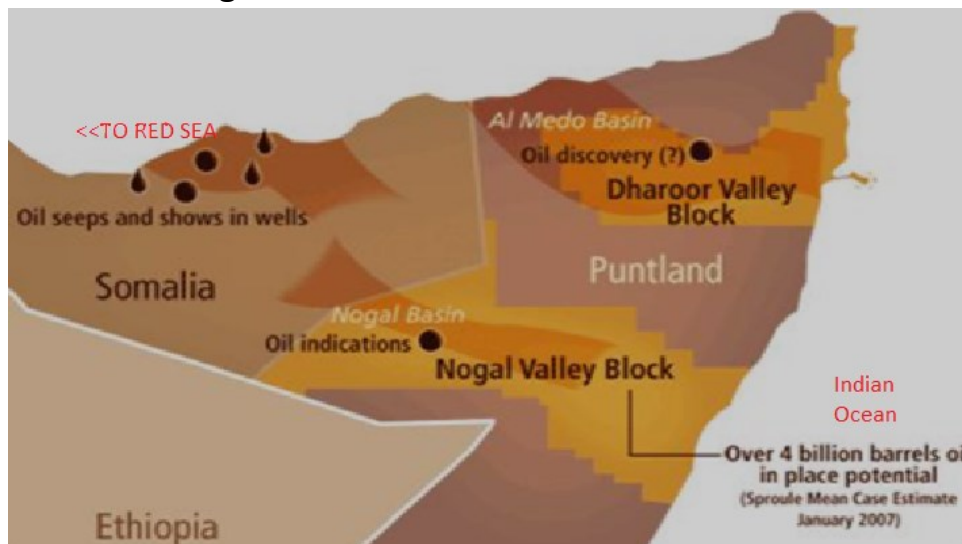
- A thriving black market existed in the centre of the city as banks experienced **shortages of local currency for exchange.**
- At night, the city of Mogadishu lay in darkness. **Close monitoring of all visiting foreigners was in effect.**
- **Harsh exchange control regulations** were introduced to prevent export of foreign currency.

- Although no travel restrictions were placed on foreigners, **photographing many locations was banned.**
- Alleged late-night operations by government authorities, however, included "disappearances" of individuals from their homes.

On 26th January 1991, the Barre administration was ousted by a coalition of clan-based opposition groups, **backed by Ethiopia's then-ruling Derg regime and Libya.**

---BACKGROUND on the HISTORY (ancient to modern) of SOMALIA---

The ancient **Land of Punt** (an **ancient kingdom** in the area of today's Somalia) traded myrrh, spices, gold, ebony, short-horned cattle, ivory and frankincense with the **Egyptians, Phoenicians, Babylonians, Indians, Chinese and Romans** through their commercial ports. Information about an **Egyptian expedition** sent to Punt by the 18th dynasty **Egyptian Queen Hatshepsut** (from 1479 BC until 1458 BC) is recorded on the temple reliefs at **Deir el-Bahari** (a complex of mortuary temples and tombs located on the west bank of the Nile, opposite the city of **Luxor, Egypt**), during the reign of the **Puntite King Parahu and Queen Ati.**



From 8th century BC to the 5th century AD, the Macrobians, who may have been ancestral to Somalis, established a powerful tribal kingdom that ruled large parts of modern Somalia. They were reputed for their longevity and wealth, and were said to be the "tallest and handsomest of all men". The Macrobians were warrior herders and seafarers. The Macrobians were a regional power reputed for their advanced architecture and gold wealth, which was so plentiful that they shackled their prisoners in golden chains. The camel is believed to have been domesticated

in the Horn region sometime **between the 2nd and 3rd millennium BCE**. From there, it spread to **Egypt** and the **Maghreb**.

The **Maghreb** is the **Arab** world in **NorthWest Africa**. The region comprises western and central North Africa, including **Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco** and **Tunisia**. The **Maghreb** also includes the disputed territory of **Western Sahara** (controlled mostly by **Morocco** and partly by the **Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic**). **As of 2018, the region had a population of over 100 million people.**

For centuries, Indian merchants brought large quantities of cinnamon to Somalia and Arabia from Ceylon and the Spice Islands. The Romans and Greeks believed the source of cinnamon to have been the Somali peninsula. The cinnamon trade was a very profitable revenue generator, especially for the Somali merchants through whose hands large quantities were shipped across sea and land routes.

Islam was introduced to the area early on by the first Muslims of Mecca fleeing persecution during 615-616 CE with **Masjid al-Qiblatay** in **Zeila** being built before the **Qiblah** towards Mecca. It is one of the **oldest mosques in Africa**.

The **Qiblah** is the direction towards the Kaaba, the Sacred Mosque in Mecca, which is used by Muslims in various religious contexts, like that of prayer.

During the middle ages, the **Adal Kingdom** was established in Northern Somalia, with its capital in **Zeila**. The realm encompassed the geographical area between the **Bab el Mandeb** and **Cape Guardafui**. Adal's headquarters were relocated southward to **Harar** (now a part of Ethiopia).



From 1453 (the year of the **fall of Constantinople**) to 1776 (the year of **American Revolution**), the city-states and *republics of Hobyo, Mogadishu, Marka, Barawa*, and their respective ports flourished, with ships sailing to and from **Arabia, India, Venetia, Persia, Egypt, Portugal**, and as far away as **China**.



Zeila: near Bab el Mandeb, on the border of Djibouti- NorthWest of Somalia

Mogadishu: on Indian Ocean, Southern part of Somalia

Bab el Mandeb strait: joins the Red Sea with Gulf of Aden

Cape Guardafui, located next to the Guardafui Channel. The Channel joins the **Gulf of Aden** with the Indian Ocean. (The archipelago of **Socotra** lies off the cape in the north of the Somali Sea)

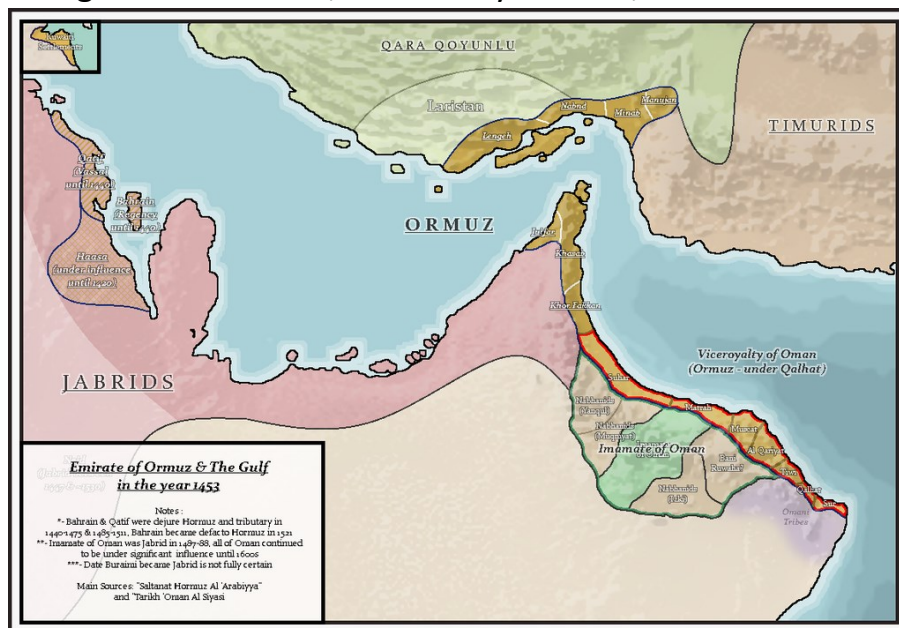
The Tumuli, built by Somalians, are found in the entire region of today's Somalia and neighboring areas.

(A **tumulus** is a mound of earth and stones raised over a grave or graves. A **Cairn**, which is a mound of stones built for various purposes, may also originally have been a tumulus.)

Vasco da Gama, who passed by **Mogadishu** in the 15th century, noted that it was a large city with houses, several-storeys high, and large palaces in its centre, in addition to many mosques with cylindrical minarets.

By the 16th century, many ships from the Kingdom of **Cambay** in modern-day **Gujarat, India** sailed to Mogadishu with cloth and spices, for which they in return received gold, wax and ivory.

Mogadishu, the center of a thriving textile industry, together with **Marka** and **Barawa**, also served as a transit stop for Swahili merchants from **Mombasa** (Kenya) and **Malindi** (Malindi Bay at the mouth of the Sabaki River, lying on the Indian Ocean coast of Kenya. It is 120 Km NorthEast of Mombasa. Population: 119,859). Merchants brought Indian textile, coveted by the rich, and fruit to the **Somali ports**.

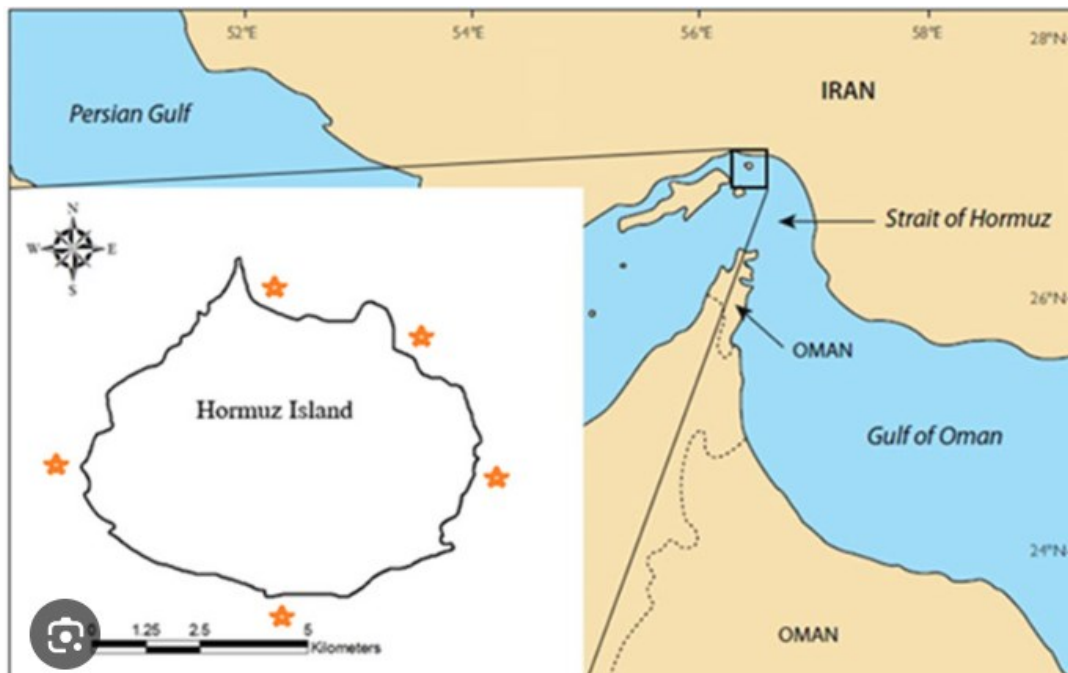


Kingdom of Ormuz and the GULF

Indian **merchants from Surat** used the Somali ports of **Marka** and **Barawa** to conduct their trade in safety and without interference from Portugese naval vessels.



Strait of HORMUZ, **Bahrain** in the west



Hormuz Island, city Estd in 1301 on the island

EARLY MODERN ERA and the SCRAMBLE for AFRICA: In the late 19th century, after the **Berlin Conference of 1884**, a British protectorate was declared over a part of Somalia, on the African coast opposite South Yemen.

Initially, this region was under the control of the Indian Office, and so administered as part of the Indian Empire.

In 1898 it was transferred to control by London.

In 1889, the protectorate and later colony of Italian Somalia was officially established by Italy through various treaties signed with a number of chiefs and sultans.

SOMALIA and the **DERVISHES: Dervish movement**, based on **Sufi tradition of Islam**, attempted to build the nation of Somalia, by joining together the areas under Britain and Italy, during the first two decades of the twentieth century.

When the 1st WW ended, the British focus on **SERVISHES**, led to fizzling out of the movement in 1920.

---BACKGROUND on the DERVISHES----

The Dervish Movement was a popular movement, initiated in 1896 and led by **Salihyya Sufi Muslim**, a poet, and **Mohammed Abdullah Hassan**, a militant leader, also known as **Sayyid Mohamed**. The Dervishes used religion and nationalism to attract about 25,000 young to join them with the objective of **removing the British and Italian influence from the region and restore the "Sufi system of governance with Sufi education**.

The **Dervish movement** successfully repulsed the British forces four times and forced it to retreat to the coastal region. However, the Dervishes were finally defeated in 1920 by British airpower.

Hassan established a ruling council called the **Khususi** consisting of Sufi tribe seniors and added an adviser from the Ottoman Empire named **Muhammad Ali**. He created a multi-clan Islamic movement to establish the state of Somalia.

The Dervishes were able to take the Ethiopian army in the **Jigjiga region** by surprise in 2005. The Ethiopians retreated and then gave the Dervishes their first military victory. **Sayyid Mohamed** then declared the colonial administration in British Somaliland as their enemy.

The British sought out the **competing Somali clans** and provided these clans with firearms and supplies to fight against the Dervishes. The Dervish movement

suffered losses in the field, regrouped into smaller units and resorted to **guerrilla warfare**.

TREATY with ITALY: The Dervishes moved into the Italian-controlled Somaliland in 1905 after Hasan signed the **Illig treaty**, under which the Dervishes were ceded the **Nugaal (Nogal) Valley**.



Districts of Somaliland

This strengthened the movement. Hasan subsequently received an **Italian subsidy and autonomous protected status**. In 1908, the Dervishes entered the British Somaliland again and began inflicting major losses to the British in the interior regions of the Horn of Africa. The British retreated to the coastal regions, leaving the chaotic interior regions in the hands of the Dervishes.

During 1905-1910 the Dervishes lost much of their support due to their indiscriminate raids against allies and enemies alike, with several followers subsequently leaving the Dervishes after **Hasan was excommunicated by the head of the Salihiyah tariqa in Mecca**.

After the conclusion of the First World War, in 1920 the British launched a massive offensive on the Taleh forts, strongholds of the Dervish movement. The Dervish leader **Mohammed Abdullah Hassan** managed to escape. His death in 1921 due to either malaria or influenza ended the Dervish movement.

The Dervish movement, in early 20th-century, was one of the bloodiest and longest militant movements in sub-Saharan Africa during the colonial era. It overlapped

with World War I. Over two decades, its battles killed nearly a third of Somaliland's population and ravaged the local economy.

---BACKGROUND on the HAWD RESERVE AREA---

The Haud (also Hawd) is a plateau situated in the Horn of Africa consisting of thorn-bush and grasslands. Haud is an important grazing area. The region is notorious for its red soil, caused by the soil's iron richness. The Haud covers an estimated area of about 119,000 Km², more than nine-tenths the size of England, or roughly the size of North Korea.

The HAWD region includes the following:

1. Southern part of Somaliland: The regions of Marodi Jeh, Togdheer and Sool
2. the Northern and Eastern parts of the Somali Region of Ethiopia.





Map of Ethiopia showing Somali Region; Capital: Jijiga

Note: Please see “Ethiopia demands for Port access and assures a peaceful solution” dated November 15, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/ethiopia-demands-port-access-assures-a-peaceful-solution/> . www.DiGiNews360.com also brings a “BACKGROUND on the ERITREA CONFLICT and the TIGRAY ISSUE”, as a part of the Report.
