

## TOPIC 4: - THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOMALIA

### TIMELINES FOR SOMALIA'S DEVELOPMENT: ANCIENT ERA TO PRESENT

#### Ancient

- **c. 2350 BC:** The Land of Punt establishes trade with the Ancient Egyptians.
- **1st century AD:** City states on the Somali coast are active in commerce trading with Greek, and later Roman merchants.

#### Muslim era

- **700–1000:** City states in Somalia trade with Arab merchants and adopt Islam.
- **1300–1400:** Mogadishu and other prosperous Somali city-states are visited by Ibn Battuta and Zheng He.
- **1500–1660:** The rise and fall of the Adal Sultanate.
- **1528–1535:** Jihad against Ethiopia led by Ahmad ibn Ibrihim al-Ghazi (also called Ahmed Gurey and Ahmed Gran; "the Left-handed").
- **1400–1700:** The rise and fall of the Ajuran Sultanate.
- **late 17th – late 19th century:** Sultanate of the Geledi (Gobroon dynasty).
- **mid-18th century – 1929:** Majeerteen Sultanate also known as Migiurtinia.
- **1878–1927:** Sultanate of Hobyo.

#### Modern era

- **20 July, 1887 :** British Somaliland protectorate (in the north) subordinated to Aden to 1905.
- **3 August, 1889:** Benadir Coast Italian Protectorate (in the northeast), unoccupied until May 1893.
- **1900:** Mohammed Abdullah Hassan spearheads a religious war against foreigners and establishes the Dervish State.
- **16 March, 1905:** Italian Somaliland colony (in the northeast, central and south).
- **July, 1910:** Italian Somaliland becomes a crown colony.
- **1920:** Mohammed Abdullah Hassan dies and the longest and bloodiest colonial resistance war in Africa ends.
- **15 January, 1935:** Italian Somaliland becomes part of Italian East Africa with Italian Eritrea (and from 1936, Ethiopia).
- **1 June, 1936:** The Somalia Governorate is established as one of the six governorates of Italian East Africa.

#### World War II

- **18 August, 1940:** Italian occupation of British Somaliland.
- **February, 1941:** British administration of Italian Somaliland.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS ON ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

### Pre-Independence, unification, constitution, British double-game

- **1 April, 1950** Italian administration begins of former Italian Somaliland; made a Trust Territory of Somaliland by the United Nations, in November, 1949. Independence promised within 10 years. (1941: Italian Somaliland occupied by British and South African troops as part of the East African Campaign of WW II.)
- **1950s:** UN aid to Trust Territory, plus Italian expertise and regional commitment, contributes to growth of educational and other infrastructure. Political education and self-government reputedly explains later difference in development between post-colonial Italian and British Somalilands.
- **1954:** Law, economics and social studies institutions established in Mogadishu
- **1956:** Britain's unsuccessful bid to buy back Somali lands of the Haud (a Somali grazing area 'protected' by British treaties with Somalis in 1884 and 1886) and the Ogaden granted to Ethiopia (based on a treaty in 1897 in which the British ceded Somali territory to Emperor Menelik II in exchange for help against raids by Somali clans.)
- **1958:** Referendum held in neighbouring Djibouti (then 'French Somaliland') on eve of Somalia's independence in 1960, to decide whether to join Somali Republic or remain with France. Expulsion of Somali voters there and widespread vote rigging is later condemned.
- **April, 1960:** leaders of British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland (Trust Territory of Somaliland - TTS) agree to form unitary state with elected president as head of state and full executive powers to be held by a prime minister answerable to an elected 123-member National Assembly

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN LIFE OF REPUBLIC

### Early republic politics, tribal loyalties, internal dissent, war fronts

- **26 June, 1960:** British Somaliland is granted independence as the State of Somaliland, with the understanding it is to reunite with Italian Somaliland.
- **1 July, 1960:** Somali Republic is established by unification of British Somaliland and the Trust Territory of Somaliland. Legislature appoints Aden Abdullah Osman Daar as first president of the Somali Republic.
- **1960 – 1967:** Presidency of Aden Abdullah Osman Daar.
- **22 July, 1960:** after appointing Hagi Bashir Ismail Yousuf as first president of the Somali National Assembly, Abdirashid Ali Shermarke is appointed first Prime Minister.
- **October, 1960:** Mahmoud Harbi, pro-unification [Vice President](#) of the Government Council of [French Somaliland](#) from 1957 to December 1958, during [Djibouti's](#) pre- independence period Farah (محمود الحربي) dies in a mysterious plane crash in Italy on a return trip from [China](#) to Somalia.
- **June-July, 1961:** national referendum.
- **June 20, 1961:** 91 percent of 2 million voters ratify both the president confirms Agden Abdullah Osman Daar as first president of the Somali Republic, and the new constitution in national referendum (< 50 percent approval of referendum in the north, however).
- **1961:** The constitution provides for all ethnic Somalis, no matter where they reside, to be citizens of the republic. Somalis do not claim sovereignty over adjacent territories, but argue Somalis living in them be granted right to self-determination.
- **1961:** Britain calls for commission to find out popular opinion on Somali demands for separation of Northern Frontier District (NFD) from Kenya.

- **November, 1963:** Somali Youth League party wins 74 percent of seats in countrywide municipal elections.
- **February, 1964:** armed conflict erupts on the Somali-Ethiopian frontier; Ethiopian aircraft raid targets in Somalia.
- **Late 1964:** mediation of Sudan, acting under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Under the terms of the cease-fire, a joint commission is formed to examine the causes of frontier incidents, and a demilitarized zone ten to fifteen kilometers wide is established either side of the border.
- **March, 1964:** First post-independence national elections. Somali Youth League party (SYL) wins 69 of 123 seats.
- **Mar-September, 1964:** Somalia is left without government as President nominates Abdirizak Haji Hussein as new-broom prime minister over previous four-year incumbent, Adirashid Ali Shermarke. Hussein enjoys SYL endorsement.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN LIFE OF REPUBLIC

### Kenyan and NFD, party hopping, army dissent, assassination

- **1964:** Kenya's post-colonial government opts for a centralised constitution drawn up in 1963 denying Hamitic and other Somalis in the Northern Frontier District autonomy in the predominantly Somali region within a federal system. (The Kenyan constitution has been twice revised, in **1969** and **2010**, in response to 1) an end to cold war politics, 2) demands for more control over executive government, and 3) treatment of minorities.)
- **1964:** Kenya signs mutual defence pact with Ethiopia.
- **October, 1967:** Arusha Memorandum of Understanding signed by Somali and Kenyan governments (Security achieved in 1969).
- **1967:** presidential elections are conducted by a secret poll of National Assembly members with the central issue again moderation versus militancy on the Greater Somalia issue plus need for emphasis on social development.
- **1967–1969:** Presidency of Abdirashid Ali Shermarke
- **March, 1969:** Elections combine municipal and National Assembly voting for first time. 64 parties contest elections but only the SYL presented candidates in every election district. Eight other parties present lists of candidates for national offices in most districts. Of remaining fifty-five parties, only twenty-four gain representation in assembly, but all of these disband almost immediately when their fifty members join the SYL.
- **May, 1969:** party swapping to SYL possible under party list system results in parliament increase from 73 to 109. Widespread discontent continues because: most previous deputies lose their seats; official corruption seems to be ignored by top office holders; the Supreme Court refuses to accept election complaint petitions; post-election party hopping means voters feel mandates are often betrayed or compromised; deputies trade votes for personal gain. Both intellectuals and the army are vocally bitter with General in charge of police resigning pre-elections in protest against SYL behaviour.
- **October 15 1969:** President Abdirashid Ali Shermarke shot dead by bodyguard.

### Coup, dictatorship, nationalisations, Pan-Somalia war, dissent

- **October 21, 1969:** Army commander Major General Mohamed Siad Barre leads bloodless coup, renames country Somali Democratic Republic (SDR), dissolves parliament, Supreme Court and suspends constitution.
- **1969–1991:** Siad Barre, leader of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, rises to power
- **July 1976:** Supreme Revolutionary Council which assumes power after revolution disbands itself in favour of a one-party state based on a mix of socialism and Islam, the official state religion. Revolutionary army establishes large-scale public works, literacy campaigns.
- **23 July 1977 – 15 March 1978:** Ogaden War with its goal of retrieving Somali-inhabited Ogaden (see earlier entry)
- **July – September, 1977:** By September 90 percent control is gained, with rail link to Djibouti threatened.
- **March, 1978:** Somali troops are expelled from Ogaden, after intervention of Cuban troops backed by soviet advisers.
- **1978:** Unsuccessful coup against government leads to crackdown and execution of plotters. Escapees abroad plot to oust increasingly unpopular regime.
- **1979:** Second constitution drafted and elections for a People's Assembly held. Barre's Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party (SRSP) politburo or executive committee continues to rule.
- **1982:** Ethiopian–Somali Border War.
- **1980s:** End of Cold War between Russian and US limits Somalia's strategic value for both sides. Many Ethiopian-supported resistance movements rise up nationwide, eventually leading to the Somali Civil War. Militia groups include: Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) is created by Majerten clan members; (United Somali Congress (USC) Hawiye clan members, Somali National Movement (SNM) mostly Isaaq clan members and the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM) mostly Ogadenis. Non-violent political oppositions include: Somali Democratic Movement (SDM), the Somali Democratic Alliance (SDA) and the Somali Manifesto Group (SMG). (World Bank 2005: 10).

### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: FROM CIVIL WAR TO TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENTS

#### Civil war, violence, famine, interventions, transitional governments

- **1991-1992:** Civil War breaks out after 21 years of rule by Siad Barre's SRSP. It ruins the country's economic competence, kills about 250,000 people, brings devastating famine, and shapes a serious refugee problem (World Bank 2005: 11-13).
- **1990-1992:** Armed factions compete for influence in power vacuum; temporary collapse of customary law. Arrival of [UNITAF](#) and [UNOSOM](#) peacekeeping forces in December 1992.
- **1995:** Fighting persists, especially in south. UN withdraws after suffering significant casualties; dozens of journalists, most local, are killed.
- **1997-98:** Two autonomous regional governments are established in northern part of the country. Relative decrease in the intensity of the fighting follows. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) removes Somalia from list of major armed conflicts for the years 1997,1998. SIPRI is an independent Swedish think-tank dedicated to research into [conflict](#), [armaments](#), [arms control](#) and [disarmament](#).)

- **2000:** Abdiqasim Salad Hassan is selected as the President of the nation's new Transitional National Government (TNG), an interim administration formed to guide Somalia to its third permanent republican government.
- **10 October, 2004:** a Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP) session elects former Puntland President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed President of the succeeding Transitional Federal Government (TFG), an interim federal administrative body he has helped establish earlier in the year. Vote, in third round: 189 votes from the TFG Parliament versus 79 to Somali ambassador Abdullahi Ahmed Addou. Incumbent President of Somalia, Abdiqasim Salad Hassan then withdraws.
- **14 October, 2004:** President Ahmed is sworn in.
- **November, 2004:** Transitional Federal Government (TFG) is one of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) recognised internationally until 20 August, 2012 by the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP) and defined in the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC).
- **2005-07:** sustained and destructive conflict takes place in the south but the fighting is of much lower scale and intensity than early 1990s.
- **2006:** the Islamic Courts Union (ICU), an Islamist organization, assumes control of much of the southern part of the country and promptly imposes Shari'a law.
- **2006 – Jan 2007:** The Transitional Federal Government seeks to re-establish authority. With the aid of Ethiopian troops and air support by the United States, African Union peacekeepers drive out the ICU and solidify rule.
- **2006-2009:** War in Somalia

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: WAR IN THE SOUTH, RECOVERY OF THE STATE

### Mogadishu falls, AMISOM, piracy, new constitution, ethics

- **2006, May-July:** Battle of Mogadishu.
- **2006, December:** Fall of Mogadishu. In 2006, Ethiopian troops seize most of the south from the newly formed [Islamic Courts Union](#) (ICU). ICU splinters into more radical groups, notably [AL-Shabaab](#), still fighting government forces and an AU- mandated [AMISOM](#) peacekeeping force for control of country.
- **8 January 2007:** TFG President and founder Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, a former colonel in the Somali Army and decorated war hero, enters Mogadishu for the first time since being elected to office.
- **January 2007:** Government relocates to Villa Somalia in Mogadishu (from interim location in Baidoa.) This marks the first time since the fall of the Barre regime in 1991 that the federal government controls most of the country.
- **2008 – 2013:** Somalia tops annual Sweden's independent [Fragile States Index](#). (In 2014-15 it is described as a recovering state 'making some progress to stability.')
- **May 31 - June 9, 2008:** representatives of Somalia's federal government and the moderate Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia (ARS) group of Islamist rebels participate in Djibouti peace talks brokered by former United Nations Special Envoy to Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah.
- **October, 2008:** Parliament subsequently expanded to 550 seats to accommodate ARS members. Former ARS chairman Parliament is then elected to office by parliament.
- **2008:** Pirate activities in Somalia bring in over \$50 million making it the most productive industry in Somalia (Worth and McDonald 2008: 1).

- **29 December, 2008:** Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed announces his resignation as President of Somalia in Baidoa.
- **March, 2009:** Somalia's coalition government announces it will re-implement Shari'a as the nation's official judicial system.
- **September, 2010:** Former Premier Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke resigns after dispute with President.
- **10 September, 2010:** Parliament elects Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as the new president of Somalia.
- **12 November, 2010:** Prime Minister Mohamed names a new Cabinet, reducing 39 portfolios to 18. Cabinet ministers fully disclose their assets and sign a code of ethics.
- **19 June 2011:** Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed resigns from his position as Prime Minister of Somalia.
- **12 June, 2012:** Latest constitution is drafted
- **1 August, 2012:** Provisional approval of constitution.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA

### Transition to Federal Government, Parliament restarts, roadmaps

- **20 August, 2012:** Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) begins with inauguration of parliament after Transitional Federal Government's interim mandate ends. It is the first permanent central government in the country since the start of the civil war.
- **10 September, 2012:** parliament elects Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as the new President of Somalia.
- **6 October, 2012:** President Mohamud appoints Abdi Farah Shirdon as the new Prime Minister.
- **21 December, 2013:** Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed succeeds Abdi Farah Shirdon as the new Prime Minister.
- **August, 2014:** the Somali government-led [Operation Indian Ocean](#) is launched to clean up remaining insurgent-held pockets in the countryside. **17 December, 2014,** former Premier Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke is reappointed Prime Minister. **6 February, 2015** Deputy Prime Minister Omar Arteh is appointed.