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Somalia as a Failed State

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Abstract

This article analyzes Somalia as a "failed state" from various perspectives: historical, political, social, and economic stagnant. The objective was to understand the factors and causes that led to the disintegration of the Somali state, the criteria's that maintain its condition of fragility an state collapse, and the implications this has for the East Africa region and the international community. The paper based on a review of academic literature, reports from international organizations, and analysis of official data. It concludes that the absence of a strong central government, prolonged armed conflicts, social tension, clan fragmentations, and international interventions have contributed to the failure of the state. However, the recent effort at political stabilization and international cooperation offers some hope for recovery, since the politicians and ordinary citizens mostly strayed from the national development path and shifted into a caste-based system. Somalia has experienced prolonged civil unrest and political instability, stemming largely from its complex colonial legacy that led to arbitrary borders and ignored intricate clan dynamics Hussein (2023). These historical divisions have been exacerbated by post-independence political strife, causing deep seated fragmentation and impeding the establishment of strong, centralized governance (Acero & Thomson, 2022). The resulting political vacuum has allowed clan militias and warlords to dominate, which in turn has stunted political and economic development across the nation (Olawumi, 2023). This backdrop of instability has been compounded by external interventions and the absence of effective governance structures, which has often aggravated local conflicts and undermined peace efforts (Poor governance and weak social cohesion in Somalia's Climate-stressed settings: the mediating effects of economic inefficiencies and limited human development, 2025). In this study, the adopted secondary data, especially literature on state collapse. Regarding this approach, the study ensured a robust grasp of challenges faced by government management practices in Somalia, in particular in the south and center, in public sector institutions. The researcher was able to capture insightful analysis.

The findings of this study revealed that key factors hindering successful governance practices in Somali public institutions are inept leaders, a lack of patriotism among Somali politicians and civilian's at large, ineffective leadership, a lack of inclusive decision-making, inadequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Poorly benefiting from natural resources due to improper skills and false strategic paradigms of economic development, ineffective governance, weak institutions, social and economic instability, and corrupt politicians. The researchers undoubtedly attribute fearing these huge negative words to widespread violence, displacement, humanitarian crisis, hindering state stability to provide basic services, and a lack of ensuring the safety and well-being of citizens. Somalia's prolonged history of conflict, and dependence on external aid have contributed to its classification as a "failed state," although the country is making strides towards progress and is considered by some to be a "integrating state," according to the UN reports. Somali citizens have optimism that at the end of day they could enjoy good government, although every newly elected government has soured its expected leadership when they sit in office. Somalia's political solution should satisfactorily develop by Somali experts; instead of foreign interventions, which we call a false paradigm.

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1. Introduction

This study conducted the assessment of Somalia's failed state criteria's and how its influence on weak governance, absence of central authority effected in the Federal Government of Somalia. The paper contains up to eight different sections. Section one addressed the background of the study and section two stated whether Somalia fit Failed State Criteria, while section three was

reviewed if Somalia is still a Failed State or not. Section four concentrated with the historical Context of the State Collapse: the fall of Siad Barre regime in 1991 and present ensured civil war. Section five revealed identifying the impact of Clan-based Conflicts and Lack of central Authority. Section six mentioned the Somalia's Challenges as statehood, whereas section seven examined the degree of weak governance: struggles of federal government of Somalia. Finally, section eight holds the recent progress from 2012 (e.g. election, economic recovery, constructions in some cities like Mogadishu).

2. Background of the Study

Somalia has experienced prolonged civil unrest and political instability, stemming largely from its complex colonial legacy that led to arbitrary borders and ignored intricate clan dynamics Hussein (2023). These historical divisions have been exacerbated by post-independence political strife, causing deep seated fragmentation and impeding the establishment of strong, centralized governance (Acero & Thomson, 2022). The resulting political vacuum has allowed clan militias and warlords to dominate, which in turn has stunted political and economic development across the nation (Olawumi, 2023). This backdrop of instability has been compounded by external interventions and the absence of effective governance structures, which has often aggravated local conflicts and undermined peace efforts (Poor governance and weak social cohesion in Somalia's Climate-stressed settings: the mediating effects of economic inefficiencies and limited human development, 2025).

The concept of 'failed' States is a category that originated in international relations and gained prominence in 1993 with the article 'Saving Failed States' by Helman and Ratner. There is no clear or standard definition of what is a "failed State", but generally, the expression 'failed State' is used when 'the public authority, the power of a State, has completely broken down its entire manner.' Moreover, different terms are used by different authors to refer to similar or the same situation: 'collapsed' States, 'crumbling' States, 'imploding' States, 'eroding' States, 'disintegrating' States, 'dysfunctional' States, 'fractured' States, 'disoriented' States and 'troubled' States, as well as 'weak' States are all found in the specialized literature (Cuba, 2011) [8]. The concept of a "failed state" is widely discussed in political science, international relations, and security studies, and Somalia has frequently been cited as a key case study due to its prolonged periods of state collapse, civil war, weak governance, external interventions and poorly controlling the territory boarder (task). Our point of departure was therefore be to analyzed 'Somali as State collapse' or dysfunctional State from a formal, legal perspective, which allowed us to determine both whether the entities concerned continue to be States and the international legal consequences of such a phenomenon over the statehood of the concerned entities. The origin of 'failed' States is often considered to be emerging the decolonization process of the 1960s, when the application of the principle of self-determination of peoples as defined by the UN General Assembly produced a large number of new States that lacked the capacity to govern themselves (Brooks, 2005) [6].

After the independent in 1960s, the continent of African have experienced wars, conflicts, alienation, poverty, floods, inept leaders and poor governance, these led African nations in generally not to cope with around the rest of world. A State

will exist as such under international law when its constitutive elements are verified in practice. Such elements are like permanent population, a territory, effective government and Sovereignty. This means that the existence of a State is in principle a matter of fact and that the recognition of a State has no constitutive effect. The government of a State must be in principle effective, that is, it must exercise an effective control over the population and territory of the State, meaning it must be in a position to exercise all governmental functions effectively. The exercise of such State functions in the internal and external levels is, naturally, done through State organs, i.e. the element government. The terms 'failed' State, 'failing' State or State 'failure' are not only found in academic journals or private analysis reports, they have influenced governmental and international policy strategies and found their way to official documents. The then UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali described the situation of these types of States in the following way: A feature of such conflicts is the collapse of state institutions, especially the police and judiciary, with resulting paralysis of governance, a breakdown of law and order, and general banditry and chaos (CAPLAN, 2007) [7].

A failed state is a state that has lost its ability to fulfill fundamental security and development functions, lacking effective control over its territory and borders. In the contemporary world, common characteristics of a failed state include a government incapable of tax collection, law enforcement, security assurance, territorial control, political or civil office staffing, and infrastructure maintenance. After this happens, widespread corruption, criminality, intervention of state and non-state actors, plenty of refugees and involuntary movement, sharp economic decline, and military intervention from both within and outside are more likely to occur. The term "failed state" originated in the 1990s, particularly in the context of Somalia's turmoil and chaos after the overthrow of its dictator, Siad Barre, in 1991. The phrase gained prominence during the American-led intervention in Somalia in 1992. It was used to express concerns about the potential collapse of poor states into chaotic anarchy after the end of the Cold War, as highlighted by Robert Kaplan's depiction of chaos in Liberia and Sierra Leone and his warning of a "coming anarchy" in various global regions (GREEN, 2000) [10].

Even though several characteristics of 'collapsed' or 'disintegrated' States can be identified, it is important to separate the symptoms or features that characterize them with what, in legal terms, can constitute their defining criteria. In that sense, wide-spread and severe violations of human rights and humanitarian law, large internal displacement flows and international refugee flows, famine and poverty, although present in these cases, are also common to other types of crises, 'such as international or internal armed conflict, natural disasters or dictatorial regimes in which governmental control is all too effective.' Other parameters, such as the UN human development index, child mortality rate, a State's status as one of the least developed countries, etc. may serve as indicators of this phenomenon but they can hardly be the defining criteria for a legal definition. The types of States here analyzed are characterized for the total or near total breakdown of structures guaranteeing law and order. Indeed, in such States, 'the police, judiciary and other bodies serving to maintain law and order have either ceased to exist or are no longer able to operate.' For Geiss, 'from an international law perspective, effective government is absent if its core

element, the ability to guarantee law and order, has dissolved.' Akpinarli agrees and points out that the long-term collapse of political institutions brings, as a consequence, 'the end of law and order.' Kreijen, in the same line, points out that 'the virtual absence of government generates a general inability on the part of the failed State to maintain law and order.' Furthermore, in such situations, the State 'unable to govern its own territory, cannot eliminate external threats or attacks on the state and social order.' According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has identified such types of armed conflicts and refers to them as conflicts destructors (or anarchic conflicts in the English equivalent), the essential characteristics of which are:

1. The disintegration of the organs of the central government, which is no longer able to exercise its rights or perform its duties in relation to the territory and the population;
2. The presence of many armed factions;
3. Divided control of the national territory, and;
4. The breakdown of the chain of command within the various factions and their militias

In such scenarios, it is sometimes impossible to identify the number of parties in the conflict, although the fragmentation of the conflict parties is determined mainly along ethnic, religious and cultural lines, or as a conflict for the control or distribution of natural resources. From an international law perspective, considering the phenomenon of State collapse in light of the criteria for statehood (i.e. the constitutive elements of a State), we find that the main characteristic of collapsed or disintegrated States is the absence of an effective government. We must keep in mind, however, that no State in the world exercises through its government a complete degree of control over its population and territory without certain elements (the three constitutive elements of statehood). The terms collapsed or disintegrated States then, be reserved to those States that due to an anarchic conflict lack, totally or partially, an effective government to the point that law and order may not be guaranteed in most of its territory and which lack the capacity to rebuild their governments by their own means. One final observation must be made regarding the definition of collapsed or disintegrated State that we will utilize: the degree of State collapse or disintegration will determine the degree of lack of effective government. The most extreme case of disintegration of State structures will lead to a complete lack of government, e.g. Somalia during the 1990s, whereas in all other cases there were, at least, nominal governments although its effective control over the population and territory of the State was marginal.

Referring to the above phenomenon of a failed state as described in world articles, we can say that Somalia has been consistently ranked among world's most corrupted nation according to the "failed state index" including bribe, embezzlements, and dysfunctional, because a failed state is the state that has lost the ability to fulfill its basic functions that are necessary for its survival and the well-being of its citizens. This means a loss of control over territory and border, a breakdown of essential institutions, rampant corruption, insecurity, poor law enforcement and widespread social, division control of national territory and economic chaos.

Definition and Criteria

A failed state is a state that lacks the monopoly of force and a parastatal structure characterized by a state that cannot sufficiently serve its four core elements (permanent population, territory, government, and sovereignty), but actors are trying to create a certain internal order. "The word State designates the rulers or the society itself "m" which the differentiation-between rulers and ruled exists and "m" which, for that very reason, a public power exists".

Originating in the 1990s, the term was initially applied to characterize the situation in Somalia, the country descended into disorder following a coup that ousted its dictator, Said Barre, in 1991, leading to internal conflicts among clans, and also the rest of the African continent, and some Asian countries like Afghanistan and Yemen, have all been described as failed states. According to the political theories of Max Weber, a state is defined as maintaining a monopoly on the legitimate use of physical force within its borders. When this is broken (e.g., through the dominant presence of warlords, paramilitary groups, corrupt policing, armed gangs, or terrorism), the very existence of the state becomes dubious, and the state becomes a failed state. According to Maximilian Carl Emil, a German sociologist, historian, jurist, and political economist, a failed state, also known as a fragile state, is characterized by the government's inability to fulfill fundamental functions, leading to the breakdown of social order and governance. Key criteria may include the government's lack of control over its territory, failure to provide basic services such as law enforcement and security, and widespread corruption and conflict (Suleiman, January 2025) ^[13].

Illustrative examples

Afghanistan

Afghanistan has been described as a failed state due to its prolonged civil war, lack of effective governance, and the presence of various non-state actors.

Libya

Libya has experienced a similar situation, with the collapse of its central government following a revolution leading to widespread conflict and instability.

Somalia

Somalia is often cited as a classic example, in the cases of "failed State" Somalia experienced a breakdown of governance following the collapse of its central government, leading to a protracted civil war and the emergence of various warlords.

Core criteria

- **Loss of Territorial Control:** The government loses effective control over its borders and internal regions, allowing non-state actors to operate with relative impunity.
- **Failure to Provide Basic Services:** The Somalia government becomes unable to deliver essential services like law enforcement, security, infrastructure maintenance, and public health care services. There are certain marginalize areas.
- **Corruption and Criminality:** In the territory of Somalia widespread corruption and illicit activities

become prevalent, undermining the legitimacy of the government and eroding public trust.

- **Armed Conflict:** Internal conflicts, often involving various factions and militias, become widespread, further destabilizing the state.
- **Economic Decline:** The economy collapses, further exacerbating the crisis and creating social unrest.
- **Loss of Legitimacy:** The government loses the support of the population, leading to a decline in social order and good governance practices.
- **Humanitarian Crisis:** The collapse of essential services and widespread conflict lead to a humanitarian crisis, with increasing numbers of displaced individuals, IDPs and refugees.
- **International Intervention:** The state may become subject to military or humanitarian intervention from outside actors.
- **Weakened Institutions:** Key institutions, such as the judiciary, mobile unit and police, become ineffective or are used for personal gain, further eroding state legitimacy.

The central government of Somalia was unable to effectively enforce laws, properly collect taxes, provide basic services, and maintain order within its territory from the early 1990s to the present era. Widespread violence, armed conflict, civil unrest, and criminal activities become prevalent in the territory, which undermines the safety and security of the population. The people of Somalia are hugely affected by displacement, famine, pandemic disease, and other forms of disaster that become common in the nation due to the collapse and lack of basic essential services. Government institutions are not functioning properly: There is poor law enforcement, a weak judicial system, and poor public administration. The Somali economy stagnates due to the inability of the government to maintain its infrastructure and poorly manage its debts. There is widespread corruption and criminal activities that have entrenched themselves in the country, undermining the state's ability to function effectively. Roads, water, sanitation, and more are poorly managed in the country. For example, in the southwest state, during the rainy season, floods have a major impact on people's shelter, livestock, and agricultural crops production. Likewise, the first month of winter everywhere is dry, such as boreholes and lakes, which cause livestock to die and crops not ripe to be harvesting stage. Another example is from the 1990s to the present date 2025; the government of Somalia is inability to govern its people is very weak because of both internal and external conflicts. Ordinary citizens flee from the country due to prolonged violence, unemployment, and economic collapse, which creates further instability. This is why the researcher is undertaking this study (GEMECHU, 2023) ^[9].

Research Objectives

The primary objective of this study was to examine Somalia's situation from January 1991 to the present era and the political trends it has undergone. The specific objectives of this paper were:

1. To explore whether Somalia fits the criteria of a failed nations.
2. To identify the impact of clan-based conflicts and the lack of central government authority.

3. To examine the degree of weak governance: Struggles of the Federal Government of Somalia

Research Scope

Geographically, this study was limited to the capital city of Mogadishu-Somalia. The study was mainly targeted at the existing literature review by examining the key challenges impeding Somalia's strategy of governance. The time scope of this paper was conducted between April to September 2025.

Significance of the Study

This study offers considerable benefits for various stakeholders in Somalia. Beginning with ordinary civil societies, the decision makers, the elite, political organizations, junior politicians, and anyone those who are interested in Somalia's future progress. Furthermore, human rights commissions, private entities, human rights activists, and advocacy groups were strongly positioned to enhance legislative frameworks and good governance practices, leading to smoother rule of law implementation. Nevertheless, the heads of government institutions and ministries were poised to overcome the prolonged political problems that barred Somalia's progress. In turn, citizens hugely benefit from more sufficient public service delivery, while employees within government institutions may experience practical positive shifts towards improved cultural work, hospitality, and operational efficiency.

In addition to that, the academicians, the future junior researchers, obviously will be gaining a valuable resource for further research in the context, deeply understanding the importance of publicly owned government, the benefits of good governance practices to the Somali future generations, which will embrace the unity and solidarity of the people of Somalia.

2.1. Does Somalia Fit Failed State Criteria?

Yes, of course, Somalia has long been considered a "failed state" due to its prolonged period of conflict, instability, weak governance, rampant corruption, human rights abuses, discrimination, economic inequality, chaos, poor law and order, and many others. While some small signs of progress and commercial improvements have been started since 2012, it still struggles with significant challenges, including completing the constitution, developing economic infrastructure, inclusive elections, improving education, and fighting anti-government militias, among others. The researcher is justifying whether Somalia fits the criteria for a failed state the following examples:

- **Decades of Conflict:** Somalia has experienced widespread conflict and instability since the ousting of the dictatorship, Siad Barre regime, in 1991. This has resulted in a breakdown of law and order and the inability of the central government to function effectively.
- **Weak Governance:** The government has struggled to establish authority, maintain control over territory, and provide basic services. The lack of a functioning legal system and widespread corruption further exacerbate the situation.
- **External Interference:** Intervention from foreign powers, particularly neighboring countries, has been a

factor in Somalia's instability, hindering efforts to build a strong, unified government.

- **Economic Dependence:** The Somali economy relies heavily on international aid, limiting its ability to become self-sufficient and build a strong foundation for development.
- **Humanitarian Crisis:** Recurring droughts, floods, and disease outbreaks, coupled with ongoing conflict, have created a humanitarian crisis, with millions of people facing hunger and malnutrition.
- **Lack of Institution-Building:** Despite international efforts to support state-building, progress has been slow and fragile. The ability to establish a functioning government, a stable economy, and basic social services has been hampered by a combination of internal factors and external challenges.
- **Construction Boom:** Some reports indicate a construction boom in Mogadishu, suggesting a revival of the economy.
- **UN Support:** The UN has played a significant role in supporting Somalia through various initiatives, including the UN Assistance Mission to Somalia (UNSOM).
- **Fragile State:** While Somalia's status as a "failed state" is still debated, the UN has acknowledged that the country is no longer a "failed state" but rather a "fragile state."
- **Modest Successes:** At the local level, some municipalities have demonstrated success in maintaining order and providing basic services.

2.1.1. Is Somalia Still a Failed State?

In this section we start with the question such as Is Somalia still a failed state? Of course, yes. Somalia has been collapsing since January 1991. As of 2012, there is a slight difference compared to previous years in the 1990s, but these social dynamics cannot prevent the prolonged political violations. Somalia would never be united enough to get its act together and form a strong, responsible government. The researcher elaborated saying this: I think several problems impede Somalia from getting development and becoming a stable nation, such as a) clanism, or a caste-based system, and b) poor and inept leaders, who are willing to gain from their tenure in office. c) Provisional constitution—there is no administration willing to convert the draft constitution into a complete and final amendment d) no rule of law—any president came to the office promotes his tribe and sub-clans, marginalizing others. e) No, a supreme court - that is independent from the ruling elite or executives, f) dependency on international aid, and imports, and g) corruption—the businessmen and politicians are benefiting from these decades of conflict and fragility. For example, in my area, it's marginalized by the government's public service delivery, accompanied by a siege by Al-Shabab groups. Our political representative members among the Somali parliament are not ready to address the region's state problem with the federal government; they also believe that their political interests will be affected if Al-Shabab is eradicated. The new administration is not emerging with a new way of development, while most are elected by only the Somali diaspora; however, I do believe if it is tested that a civil society who never lived outside the country and businessmen who have not yet been accused of corruption and wartime

economics would come up new approaches of governing and developing the nation who will act as good, responsible and responsive fathers. We are tired, international donors call donor fatigue!

2.2. Historical Context of State Collapse: The fall of Siad Barre's regime in 1991 and ensuing civil war.

The fall of Siad Barre's regime in 1991, marked by a civil war fueled a clan rivalry and the absence the role of central government, plunged Somalia into a period of protracted conflicts and instability. The United Somali Congress (USC), initially a united front against Barre, featured rival factions led by General Farah Aid and Ali Mahdi, originating from the same clan but different sub-clans, later clashing between them over control of the capital of Mogadishu. The USC initially played a crucial role in overthrowing the Siad Barre regime in January 1991, following 25 days of fighting. This led President Siad Barre to flee the capital city of Mogadishu on the 26th day and to seek political assistance from Nigeria. After his exile, the USC's victory did not bring a stable political environment; unfortunately, it turned into internal division and a power vacuum in Mogadishu, causing further conflicts and new political divisions. Mostly, the prominent USC rebel against the Siad Barre regime was General Mohamed Farah Aidid; however, the military success in the Somali rebellion culminated in Barre's overthrow and his flight to Kenya on January 26, 1991. Soon after the defeat of Siad Barre, the USC fractured into rival factions led by Aidid and Ali Mahdi Mohamud, while their clash over the control of Mogadishu contributed to the escalation of violence and social destruction. The USC was unable to achieve a political settlement with the other rebel groups, such as the Somali National Movement (SNM), the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM), and the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), but unfortunately exacerbated the situation of the country (KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR TRANSFORMATION, 2021) ^[2].

The phenomenon of state collapse definitely means at state losing control over its territory, population, and ability to provide basic services, has a long and complex history on the continent of Africa and some parts of Asia. This has been triggered by a combination of factors, including economic hardships, political instability, terrorism, internal conflicts, and external pressures. The state collapse occurred in various regions, having specific historical contexts and underlying dynamics in each case. According to the existing literature, certain factors contributed to state collapse in Africa after the 1960s.

- **Economic instability:** Economic downturns, such as falling oil prices, lead to increased unemployment, reduced remittances, and a decreased ability for African nations in particular Somalia to provide services.
- **Political instability:** Corruption, weak institutions, and inept leaders eroded the continent's public trust and created fertile ground for conflict.
- **Social divisions:** ethnic, religious, and clan-based tensions and religious-based conflicts exacerbated existing internal conflicts and made it difficult to establish a unified government in Africa, in particular Somalia clan political division system and Al-Shaaab terrorism deteriorate the situation of country.
- **Natural disasters:** pandemic disease, famine, droughts, and floods impaired the previous problems that further

undermined the continents' ability to respond and the power of government.

- **External pressures:** foreign interventions, border disputes, war, and sanctions aggravated and destabilized the Somali state and weakened its ability to govern effectively.

Rebuilding after collapse with Illustrative examples of state collapse

Somalia's collapse in the 1990s, the end of the Cold War, became a prime example of state collapse, which is mentioned in articles all over the world, triggered by a combination of factors such as the fall of President Siad Barre, internal conflicts, lack of external support, social fragmentation, inept leaders, clan promotion, divided control of national territory, and others. The Somali indigenous peace-building elders make huge efforts, such as those in Somaliland, made more effective in rebuilding their area instead of focusing on rebuilding the country as a whole. Somaliland and Puntland's relative self-declared governance came after the collapse of the national government while nomadic Hawiye clans took power, destabilizing the Somali territory (Raheem, 06 Mar 2025) ^[12].

Colonial Legacy

Colonialism has left in Africa, generally, and in particular Somalia, a lasting impact on border disputes, promoting some clans, internal grazing field borders, and destroying Somalia's long-rooted traditional justice system, which is now difficult to reestablish stable and effective institutions. The Cold War played a significant role in this intervention; the fall of the African states undermined certain continental problems, such as conflicts between different factions, inter-clan conflicts, warlords, and false superiority, which are based on Western colonial ideas and ignorance of the Somali people. This relative success in maintaining stability and rebuilding gained after the collapse of the Somali state demonstrates that Somalia's nation collapsed, especially where there is no strong local leadership, social tensions, and international support.

2.3. Identifying the Impact of Clan-based Conflicts and Lack of central Authority

Since the collapse of the former central government, Somalia has experienced continues and ongoing clan-based conflicts, which are fueled by the absence of central government authority, creating a power vacuum where the two main clans compete for resources and engage in power abuses. The prolonged lack of central government enabled clan loyalties to become the primary basis for social and political organization, leading to frequent clashes and instability. The researcher attempts to briefly explore this clan's dynamics.

Clan structure and conflict

Somali society is traditionally organized into clans and sub-clans, or what is called cast-based system, although there are only five small clans with two main local dialects, which provide social support and protection. However, this clan-based construction has become a source of conflict as clans compete for domestic resources like for instance land, water points, or lake and grazing areas, particularly in this era of failed nations. Disputes over these resources and discrimination, as well as unstable politics, often escalate into armed, violent conflicts.

Lack of Central Government

The collapse of the Somali central government in January 1991 created a power of vacuum that has not yet been effectively filled, leading to a prolonged period of instability. With the absence of central government, there is no effective mechanism for resolving clan disputes, no the rule of law enforcement, no effective national reconciliation has yet been made, and there is no supreme court, which exacerbates further conflicts. Traditional clan leaders and other elders work dispute resolution mechanisms called Xeer (customary law) and play a significant role in some areas, especially in community internal problems, while their authority is limited to only solving family disputes and clan interests.

Impact of Local Conflicts

In Somalia, clan-based conflicts have resulted in the significant loss of many lives and property, leading to a huge number of displacements, population and social disruption, and economic decline. The absence of a strong central government hinders the development of the nation, producing domestic issues such as farming, livestock productivity, and inequalities, and depending on the international community and humanitarian aid. In most southern regions, the nomadic inhabitants have fled to the cities, fleeing from Al-Shabaab, floods, consecutive droughts, and many other issues. Humanitarian aid sometimes exacerbates tensions because of the improper use of the clan system.

International involvements

The international community has made many efforts and attempted several different times to support Somalia in the state-building process by promote peace and stability. However, these efforts have been hampered by the complex political landscape, inept politicians, and ongoing clan-based political rivalries and conflicts. I believe that this plot-hora of international aid exacerbates conflicts because we have seen with our own eyes that the nomadic people, having animals and farms to cultivate, came to the towns for small amounts of money paid by USAID and other humanitarian agencies monthly, which undermined local production (SOMALIA IMPACT OF CLAN CONFLICTS, 19 March 2025) ^[11].

2.3.1. Somalia's Challenges as Statehood

Somali challenges to statehood are doomed to encompass issues that delay a state's ability to function ineffectively and maintain its sovereignty. These obstacles can be internal and external, such as weak governance, internal conflicts, a lack of unified national identity, interference from outside border disputes, an inability to provide basic services, and the erosion of sovereignty due to globalization.

Internal conflicts and instability

In Somalia after 1991, ethnic, religious, clan, civil wars and other tensions occurred due to the government's collapse. The internal conflicts weaken state institutions and displace populations, creating humanitarian crises, which lead to social fragmentation of the state and ungoverned spaces. This results in terrorism, a poor economy, political instability, a weak military, promoting clans, social tensions, and potential challenges that hinder state sovereignty. For example, corporations can shape economic policies, while terrorists and social fragmentation can destabilize territories, as we have seen in our Somali nation.

Governance and Legitimacy

After several years, Somalia still has ineffective governance; it is consistently ranked among the world's most corrupt nations, including bribery, embezzlement, and dysfunction. There is a lack of public trust, which erodes Somali state legitimacy. The result is that citizens lose faith in their government and support alternative dishonesty. In the country, there are no common interest areas or national interests, further destabilizing the state. A lot of interference hinders the country's development and its recovery.

Power and inequality

Somalia is plagued by lack of central government control, extreme poverty and inequality, hunger, a resurgence of terrorism, piracy, pervasive violence, political instability, and intervention by outside hand that deteriorates Somali social unrest, making it difficult for the state to maintain law and order. Constant resource competition caused more internal conflict and political instability. As we know, in Somalia, several border disputes occurred between Somalia and Ethiopia that undermined Somalia's sovereignty and political stability. Addressing statehood, Somalis covering these challenges are interconnected and can reinforce statehood, a complex and dynamic concept, through multi-faceted approaches, strengthening state institutions, promoting good governance, resolving conflicts, fostering economic growth, and mobilizing social awareness.

2.4. Examine the degree of weak governance: Struggles of Federal Government of Somalia

The federal government of Somalia is facing significant challenges due to weak governance stemming from historical political instability, terrorism, social fragmentation, and among others. All these obstacles hinder peace and the development, effective Somali institutions, leading to other issues such as corruption, lack of public service delivery, rule of provisional constitution without a national Supreme Court, and limited accountability. These challenges originate from the collapse of central government and clan rivalries, external interventions, and what the international community also calls donor fatigue.

Political instability

Since the fall of the Siad Barre regime in 1991, at present Somalia's public institutions are ineffective, in particular in enforcing laws and delivering economic governance. Insecurity is present. Armed groups need to be eradicated in order to foster economic growth and impede development. One of the significant challenges facing the Somali federal government includes completing the constitution, building an independent supreme court and judicial system, mutually agreeable elections, national reconciliation, social cohesion and professional national consensus, and disputes between the federal government and federal member states over jurisdiction, resource allocation, and governance. Fighting against corruption and nepotism that eroded public trust and hindered the implementation of reforms made. Hawiye clan political militias and warlords have filled the power vacuum and need to demobilize (Krause, 2002) ^[11].

Governance theory provides a critical framework for understanding the mechanisms through which institutions manage public resources and how these mechanisms

influence societal outcomes (Ostrom, 1990). At its core, governance encompasses various elements, including transparency, accountability, and citizen participation, which are essential for effective institutional performance (Harrison & Sayogo, 2014; O'Donnell, 1998). In Somalia Poor governance manifests in a lack of key attributes, leading to ineffective leadership, resource allocation, public service delivery, and rampant corruption. This results in economic decline, undermining public trust, and weak social cohesion. Somali public institutions do not operate transparently and accountably manner to their constituents, and citizens are more likely to engage in revenge, environmental spoiling, and social fragmentation. We have even observed that Somali citizens do not inhabit villages in the same area; thus, every clan has a specific area of residence (INTER-CLAN CONFLICTS AND THE LONG JOURNEY TO STATE-BUILDING IN SOMALIA INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFECTS, 2023).

2.5. Recent progress (e.g, elections, economic recovery in some cities like Mogadishu)

Recent progress in Somalia includes a construction boom and urbanization in Mogadishu, alongside ongoing efforts towards economic recovery and electoral processes. While the capital experiences rapid development and investment, challenges related to inequality, security, and unresolved political issues persist. Efforts are underway to strengthen governance, mobilize domestic revenue, and implement financial sector reforms (Ali, August 2024) ^[5].

Economic Recovery and Urbanization

- **Construction Boom:** Mogadishu and some other parts like Baidoa are witnessing a construction boom, with new buildings, shopping, and large super market centers transforming the skyline.
- **Rapid Urbanization:** The city's population is growing rapidly, estimated to be increasing by up to 4% per year.
- **Economic Growth:** Somalia's economy growth is experiencing, with a projected 4% growth rate in 2024.
- **Challenges:** Despite such positive developments, inequality persists, and challenges remain in addressing the needs of the urban poor and those displaced by conflict and drought.

Electoral Processes

- **Electoral System:** Somalia is working towards establishing a multi-party system and a fair electoral model, with a focus on organizing one-person, one-vote elections in 2026.
- **National Reconciliation:** Efforts are underway to foster national reconciliation and build trust among different groups through dialogue and community-based reconciliation initiatives.

Governance and Reforms

- **Strengthening Institutions:** Somalia is working on building stronger human capital, ensuring security and justice, and developing robust state infrastructure.
- **Revenue Mobilization:** Efforts are being made to expand the tax base and deepen customs reforms to increase domestic revenue.

- **Financial Sector Reforms:** Implementing reforms in the financial sector is a priority to improve financial infrastructure and support economic growth.

Challenges and Opportunities

- **Fragility and Security:** Somalia faces challenges related to state fragility, insecurity, cast-based system, poor social cohesion and the need to address complex regional issues.
- **Climate Change:** Severe droughts, floods, and other environmental shocks poses risks to the country's economic progress.
- **Foreign Aid Dependence:** While economic prospects are positive, and the people of Somalia are capable of producing domestic products, there are concerns about the potential impact of cuts in foreign aid.

3. Material and Methods

Research Approach

In this study, the researcher adopted secondary data, especially literature on state collapse. The article is based on a review of academic literature, reports from international organizations and analysis of official data. It's finally concluded the absence of rigid central government in Somalia. Regarding this approach, the study ensured a robust grasp of challenges faced by government management practices in Somalia, in particular in the south and central in public sector institutions. The researcher was able to capture insightful analysis.

Ethical consideration

The study adhered to all relevant ethical guidelines, ensuring confidentiality, informed consent, and the right to withdraw from the study at any stage if it's deemed necessary. These ethical considerations were paramount, safeguarding the rights and well-being of all participants and ensuring the integrity of the research findings.

4. Results and Discussions

Introduction

"Siad Barre's rule inflicted a terrible blow on the country, which is why; 35 years later Somalia still has not a strong government. This is because it is the consequence of that dictatorship. As reported, there were allied groups in the structure military who were prepared the coup, when Siad Barre was taking over the control of country. The findings of this study revealed that key factors hindering successful governance practices in Somali public institutions are inept leaders, a lack of patriotism among Somali politicians and civilian's at large, ineffective leadership, a poor inclusive decision-making, and inadequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Poorly benefiting from natural resources due to improper skills and false strategic paradigms of economic development, ineffective governance, weak institutions, social and economic instability, and thieving politicians. The researchers undoubtedly attribute fearing these huge negative words to widespread violence, displacement, humanitarian crises, hindering state stability to provide basic services, and a lack of ensuring the safety and well-being of citizens.

As assassinated President Abdirashid in Lascaanod, in October 1969, later the military cooped took over the control of the power. The association conspiracy was suspected within the same sub-clan, because of divergent political

ideology. "Abdirashid's political views was patriotism and greater Somalis". His background, he was raised by a group of Islamic scholars who held Islamic theory views, thus, the Daroodism's views attributed to his murder. "Because he was not ruling in regarding to what they perceive".

After his assassination, a heated debate erupted in the country for two weeks. Abdirashid's brother argued that he had the right to the seat since his brother had been assassinated. Other men who are said to be coming from the Hawiye sub-clan Abgaal were Quoted, saying that the Somali nation does not allow what they call domestically "Dumaal" (if the husband dies, his brother marries the deceased person's wife). Thus, if you feel that right is missing, you go and marry your brother's wife. This contestation became an opportunity for the military to take over the country in a coup after parliamentary debate failed to produce a unified vision. I have heard from many people who were alive at that time, till today, saying that Siad Barre's first few years of ruling were good after he seized power in a coup. But over time, he changed dramatically into dictatorship activities such as killing, bias, tribalism, and corruption, abuse of power, and promoting clan and sub-clan factions. Eyewitnesses stated that more than 13 of his children were part of the elite, while Barre's family was reported to have over 30 seats in the whole executive structure.

He was arresting anyone suspected of being seen as a threat to his administration. Among the people he arrested several times and sent abroad for education were Somali President Abdulahi Yusuf Ahmed, General Mohamed Farah Aidid, the USC warlord leader, and other senior officials. After a while, the war between Somalia and Ethiopia began in 1977. Ethiopia was defeated there. The world has signaled that Somalia is a threat to Africa, especially East Africa, and the rest of the world, while the world leaders saw Somalia as a threat to Africa in general and in particular East Africa, because Ethiopia has a long ancient history in Africa, so the Western politicians keep their ancient history under wraps, so it was strengthened, and the Westerners gave support to Somali opposition groups that gained President Siad Barre, because after independence in 1960, four years later, Somalia and Ethiopia fought a border dispute, Somalia won that battle. Northern regions attempted a coup in 1961, one year later.

5. Conclusion

Somalia's prolonged history of conflict, weak governance, and dependence on external aid have contributed to its classification as a "failed state," although the country is also making strides towards progress and is considered by some to be a "fragile state," according to the UN. Somalia's leadership faces huge challenges in peace-building and developing a new progressive national strategic plan. While Somali citizens have optimism that one day, they could enjoy good government, unfortunately, every newly elected government has soured its expected leadership when it sits in office. Somalia's political solution should satisfactorily develop by Somali experts instead of foreign interventions, which we call a false paradigm. Somalia is still suffering illegitimate in the eyes of world. Its rehabilitation efforts provided by the international Aid community participate tirelessly to building traditional system of conflict management is diverted from its intended destination. The Somali civilians frustrating these endless conflicts. So far numerous peace initiatives including the peacemaking initiatives in Somalia have attempted but failed several times.

The lack of trust between two royal families' clans ruling the nation since the independence, regarding who might exercise or control the central political power and economic resource of the nation and the rivalry of these groups is the first major underlying problems. The second, the basic concept of the traditional social structure, comprising the clan and sub-clan identity is another dominant means of seizing political power is associated the key source of long-lasting conflict between Somali clans. National reconciliation and national census should be aligning to consolidate the central government is the only viable solution to stop the violent conflicts to bring peace and economic development to Somalia.

6. Recommendations

Addressing Somalia's clan-based conflicts requires a comprehensive approach that includes strengthening the central government, promoting inclusive governance, and addressing the underlying causes of conflicts, resource scarcity, and inequality. It's very crucial to support local conflict resolution mechanisms and promote national reconciliation between clans. The international actors need to be transparent and work in a coordinated manner to support Somali efforts at state-building and ensure their assistance does not exacerbate further tensions. However, based on the findings from the literature and eyewitness accounts of the study, the researcher provides several recommendations aimed at improving successful governance practices in Somali public institutions:

- Building local capacity for security
- Enhance good governance practice
- Create a national economic development plan done by the Somali experts, not "Whitman."
- Establishment of the rule of law
- Make sure to state-building or strengthen state institutions.
- Foster inclusive political decisions.
- Create public forums and social cohesion.
- Promote social cohesion and public services: Invest in infrastructure, support economic growth, and invest in human capital.
- Strongly address the root causes of Somali conflicts.
- Undertake national census to measure overpopulated areas to align with basic service delivery.

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