

AFRICAN CAUCUS

Topic B: Establishing and Stabilizing a Functional Government in Somalia

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Background Information

Ogaden War

The Ethio-Somali War (also Ethiopian-Somali War or Ogaden War) was a territorial conflict fought by Ethiopia and Somalia between July 1977 and March 1978 over the disputed Ogaden region in present-day eastern Ethiopia. In a notable illustration of the nature of Cold War alliances, the Soviet Union switched from supplying aid to Somalia to supporting



Ethiopia, which had previously been backed by the United States. This in turn prompted the US to later start supporting Somalia. The war ended when Somali forces retreated back across the border and a truce was declared.

Barre regime (1986–1991)

After fallout from the unsuccessful Ogaden campaign of the late 1970s, the ruling socialist government of the Somali Democratic Republic, under Major General Mohamed



Major General Mohamed Siad Barre

Siad Barre began arresting government and military officials under suspicion of participation in the abortive 1978 coup d'état (where in Ogaden a group of disgruntled army officers attempted to overthrow the regime of Mohamed Siad). Most of the people who had allegedly helped plot the putsch were summarily executed. However, several officials managed to escape abroad where they formed the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), the first of

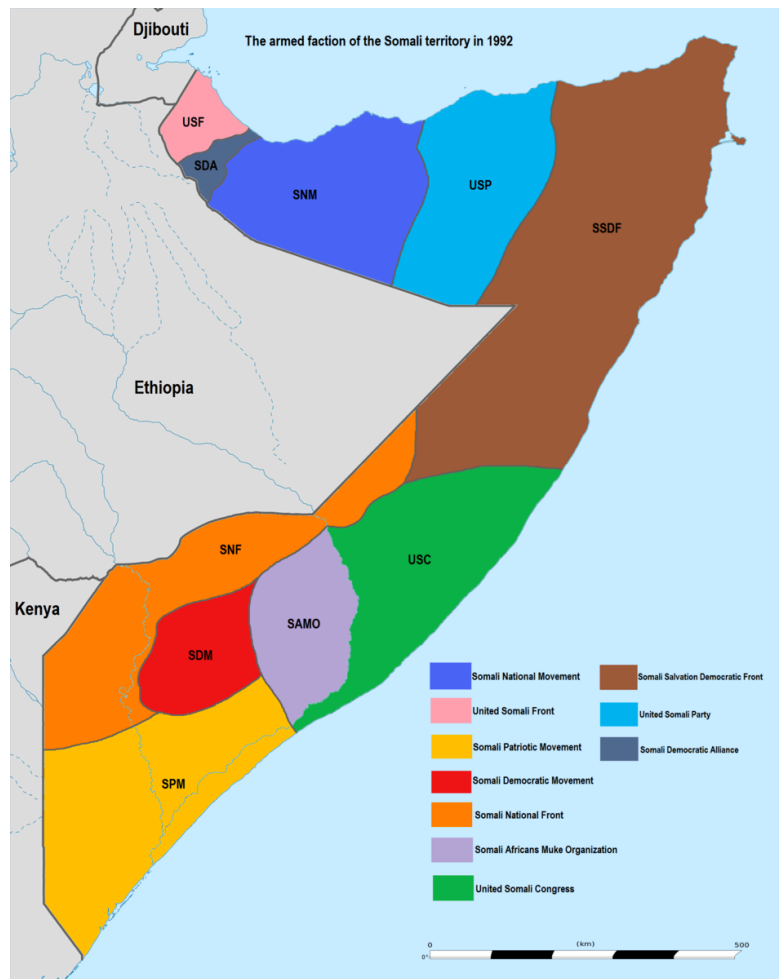
various dissident groups dedicated to ousting Barre's regime by force. In May 1986, Barre suffered a car accident near Mogadishu. Lieutenant General Mohamed Ali Samatar, then Vice President, subsequently served as de facto head of state for the next several months. Although Barre managed to recover enough to present himself as the sole presidential candidate for re-election over a term of seven years on December 23, 1986, his poor health and advanced age led to speculation about who would succeed him in power. In an effort to hold on to power, Barre's ruling Supreme Revolutionary Council (SRC) became increasingly authoritarian and arbitrary. This caused opposition to his regime to grow. Barre in turn tried to quell the unrest by abandoning appeals to nationalism. By the mid-1980s, more resistance movements supported by Ethiopia's communist Derg administration had sprung up across the country. Barre responded by ordering punitive measures against those he perceived as locally supporting the guerillas, especially in the northern regions. The clampdown included bombing of cities, with the northwestern administrative center of Hargeisa, a Somali National Movement (SNM) stronghold (more information on Key Terms), among the targeted areas in 1988. In 1990, on the eve of the civil war, Somalia's first President Aden Abdullah Osman Daar and about 100 other Somali

politicians signed a manifesto advocating reconciliation. A number of the signatories were subsequently arrested. Barre's heavy-handed tactics further strengthened the appeal of the various rebel movements, although these groups' only common goal was to overthrow of his regime.

Red Berets vs. USC and SNM (1990–1991)

In December 1990, United Somali Congress (USC) militants secretly entered Mogadishu to lend support to fellow clan members who had formed popular committees to defend themselves from attacks by a rival clan of Barre supporters. The presence of the

rebels in the capital prompted a military intervention by the Red Berets, an elite unit that served as presidential bodyguards. Four weeks of battle between the Red Berets and USC guerrillas ensued, over the course of which the USC brought in more forces into the city. By January 1991, USC rebels had managed to defeat the Red Berets, in the process toppling Barre's regime. After



USC's victory over Barre's troops, the other rebel groups declined to cooperate with it, as each instead drew primary support from their own constituencies. Among these other opposition movements were the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM) and Somali Democratic Alliance (SDA), a Gadabuursi group (a Somali clan) which had been formed in the

northwest to counter the Somali National Movement Isaaq militia. For its part, the SNM initially refused to accept the legitimacy of the provisional government that the USC had established. However, the SNM's former leader Ahmed Mohamed Silanyo later proposed a power-sharing framework in March 1991 between the SNM and USC under a new transitional government. Many of the opposition groups subsequently began competing for influence in the power vacuum that followed the ouster of Barre's regime. In the south, armed factions led by USC commanders General Mohamed Farah Aidid and Ali Mahdi Mohamed, in particular, clashed as each sought to exert authority over the capital. In the northwest, at the Burao conference of April–May 1991, SNM secessionists proclaimed independence for the region under the name Somaliland. They concurrently selected the SNM's leader Abdirahman Ahmed Ali Tuur as president.

UN intervention (1992–1995)

UN Security Council Resolution 733 and UN Security Council Resolution 746 led to the creation of UNOSOM I, the first mission to provide humanitarian relief and help restore order in Somalia after the dissolution of its central government. Forming the Unified



Task Force (UNITAF), the UN was tasked with assuring security until humanitarian efforts aimed at stabilizing the situation were transferred to the UN. Landing in 1993, the UN peacekeeping coalition started the two-year United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II) primarily in the south. During negotiations from 1993 to 1995, Somali principals had some success in reconciliation and establishment of public authorities. Among these initiatives was the Mudug peace agreement of June 1993 between Aidid's forces and the SSDF, which established a ceasefire between the Haber Gedir and the

Majeerteen clans, opened the trade routes, and formalized the withdrawal of militants from Galkayo; the UNOSOM-mediated Hirab reconciliation of January 1994 in Mogadishu between elders of the rival Abgal and Haber Gedir clans, which was backed by politicians from these constituencies and concluded with a pact to end hostilities, dismantle the green line partitioning the city, and remove road blocks. Some of the militias that were then competing for power saw UNOSOM's presence as a threat to their hegemony. Consequently, gun battles took place in Mogadishu between local gunmen and peacekeepers. Among these was the Battle of Mogadishu in October 1993, an unsuccessful attempt by U.S. troops to apprehend faction leader Aidid. UN soldiers eventually withdrew altogether from the country on March 3, 1995, having incurred more significant casualties.

Battle for Mogadishu (USA's Intervention- 1993)

The Battle of Mogadishu, more commonly referred to as Black Hawk Down or, locally, as the Day of the Rangers, was part of Operation Gothic Serpent, fought on 3 and 4 October 1993, in Mogadishu, Somalia, between forces of the United States, supported by UNOSOM II, and Somali militiamen

loyal to the self-proclaimed president-to-be Mohamed Farrah Aidid (who had support from armed civilian fighters). A U.S. Army force in Mogadishu, consisting primarily of U.S. Army Rangers attempted to seize two of



Aidid's high-echelon lieutenants during a meeting in the city. Shortly after the assault began, Somali militia and armed civilian fighters shot down two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, from USA. The subsequent operation to secure and recover the crews of both helicopters drew the raid, intended to last no more than an hour, into an overnight standoff in the city. The battle resulted in 18 deaths, 80 wounded, and one helicopter pilot captured among the U.S. raid party and rescue forces. One Pakistani soldier and one Malaysian soldier were killed as part of the rescue forces. American sources estimate between 1,500 and 3,000 Somali casualties, including civilians; SNA forces claim only 315 killed, with 812 wounded. The battle is also referred to as the First Battle of Mogadishu (to distinguish it from the Second Battle of Mogadishu of 2006).

The TFG, Islamic Courts Union, and Ethiopia (2006–2009)



In 2000, the Transitional National Government (TNG) was established. After a two-year consultation process, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) was formed in 2004 by Somali politicians in Nairobi under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The process also led to the establishment of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), and concluded in October 2004 with the election of Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed as President. The TFG thereafter became Somalia's internationally recognized government. In the first half of 2005, disagreements arose between Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Ghedi and Parliament Speaker Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden over where to base the TFG (Ghedi preferred the city of Jowhar while Adan favored Baidoa). The two leaders, President Yusuf and members of parliament also met in Kenya to work out a compromise. Concurrently, the TFG sent official delegations to Jowhar and Baidoa to assess the suitability of each city as a temporary headquarters for the TFG before an eventual relocation of government offices to Mogadishu. In June–July 2005, the Transitional Federal Government established an interim seat in Jowhar due to ongoing insecurity in the capital (The TFG later moved its temporary headquarters to Baidoa).

Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed one of the first founders of the TFG

In order to stabilize the security situation going on in Somalia, due to the constant change of the TFG's placement, President Yusuf requested that the African Union deploy military forces in Somalia. However, as the AU lacked the resources to do so over the short term. Ethiopia concurrently provided military training for the new troops. These developments along with the U.S. funding the ARPCT (Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter-Terrorism) coalition of faction



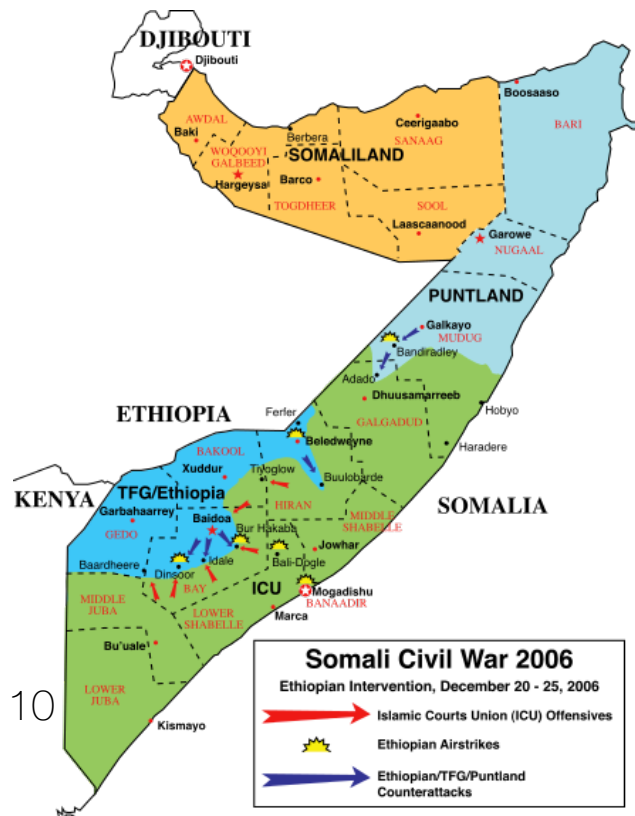
ICU symbol

leaders alarmed many individuals in south-central Somalia, and provided the ascendant Islamic Courts Union (ICU) with substantial recruitment opportunities.

Second Battle for Mogadishu (2006)

A battle for Mogadishu followed in the first half of 2006, in which the ARPCT confronted the ICU. However, with local support, the ICU captured the city in June of the year. It then expanded its area of control in south-central Somalia over the following months, assisted militarily by Eritrea. In an effort at reconciliation, TFG and ICU representatives held several rounds of talks in Khartoum under the auspices of the Arab League. The meetings ended unsuccessfully due to uncompromising positions retained by both parties. Hardline Islamists subsequently gained power within the ICU, prompting fears of a Talibanization of the movement.

In December 2006, Ethiopian troops entered Somalia to assist the TFG against the advancing Islamic Courts Union initially winning the Battle of Baidoa. On December 28, 2006, the allied forces recaptured the capital from the ICU. The offensive helped the TFG solidify its rule. Ethiopian and TFG forces forced the ICU from Ras Kamboni between January 7–12, 2007. They were assisted by at least two U.S. air strikes. On January 8, 2007, for the first time since taking office, Yusuf entered Mogadishu, moving the TFG moved its base to the national capital. The interim administration had just established control over much of the central and southern parts of the country.

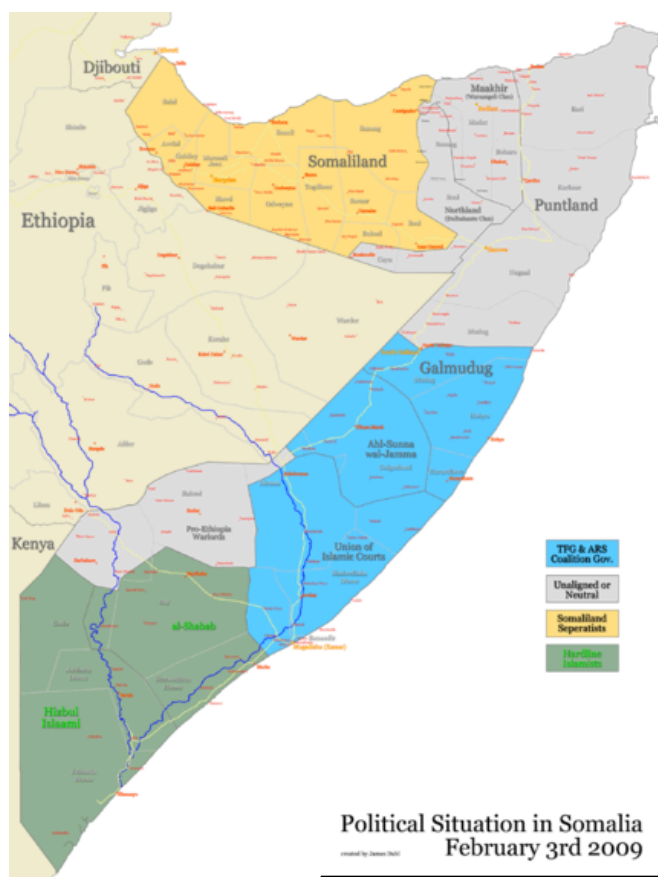


Current conflict (2007–present)

In March 2007, President Ahmed announced plans to forcibly disarm militias in Mogadishu. A coalition of local insurgents led by Al-Shabaab subsequently launched a wave of attacks against the TFG and Ethiopian troops. The allied forces in return mounted a heavy-handed response. Although TFG forces played a secondary role to the Ethiopian troops, they were in turn alleged to have failed to efficaciously warn civilians in combat zones, impeded relief efforts, plundered property, and mistreated detainees during mass arrests. Ethiopian forces were similarly reported to have indiscriminately fired mortars, rockets and artillery shells into densely populated areas, looted property, and in some instances shot and executed civilians. During this time, many innocent civilians died or were injured by the conflict.

In February 2007, the arms embargo on Somalia was amended to allow states to supply weapons to the TFG's security forces, provided that they received prior approval from the UN's Somalia Sanctions Committee. After long discussions, the African Union approved the initial deployment of the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) in March 2007, with a mandate to facilitate the re-constitution of Somalia's security forces.

Following their defeat, the Islamic Courts Union splintered into several different factions. Some of the more radical elements, including Al-Shabaab, regrouped to continue their insurgency against the TFG and oppose the



Ethiopian military's presence in Somalia. Throughout 2007 and 2008, Al-Shabaab scored military victories, seizing control of key towns and ports in both central and southern Somalia. At the end of 2008, the group had captured Baidoa but not Mogadishu. On May 1, 2008, the U.S. made an airstrike on Dhusamareb, and followed on 3 May with another airstrike on the border town of Doble. Between May 31 and June 9, 2008, representatives of Somalia's federal government and the moderate Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia (ARS) group of Islamist rebels participated in peace talks in Djibouti brokered by the former United Nations Special Envoy to Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah. The conference ended with a signed agreement calling for the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops in exchange for the cessation of armed confrontation. On December 29, 2008, Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed announced before a united parliament in Baidoa his resignation as President of Somalia. By January 2009, Al-Shabaab and other militias had managed to force the Ethiopian troops to retreat, leaving behind an understaffed African Union peacekeeping force.

In November 2010, a new technocratic government was elected to office, which enacted numerous reforms. Among these, the new administration completed its first monthly payment of stipends to government soldiers, and initiated the implementation of a full biometric register for the security forces.

On August 6, 2011, Al-Shabaab was forced to withdraw from most areas of Mogadishu. However, an ideological rift within Al-Shabaab's leadership also emerged after the 2011 drought and the assassination of top officials in the organization.

In October 2011, following a weekend preparatory meeting between Somali and Kenyan military officials in the town of Dhobley, a coordinated operation between the Somali Armed Forces and the



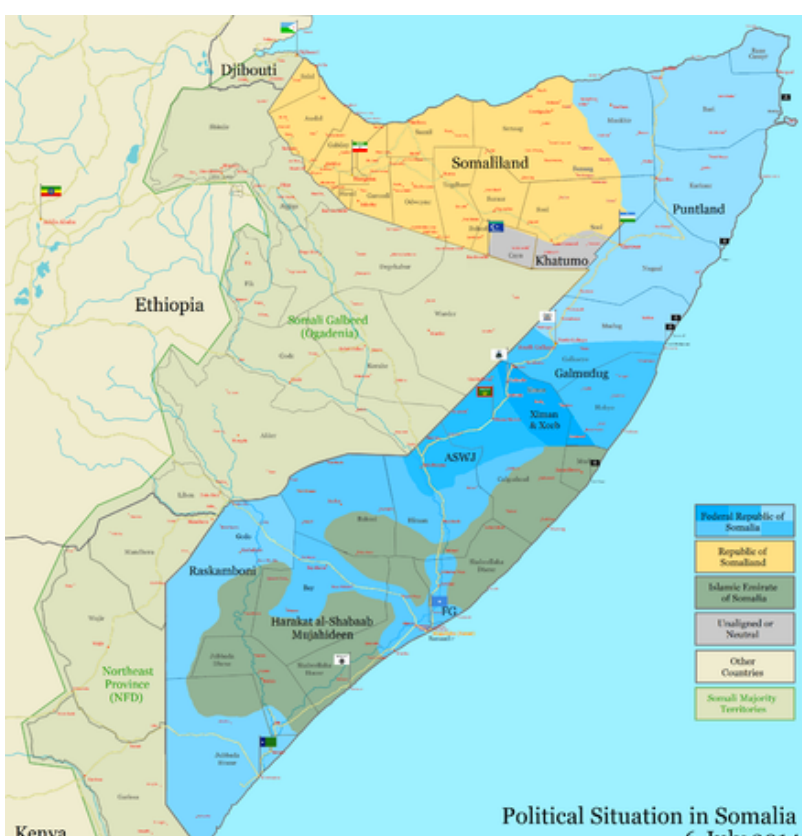
Kenya Defence Forces began against the Al-Shabaab group of insurgents in southern Somalia. The mission was officially led by the Somali army, with the Kenyan forces providing a support role. In early June 2012, Kenyan troops were formally integrated into African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Furthermore, later on September and early October 2012, Somali government troops, AMISOM's Kenyan contingent, and the allied Raskamboni militia captured the strategic town of Kismayo from Al-Shabaab. The southern city was a key source of revenue for the insurgent group and constituted its last major stronghold.

By November 2012, around 85 percent of the disputed territory in Somalia was under government control. An eventual exit date for the AMISOM troops would also be finalized once the Somali security and police forces were adequately trained and prepared.

In October 2013, the U.S. military began establishing the Mogadishu Coordinating Cell in the Somali capital, which became fully operational in late December. Also, in November 2013, a senior Ethiopian government official announced that Ethiopia's troops deployed in Somalia would soon join AMISOM, to fight Al-Shabaab. The Ethiopian troops represent AMISOM's sixth contingent after the Djibouti, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Kenya and

Uganda units.

In January 2014, at an African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud requested an extension of the UN Security Council's weapons purchasing mandate for Somalia after its March expiration. He indicated



that the Somali defense forces required better military equipment and arms to more effectively combat militants. The following month, the UN Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group released a report alleging that systematic abuses by officials within the Somali government had allowed weapons to be diverted away from Somalia's security forces and into the hands of faction leaders and Al-Shabaab militants. Somali Chief of Army Dahir Adan Elmi denied the allegations, asserting that no public officials had sold or diverted weapons and that the arms were instead in safe custody. He also asserted that Al-Shabaab already possessed an adequate supply of weapons and mainly utilized explosive devices and sophisticated bombs.

On 5 March 2014, the UN Security Council unanimously voted to extend the partial easing of the arms embargo on Somalia until 25 October of the year. The resolution permits the Somali government to purchase light weapons, with the stipulation that all member states must take steps to prevent the direct or indirect supply, transfer or sale of arms and military equipment to individuals or entities outside of the Somali security forces. The Somali government is also required to routinely report on the structural status of the military, as well as provide information on the extant infrastructure and protocols designed to ensure the military equipment's safe delivery, storage and maintenance.

In early March 2014, Somali security forces and AMISOM groups launched an intensified military operation to remove Al-Shabaab from the remaining areas in southern Somalia under its control. According to Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed, the government subsequently launched stabilization efforts in the newly liberated areas, which included Rab Dhuure, Hudur, Wajid and Burdhubo. By March 26, the allied forces had liberated ten towns within the month, including Qoryoley and El Buur.

Still today, the conflict is going on in Somalia, as Somali forces together with the AMISOM groups are in constant fights with Al-Shabaab groups and other Islamic militant

groups. According to Necrometrics, around 500,000 people are estimated to have been killed in Somalia since the start of the civil war in 1991. The Armed Conflict Location & Event Dataset estimates that 3,300 people were killed during the conflict in 2012, with the number of fatalities dropping slightly in 2013 to 3,150.

Timeline

1977 - Somalia invades the Somali-inhabited Ogaden region of Ethiopia.

1981 - Opposition to Barre's regime begins to emerge after he excludes members of the Mijertyn and Isaq clans from government positions, which are filled with people from his own Marehan clan.

1988 - Peace accord with Ethiopia.

1991 - Mohamed Siad Barre is ousted. Power struggle between clan warlords Mohamed Farah Aideed and Ali Mahdi Mohamed kills or wounds thousands of civilians.

1992 - US Marines land near Mogadishu ahead of a UN peacekeeping force sent to restore order and safeguard relief supplies.

1993 - US Army Rangers are killed when Somali militias shoot down two US helicopters in Mogadishu and a battle ensues. Hundreds of Somalis die in the battle depicted in the film "Black Hawk Down". US mission formally ends in March 1994.

1995 - UN peacekeepers leave, having failed to achieve their mission.

1998 - Puntland region declares autonomy.

2000 August - Clan leaders and senior figures meeting in Djibouti elect Abdulkassim Salat Hassan president of Somalia.

2001 April - Somali warlords, backed by Ethiopia, decline to support transitional administration.

2005 February - June - Somali government begins returning home from exile in Kenya, but there are bitter divisions over where in Somalia the new parliament should sit.

2006 February - Transitional parliament meets in Somalia - in the central town of Baidoa - for the first time since it was formed in Kenya in 2004.

2006 March-May - Scores of people are killed and hundreds are injured during fierce fighting between rival militias in Mogadishu. It is the worst violence in almost a decade.

2006 June-July - Militias loyal to the Union of Islamic Courts take control of Mogadishu and other parts of the south after defeating clan warlords.

-Ethiopian troops reported in Somalia.

2006 September - Transitional government and the Union of Islamic Courts begin peace talks in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum.

-Somalia's first known suicide bombing targets President Yusuf outside parliament in Baidoa.

2006 October - About 35,000 Somalis escaping drought, strict Islamist rule and the possibility of war flee to Kenya refugee since the start of 2006, the UN reports.

-War of words between Ethiopia and Somalia's Islamists. Premier Meles says Ethiopia is "technically" at war with the Islamists because they had declared jihad on his country.

2006 December - Ethiopian and transitional government engage the Islamists in battle and soon put them to flight, capturing Mogadishu.

2007 January - Islamists abandon their last stronghold, the southern port of Kismayo.

-President Abdullahi Yusuf enters Mogadishu for the first time since taking office in 2004.

-US carries out air strikes in southern Somalia which it says targeted al-Qaeda figures, and which reportedly kill an unknown number of civilians. It is the first known direct US military intervention in Somalia since 1993.

2007 March - African Union peacekeepers land at Mogadishu amid pitched battles between insurgents and government forces backed by Ethiopian troops. The Red Cross says it is the worst fighting in 15 years. UN Security Council authorised six-month peacekeeping mission in February. Humanitarian crisis grows

2007 October - Heaviest fighting in Mogadishu reported since April. Ethiopians move reinforcements into the city. Prime Minister Ghedi resigns, succeeded by Nur Hassan Hussein, also known as Nur Adde, in November.

2008 January - Burundi becomes the second nation to contribute troops to the African Union peacekeeping force, sending 440 soldiers to Mogadishu.

2008 May - The UN Security Council unanimously votes to allow countries to send warships into Somalia's territorial waters to tackle pirates, following appeal by the European Union. US, Nato and others deploy ships to Somali waters later in the year as pirates become more audacious.

2008 December - President Abdullahi Yusuf tries to sack Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein over his attempts to draw moderate Islamists into the government. Parliament declares the dismissal unconstitutional and passes a vote of confidence in Mr Nur. Mr Yusuf resigns.

2009 January - Ethiopia completes the withdrawal of its troops, announced the previous year, and Al-Shabab capture Baidoa, formerly a key government stronghold.

-Meeting in neighbouring Djibouti, Somalia's parliament swears in 149 new members from the main opposition Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia. It elects a moderate Islamist, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, president, and extends the transitional government's mandate for another two years.

2009 February - President Ahmed selects Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke as prime minister. Mr Sharmarke, a former diplomat, is widely seen as a bridge between Islamists within the Somali government and the international community.

2009 May - Islamist insurgents launch onslaught on Mogadishu and advance in the south.

2009 June - President Ahmed declares a state of emergency as violence intensifies. Somali officials appeal to neighbouring countries to send troops to Somalia, as government forces continue to battle Islamist insurgents.

2009 October - Al-Shabab recaptures the southern port of Kismayo after defeating the rival Hizbul-Islam militia.

2010-12 - Famine kills almost 260,000, the UN says.

2010 January - UN's World Food Programme (WFP) withdraws from Al-Shabab-controlled areas of southern Somalia after threats to lives of its staff.

2010 February - Al-Shabab formally declares alliance with al-Qaeda, begins to concentrate troops for a major offensive to capture the capital.

2010 March - Up to half of food aid being diverted to contractors, militants and local UN staff in government-controlled areas, says UN's Monitoring Group on Somalia.

2010 September - Prime Minister Sharmarke quits. He is replaced by Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed.

2011 January - Pirate attacks on ships worldwide hit seven-year high in 2010, with Somali pirates accounting for 49 of 52 ships seized.

2011 February - Kenya closes border to Somalia after nearby fighting between Al-Shabab rebels and government-backed forces.

2011 July - UN formally declares famine in three regions of Somalia. Al-Shabab partially lifts ban it had imposed on foreign aid agencies in the south, and UN airlifts its first aid consignment in five years to Mogadishu.

-Al-Shabab pulls out of Mogadishu.

2011 October - Kenyan troops enter Somalia to attack rebels they accuse of being behind several kidnappings of foreigners on Kenyan soil.

-The American military begins flying drone aircraft from a base in Ethiopia, and Ethiopian troops are sighted in the central town of Guriel.

2012 February-May - Al-Shabab loses key towns of Baidoa and Afgoye to Kenyan, African Union and Somali government forces.

2012 August - Somalia's first formal parliament in more than 20 years is sworn in at Mogadishu airport, ending the eight-year transitional period. Pro-government forces capture the port of Merca south of Mogadishu from al-Shabab.

2012 September - MPs in Mogadishu elect academic and civic activist Hassan Sheikh Mohamud president over the incumbent Sharif Sheikh Ahmed. First presidential election in Somalia since 1967.

2012 October - African Union and government forces recapture Kismayo, the last major city held by Al-Shabab and the country's second-largest port, and the town of Wanla Weyn northwest of Mogadishu.

-President Mohamud appoints a fellow technocrat and ally, businessman Abdi Farah Shirdon Saaid, as prime minister with a mandate to promote national cohesion and fight nepotism.

-Pirate attacks fall sharply in 2012, with only 70 reported so far compared with 233 in 2011.

2013 April - President Barack Obama clears way for US to provide military assistance to Somalia after UN Security Council votes for partial lifting of embargo on selling arms to Somalia for a year in March.

-About 30 killed as gunmen storm Mogadishu's main court complex. Al-Shabab claims responsibility.

2013 June - Veteran Al-Shabab leader Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys is taken into custody by Somali government troops after he is ousted by more extreme Al-Shabab figure Ahmed Abdi Godane.

-Spike in violence with various attacks by Al-Shabab, including on presidential palace and UNDP compound in Mogadishu.

2013 July - Car bomb explodes near Turkish embassy in Mogadishu, killing a Turkish guard. Turkish institutions have been targeted before.

2013 August - Government agrees creation of new administration in Juba region, headed by former Islamist commander Sheikh Ahmed Madobe.

-Al-Shabab militants seize a shopping mall and kill 60 people in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, saying they are retaliating for Kenya's military involvement in Somalia.

2014 May - Al-Shabab says it carried out a bomb attack on a restaurant in Djibouti, saying the country is used as a launch pad to strike Muslims.

2014 June - US and EU officials meet President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud to discuss the deteriorating political situation in Somalia. They meet on a warship off Mogadishu for security reasons.
-Al-Shabab claims two attacks on the Kenyan coast which kill more than 60, saying operations against Kenya would continue.

Key Terms

Isaaq- Is one of the main clans of the Somali people. Members principally live in the northwestern Somaliland region of Somalia and the Somali Region of Ethiopia.

Somali National Movement (SNM) stronghold - Somali rebel group. Founded and led by Isaaq members to protect the clan's interests, it was key in the formation of Somaliland, a self-declared sovereign state that is internationally recognised as an autonomous region of Somalia.

Somaliland- In 1981, a group of Isaaq émigrés in London formed the Somali National Movement (SNM), who dedicated themselves to defeating Siad Barre, and invaded Northwestern Somalia via Ethiopia during the civil war. Siad Barre fought their forces for five years, but was eventually forced to withdraw from all of the former British Somaliland by 1991. The victorious SNM seized control of the territory and declared themselves independent on May 18, 1991.

USC- The United Somali Congress was one of the major paramilitary organizations in Somalia. Formed in 1987, it played a key role in the ouster of the government of Siad Barre in 1991, and became a target of the Unified Task Force campaign in 1993. Following infighting, the USC later splintered into smaller groups. By 2004, with the establishment of a Transitional National Government (TNG), a process of disarmament was put in motion and some moderate ex-USC leaders were incorporated into the new interim administration.

Puntland- Is a region in northeastern Somalia, centred on Garowe in the Nugal province. Its leaders declared the territory an autonomous state in 1998. Puntland is bordered by the Somaliland region to its west, the Gulf of Aden in the north, the Indian Ocean in the southeast, the central Galmudug region in the south, and Ethiopia in the southwest. A third of Somalia's population lives in the territory, which contains about a third of the nation's geographical area. Unlike neighboring Somaliland, Puntland, as with all other regions in the country, does not seek outright independence from Somalia.

Islamic Courts Unions- Was a group of Sharia courts that united themselves to form a rival administration to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, with Sharif Sheikh Ahmed as their head. They were also known as the Joint Islamic Courts, Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), Supreme Islamic Courts Council (SICC) or the Supreme Council of Islamic Courts (SCIC). Western media often refer to the group as Somali Islamists. Until the end of 2006, they controlled most of southern Somalia and the vast majority of its population, including most major cities such as Jowhar, Kismayo, Beledweyne, and the capital Mogadishu.

Transitional National Government (TNG)- A government was established in April–May 2000 at the Somalia National Peace Conference (SNPC) held in Arta, Djibouti.

African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)- Is an active, regional peacekeeping mission operated by the African Union with the approval of the United Nations in Somalia. It is mandated to support transitional governmental structures, implement a national security plan, train the Somali security forces, and to assist in creating a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian aid. It is currently composed by military units of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Kenya and Uganda.

Al-Shabab- Al Shabaab is al Qaeda's affiliate in Somalia and operates primarily out of the country's southern and central regions. The group is fighting an insurgency against the internationally recognized Somali Federal Government, which is based in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu. Al Shabaab has targeted African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) peacekeepers for their support of the federal government.

Guiding Questions

- What type of government would be best to stabilize the situation in Somalia?
- How can terrorism threat be prevented in Somalia?
- Should the UN or other countries interfere again?
- How can we create a lasting peace in Somalia? How can we prevent further conflicts?

- What are the reasons behind Somalia's lack of organized government?
- What have international organizations done in the past to address this issue and why have they failed?
- How is a lack of centralized government connected to other problems afflicting Somalia, such as famine and poverty?

Further Research

Somali Civil War background history:

- <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/somalia.htm>
- <http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21595950-most-recent-efforts-squash-insurgency-home-may-push-it>
- <http://www.kidzworld.com/article/7478-somalia>

Islamic Courts Unions and Ethiopia

- <http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/so-icu.html>

- <http://www.war-memorial.net/Ethiopia-vs-Somalia-3.160>

Involved Parts:

-<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1533900/11-states-fuelling-civil-war-in-Somalia.html>

Great Timelines

-<http://www.timelines.ws/countries/SOMALIA.HTML>

-<http://www.africaresearchinstitute.org/blog/somalia-in-2014/>