

# THE HORN OF AFRICA

Intra-State and Inter-State Conflicts and Security



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Edited by Redie Bereketeab







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#### **Abbreviations**

**EPRDF** 

EPRP ESPA

ABC Abyei Boundaries Commission ABY Abyei Allied Democratic Forces ADF AFP Agence France Presse Al-Ittihad Al-Islamiya AIAI AL Arab League African Union Mission in Sudan **AMIS** AMISOM African Union Mission to Somalia ARDU/F Afar Revolutionary Democratic Union/Front ARPCT Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter-Terrorism ARS Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia ATP Abyei Territory Puzzle AU African Union BLB Borderline Belt BNR Blue Nile River BNS Blue Nile State CAR Central African Republic CDO Closed Districts Ordinance CEWARN Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism **CPA** Comprehensive Peace Agreement **DMLK** Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Kunama DoP Declaration of Principles DPA Darfur Peace Agreement DUP Democratic Unionist Party Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission **EBBC ECOWAS** Economic Community of West African States **EDU** Ethiopian Democratic Union **EEZ** exclusive economic zone ELF Eritrea Liberation Front **EPDM** Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement Eritrean People's Liberation Front **EPLF EPPF** Ethiopian People's Patriotic Front

Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party

Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement

Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front

EU European Union

FRUD Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy

**GNU** Government of National Unity GoSS Government of South Sudan **ICU** Islamic Courts' Union

**IGAD** Inter-Governmental Authority on Development **IGDD** Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and

Development

IGAD Capacity Building Programme against **ICPAT** 

Terrorism

**IDPs** internally displaced persons **IPF** IGAD Partners' Forum

JEM Justice and Equality Movement

JIUs joint integrated units

Liberation and Justice Movement LJM

LRA Lord's Resistance Army NBI Nile Basin Initiative NCP National Congress Party NDA National Democratic Alliance **NFD** Northern Frontier Districts **NSDB** North Sudan Dragon Belt

OAU Organization of African Unity OIC Organization of the Islamic Conference

OLF Oromo Liberation Front

ONLF Ogaden National Liberation Front PCA Permanent Court of Arbitration

**PFDI** People's Front for Democracy and Justice

PRP People's Rally for Progress

Red Sea Afar Democratic Organization **RSADO** 

RSS Republic of South Sudan

Southern African Development Community SADC

SAF Sudan Armed Forces SDS South Darfur State SINS Sinnar State

SKS South Kordofan State

SLM Sudan Liberation Movement SNM Somali National Movement **SPLA** Sudan People's Liberation Army

SPLM/A Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army

Supreme Revolutionary Council SRC

SRRC Somalia Reconciliation and Restoration Council

SSDF Somali Salvation Democratic Front

Somali Youth League SYL TAP Two Areas Protocol

TBC Technical Border Committee

TFG Transitional Federal Government TFI

Transitional Federal Institutions TFP Transitional Federal Parliament TNG Transitional Government

**TPLF** Tigray People's Liberation Front

TRS The Republic of Sudan TTAs Three Transitional Areas

UIC Union of Islamic Courts

UN United Nations UNAMID

United Nations African Mission in Darfur **UNMID** United Nations Mission in Darfur

UNS Upper Nile State

UNSC United Nations Security Council

UP Umma Party

UPDA Uganda People's Democratic Army United Somali Congress USC

United Western Somali Liberation Front **UWSLF** 

White Nile River WNR

WNS White Nile State WNSB White Nile Sugar Bowl

WSLF Western Somali Liberation Front

# Selected Chronology

SUDAN	
1955	Emergence of Anyanya I
1956	Independence of Sudan
1958	Military coup by General Aboud
1964	Popular uprising, General Aboud deposed, civilian
	government
1969	Military coup by General Ghaffar El Nimeiri
1972	Addis Ababa Agreement, end of first civil war
1983	Collapse of Addis Ababa Agreement, second civil war SPLM/A
1985	General El Nimeiri deposed by popular uprising
1986	Introduction of civilian government
1989	Military coup supported by National Islamic Front
2003	Darfur war breaks out
2005	Signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement
2011	9 January, referendum in South Sudan
2011	9 July, South Sudan independence
SOMALIA	
1941	Defeat of Italy, Four Powers to decide fate of Somalia
1948	Four Powers refer Somalia to UN
1950	Italy and Somali Trusteeship
1960	Somalia becomes independent
1964	War between Ethiopia and Somalia
1969	Military coup by General Siad Barre
1977-78	War between Ethiopia and Somalia
1981	Outbreak of civil war
1991	Collapse of the Siad Barre regime
1991	Somaliland declares independence
2000	Formation Transitional National Government
2004	Formation Transitional Federal Government
ETHIOPIA	
1935	Italian invasion
1941	Return of the emperor from exile

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1973 1974 1975 1977 1984 1989 1991	Foundation of OLF Fall of the monarchy Foundation of the TPLF The Dergue allies itself with the Soviet Union Foundation of the ONLF Foundation of the EPRDF Demise of the Dergue. EPRDF takes power OLF second armed struggle
ERITREA	
	Colonized by Italy Defeat of Italy, Four Powers take over UN decides to federate Eritrea with Ethiopia Federation begins Launching of armed struggle by the ELF Eritrea Annexed by Ethiopia Formation of the EPLF First civil war Second civil war Eritrea gains independence War breaks out between Eritrea and Ethiopia
DJIBOUTI	
1977 1991 1994 2001 2008 2010	Djibouti becomes independent Foundation of FRUD Peace agreement with faction of FRUD Peace agreement with remaining faction of FRUD Conflict with Eritrea FRUD launches armed rebellion

#### **Foreword**

The Horn of Africa continues to hold the attention of many strategic thinkers and commentators, leaders, scholars, policy makers and citizens of the countries in the region. While some note that it has remained one of Africa's most conflicted and unstable regions, others draw attention to the emergence of some unique experiments in managing diversity, state formation and governance, and forms of engagement with outside cultures and influences. Whether seen from the perspective of state, intra-state and inter-state conflicts, the absence of peace in the Horn has its roots in a long and complex history, political economy, state formation processes and struggles, international intervention, identity conflicts and environmental change. Untangling the complex web of conflicts, understanding the connections at the local, sub-national, national, regional and global levels, engaging in deeper reflections and proffering viable options for promoting participatory, sustainable people-centred peace and development in the Horn remain compelling challenges.

In the days of the East-West Cold War, the Horn was one of the spaces within Africa where the superpowers fought proxy wars which were always to the detriment of the peoples of their client-states and neighbouring regions. The end of the Cold War and the impact of global transformations on the Horn have been as complex as they are far-reaching. Intra-state wars have mutated either in response to the collapse of central authority as in the case of Somalia, or to the survival, splintering or emergence of rebel groups, leading to immense suffering, international intervention and the emergence of new conflict actors. It has also contributed to the birth of new states such as Eritrea, and most recently South Sudan, and the unrecognized states of Somaliland and Puntland. The brief war between Ethiopia and Eritrea reminds us of earlier cases of inter-state conflict in the Horn, but it is important to note that beyond being conflict actors or sites of conflict within national borders, states can be conflict actors in intra-state conflicts in other countries. However, the conflict dynamics in the Horn have not been limited to within state borders or limited to state actors, but have drawn in non-state actors. Non-state actors, such as militias, rebel groups and armed bands, have proliferated in some of the countries, operating within and across borders, with violent conflict assuming cross-border and regional dimensions. This scenario is further complicated by the involvement of diasporas, trans-territorial actors and the world's established and emerging powers in the festering conflicts.

As this study of the Horn aptly demonstrates, the local, sub-national, state and inter-state levels of the conflicts in the Horn are feeding the securitization of the region and higher levels of international intervention and indeed military presence, driven by the 'new international scramble for markets and natural resources', the global war on terror and the war on piracy in the coastal waters of the Horn. The emerging paradox is a scenario of growing concern about the risks and insecurities that the higher stakes portend, as well as a lingering hope that peace and development lie somewhere beyond the war-scarred horizon, regional-institutional responses and the conflicting interests of hegemonic national, regional and global interests.

In a region and continent where the stirrings of an Arab Spring and episodic outbursts of various 'Springs' sit cheek by jowl with the challenges of everyday survival, the contributors to this compelling volume challenge us to imagine that the people of the Horn as sovereign actors can, through everyday struggles, in the future negotiate a new social contract with the states and regional institutions, and perhaps open up radical pathways to peace and development in a highly conflicted region.

Cyril Obi Social Science Research Council New York, 2012

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# Part I Causes of Conflicts

1

#### Introduction

#### Redie Bereketeab

This book explores perspectives on intra-state and inter-state conflicts in the Horn of Africa. Comprising Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, this is the most conflicted region in the African continent. The recent major expressions of these virulent conflicts are manifested in the second North–South civil war (1983–2005) in Sudan and the intra-state war in Darfur (Johnson 2003; Deng 2010; Barltrop 2011); as well as the inter-state Ethiopian–Eritrean war of 1998–2000, which devastated the region (Jacquin-Berdal and Plaut 2004). Since 9/11, the region also has become one of the theatres of the global war on terror, driven principally by factors related to the collapse of the Somali state and the emergence of al-Shabaab, and the escalation of piracy off the Somali coast.

The conflicts ravaging the region are underpinned by historical, socio-economic and environmental issues and can be classified into two categories: intra-state and inter-state. Furthermore, they have been compounded by intra-regional and international intervention. Ostensibly, such interventions have been driven by competing national interests and a multitude of factors – economic, political, security-related and strategic – linked to the war on terror and international alarm about piracy (Sörenson 2008; Zeleza 2008). International interventions, therefore, have contributed to the intractability of the conflicts and insecurity of the Horn (Cliffe 2004; Woodward 2006).

The strategic importance of its location has always attracted outside interest, notably the proximity of the Horn of Africa to the highly sensitive region of the Middle East, where two factors – oil and the Arab–Israeli conflict – interface. In addition, Bal el Mandeb and the Red Sea are the main shipping route for goods from the Middle East and the Far East to Europe and the Americas (Sörenson 2008: 8). The discovery of natural resources, highly coveted by transnational corporations and states alike, also makes the region of strategic interest to external actors, with the result that the global

war on terror and the recent explosion of piracy have seen naval forces converging off the coast of the Horn.

All these factors feed into the crisis of the state, which has become a characteristic of the region. Equally, the crisis of the state feeds into the conflicts and insecurities there. All these factors require more scientific and critical studies of the conflicts and their regional dynamics. This volume seeks to contribute to the provision of tools that scholars, policy makers and concerned actors need in their search of scientific and critical, context-sensitive studies, relevant and well-formulated policies and regional outlook, making concerted and rigorous efforts to find viable and durable solutions to these extensive and intractable conflicts and insecurities.

The intra- and inter-state conflicts besetting the Horn of Africa are intimately connected. Intra-state conflicts very easily spill across international boundaries triggering conflict between states, resulting in inter-state conflicts. Inter-state conflicts also tend to spawn national cleavages, that is to say intra-state conflicts. In recent decades inter-state conflicts have been steadily waning, while intra-state conflicts have increased (Goor et al. 1996, Fearon and Laitin 2003; Smith 2004; Zeleza 2008).

The contributors to this volume reflect on and analyse various dimensions and cases of intra-state and inter-state conflicts and security in the Horn of Africa. They examine a variety of aspects that exacerbate conflict situations. A focus on conflicts and security is the integrating theme. The problem of intra- and inter-state conflicts and security and how to promote peace, stability, security and development are addressed. This first chapter offers an overview of the chapters by focusing on the types and forms of the conflicts, and international intervention and politics of conflict resolution.

#### **DEFINING INTRA-STATE AND INTER-STATE CONFLICTS**

Conflict as a social phenomenon is widely perceived to be part of daily life (Axt et al. 2006: 19). Its manifestation, however, varies, contingent on a number of factors – contestation, the actors involved, duration, accessibility to conflict-sustaining technology, and so on. Concerning the origin of conflicts two approaches are provided (Axt et al. 2006): the subjective and the objective. While the objective approach traces the origin of conflict to the sociopolitical fabric and structure of society, the subjective approach attributes the origin of conflicts to the perceived incompatibility of goals and differences (Deutsch 1991). According to the latter