HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN SOMALIA: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS, 1991-2012
BY:

SUPERVISOR: DR. IBRAHIM FARAH

ABDIRAHMAN ABDULLAHI AHMED
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ABSTRACT
The overthrow of President SiyadBarre in 1991 marked a turning point in Somali politics,
economy and society. After the ousting of Barre regime by the Rebel forces in 1991, turmoil, factional fighting, and anarchy ensued in Somali. The Somali National Movement (SNM) gained control of the north, while in the capital of Mogadishu and most of southern Somalia, the United Somali Congress achieved control. Somalia had been without a stable central government since Mohamed Siad Barre fled the country in 1991. Generally, security situation in Somalia is unpredictable and in particular the capital Mogadishu is marked by daily hand-grenade attacks and roadside bombs directed at Ethiopian soldiers and the Somali government forces. Accordingly, traditional or customary law is the most prevalent legal system in today’s Somali in their role as enforcers of law and order within and between clans; traditional leaders have come under sustained pressure from Somalia’s long-lasting environment of conflict, rapid socioeconomic change and the absence of law and order. In the next chapter I will discuss the human rights issues in Somalia from the periods 1991-2012.

The European colonization of Somalia and the Horn of Africa involved periods of warfare between the colonialists and Darawish forces of Siyad Mohamed Abdulla Hassan and between Britain and Italy during World War II. In this regard, colonialism is said to have had a permanently damaging effect on the Somali people, Somalia’s socio-economic system and attempts at post-independence reconstruction. The study will see that if Somali state was heavily dependent on foreign aid. As this aid declined in the late 1980s, what was the end result? Political and economic competition among the elite was turned inwards over Somalia’s local resources. The study will find out that if the conflict in Somalia from its onset was caused by clannism and nepotism and unequal distribution of the natural resources whereby the country was divided between the northerners (marginalized) and the southerners (elites) as some quarters had claimed in this study. War crimes were also allegedly committed, and the study will expose if such crimes were committed against the people of Somalia.