

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Somalian civil war has dated back since the early years of 1991 which at that time Somalia are experiencing the outcome of violence and destruction within the region of Somalia as a result of several factors such as political, social, and historical¹. In the historical context, Somalia were divided into five separate territory and are controlled by Ethiopia, France, Italy, and the British which controls different values of dominance². Such division of territory can create a great cause and impact towards the outburst of the conflict. The main trigger of the Somalian Civil War happened during the year of 1991 as Major General Muhammad Siad Barre took the position within the country as the president at that time³. The regime of Siad Barre did not last long as there are several contradicting issue regarding the regime which leads towards the key factor that drives towards the outburst of the conflict which is the action of conducting a coup against the presidency of Siad Barre which has led towards the absence of a strong central political figure to maintain the status quo and stability of Somalia that causes the weakening and instability of the country as a whole⁴. Since the absence of the state power as Siad

¹ Solomon A. Dersso. "The Somalia Conflict: Implications for peacemaking and peacekeeping efforts." *The Somalia Conflict* , 2009: 1-2.

² Seth G. Jones., et al. "Somalia." In *Securing Health: Lessons from Nation-Building Missions*, 85-86. RAND Corporation, 2006.

³ James Dobbins, et al. "Somalia ." In *America's Role in Nation-Building: From Germany to Iraq*, 55-56. RAND Corporation , 2003.

⁴ Ibid.

Barres' regime had been dismissed, multiple violent events have occurred through the year which built up towards the civil war in Somalia.

Looking from the root causes of the Somalian civil war, it was clear and certain that there are several root causes that caused the outburst of the Somalian civil war that can be an important factor to be considered. One of the important root causes of the conflict is regarding the experience of colonialization by the European countries which consist of French Somaliland, British Somaliland, Italian Somaliland, The Northern Frontier District, and The Ogaden region that had divided Somalia into five different parts with each territorial part holding different values of sovereignty⁵. Aside from the historical context of the root cause, the collapse of Siad Barre's regime had also a colossal impact towards the Somalian civil war that has experienced loss of control and power which leads to the instability of the country as there was no political figure to hold the country's sovereignty at one piece.

The tension of the Somalian civil war grew gradually as there are more actors involved such as the Transnational Federal Government and many radical groups such as Al-Shabaab, Al-Qaeda, ISIL, and many more⁶. The root cause of the self-determined groups within the powerless state right after the coup of Siad Barres' regime allowed the radical groups such as Al-Shabaab to exercise their ability of dominance among several inhabitant clans in Somalia that are intended to break

⁵ Solomon A. Dersso. "The Somalia Conflict: Implications for peacemaking and peacekeeping efforts." *The Somalia Conflict*, 2009: 1-2.

⁶ Ibid.

down the hierarchy as they reside several leaders among the clans' territory.⁷ The lack of state control indicated that several political disputes are uncontrollable and could lead towards chaos. From the historical view, the demolition of the ICU (Islamic Court Union) led towards the emergence of extremist groups such as Al-Shabaab as they spread the Islamic ideology that are considered blemished towards the territory of Somalia and are affianced in supremacy as they executed methods of tax gathering and the offering of safety across southern Somalia as they are aiming towards expanding their power.⁸ Without any government power, the extremist groups are bound to limitless self-determination opportunities in conquering Somalia.

Regarding the case of the Somalian civil war, there must be a specific reason to explain why the civil war has not been able to be prevented and kept at a minimum impact towards the sovereignty of Somalia. The most effective methods in tackling the issue is to analyze the root cause and the grand trigger of the conflict and tackle the problem with the most effective methods. During the Somalian civil war, there has been several methods attempted regarding a pursue to put an end towards the continuously growing civil war. One of the methods implemented during the peak of the crisis is the method of intervention. The interventions that have been done during the Somalian civil war includes parties such as The United Nation Peacekeeping troops. Even when the attempts conducted by the UN Peacekeeping troops was quite late, their significant role in the Somalian civil war was astonishing

⁷ E. Kessels, T. Durner, & M. Schwartz. *Violent Extremism and Instability in the Greater Horn of Africa*. Global Center on Cooperative Security. 2016.

⁸ N. Stremlau. Governance Without Government In The Somali Territories. *Journal of International Affairs*. 2018: 73-89.

as they play an important aid in the field of humanitarian assistance as they hold multiple complex execution as peacekeeping, peace-making, peace enforcement and nation building⁹. Even after the attempts of intervention, the method was not enough and unsuccessful to fully eradicate the problem intoxicating Somalia as the problem kept on growing into a greater level of threat. Several attempts have been exercised towards eradicating the Somalian Civil War which most of them ended up as a failed method. In understanding the concept of conflict prevention, several methods could be analyzed accordingly in order to conclude the most suitable solution towards the Somalian Civil War.

Referring to the brief background information regarding the Somalian civil war, by understanding the key point of the conflict management failure during the Somalian civil war as well as the consideration of the root causes, this research explains the lesson learned from the Somalian civil war that the international community could implement as the benchmark of a better conflict prevention in the future. Therefore, this research focuses on the study concerning the reinvention of the international conflict prevention mechanism in the international system that can be learned from the Somalian civil war.

⁹ Ray Murphy. "Response to the interventions in Lebanon, Somalia, and Kosovo." In *UN Peacekeeping in Lebanon, Somalia and Kosovo: Operational and Legal Issues in Practice*. Cambridge University Press. 2007: 48-49.

1.2 Research Question

From the facts that has been provided regarding the background of the research topic, this study would like to propose three research questions. The following are the questions proposed for the research paper:

1. What are the root causes of the Somalian Civil War?
2. Why did the conflict prevention method in the Somalian Civil War failed?
3. What are some conflict prevention methods that can be used in the future to avoid the outbreak such as the Somalian Civil War?

1.3 Research Objective

The objective of this research is to explain the Somalian Civil War as a case study towards the analysis of the conflict prevention mechanism in the international system. The research talks about the system of conflict prevention along with several proposed suggestions to improve the conflict prevention methods for future conflicts and to avoid a violent outbreak such as the Somalian Civil War. Through an understanding about the background and the root causes of the Somalian Civil War, this study analyzes the causes of the conflicts that has resulted in previous failures of conflict prevention methods attempted to ensure peace in Somalia. This research also identifies several suggestions regarding the conflict prevention methods that can be used in the future towards an ongoing conflict.

1.4 Research Significance

This study provides facts and analysis regarding the Somalian Civil War and the failed conflict prevention attempted to eradicate the conflict. This research can provide a thorough analysis of conflict prevention methods that are necessary towards preventing a certain dispute. This study expects that the reader could learn about the background causes of the Somalian Civil War as well as why the method of conflict prevention had failed to manage the conflict from escalating into a greater level. In addition, the reader could also analyze the conflict prevention and conflict management method used during the Somalian Civil War and learn from the failures of the implication in order to understand a better management of conflict prevention in the future.

1.5 Structure of Writing

The first chapter of this thesis, which is the introduction, discusses about the background of the topic, the elaboration of the research questions that will be used to answer the research topic, the purpose of this research, and the significance of this research.

The second chapter of this thesis, which is the theoretical framework, elaborates the literature review that will be used as a guideline towards understanding the basic idea of the thesis. Along with the literature review, the second chapter also elaborates the theory and concepts that will help further analyze the research topic of reinventing the conflict prevention mechanism in the international system by referring towards the case study of the Somalian Civil War.

The third chapter of this thesis, which is the methodology, implements the explanation of the research approach, research method, data collection technique, and data analysis used as the method of collecting valid data and materials for this thesis.

The fourth chapter of this thesis, which is the analysis, discusses and answers the research questions proposed. The beginning of the chapter elaborated about the first research question of the research topic which is regarding the background of the Somalian Civil War along with the root causes that contributed towards the conflict. The following discussion examines the previously conducted conflict prevention methods that have failed in the past along with the analysis regarding the reasons why the method was ineffective. Lastly, from the previous analysis regarding the ineffective approach of conflict prevention, several suggestions regarding the light and deep conflict prevention method will be elaborated along with the suggested approach for future conflicts to avoid outbreaks such as the Somalian Civil War.

The fifth and final chapter of this thesis, which is the conclusion, concludes the research topic of this thesis by thoroughly providing the answers found within the fourth chapter. The fifth chapter also provides recommendations concerning the topic of the research regarding the conflict prevention method that should be used towards future cases as well as towards improving a better research of the similar topics in the future.