



# Understanding the Somalia Conflagration: Identity, Political Islam and Peacebuilding

By Afyare Abdi Elmi

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Somalia has been devastated by a US-backed Ethiopian invasion and years of civil war, and it has long been without a central government. Against this background of violence, Somali academic Afyare Abdi Elmi, attempts to explain the multiple dimensions of the conflict and find a peace-building consensus.

Somalia is a failed state and a Muslim state. This combination means the West assumes that it will become a breeding ground for extremism. The country regularly hits the headlines as a piracy hotspot. This combination of internal division and outside interference makes for an intensely hostile landscape. Elmi shows that only by addressing the problem of the statelessness in the country can the long process of peace begin. He highlights clan identities, Islam and other countries in the region as the key elements in any peace-building effort.

This unique account from an author who truly understands Somalia should be required reading for students and academics of international relations and peace / conflict studies.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

To the best of my knowledge provides unequalled documentation on the actors in the drama of Somalia' -- Samir Amin In this excellent, well-researched work, Elmi gets right to the heart of what makes Somalia a failed state and what are the prerequisites for sustainable peacebuilding to take root in that unfortunate war-torn country. This is a must-read for anyone concerned about the plight of the Horn of Africa and the fate of Somalia. -- W. Andy Knight, Chair and Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta A timely, topically urgent and well-written book that adds much to the literature on Somali studies. It should benefit students and researchers in all areas of the social and educational sciences, and it could influence policy development in the Somali context, and by extension, perhaps other parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. -- Ali A. Abdi, University of Alberta Elmi's contribution is most effective when it examines the Islamic awakening and historicizing Islam. ... [the book] provides useful understanding of an important area. -- CHOICE

#### **About the Author**

**Afyare Abdi Elmi** teaches at the Department of International Affairs at Qatar University.

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