



# Model Arab League

## Annotated Bibliography for Somalia

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This annotated bibliography was created to serve as a research resource for students taking part in the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Model Arab League Program. With the understanding that research can be intimidating and time consuming, an effort was made to find a set of scholarly articles that give a detailed background and thorough account of the current situation for this League of Arab States member. Included are annotations designed to give a description of the source with the intention of students completing the research on their own. There has been an attempt to focus on more contemporary scholarship, specifically post-9/11 and post-2011 (so-called "Arab Spring") where possible, as these are two phenomena that fundamentally changed politics in the Arab world. These sources should provide students with a solid basis for understanding the country they are representing in both regionally and globally significant issues as well as the interests of other countries within the League of Arab States.

1. Debarati Guha-Sapir, Ruwan Ratnayake, "Consequences of Ongoing Civil Conflict in Somalia: Evidence for Public Health Responses," *PLoS Medicine*, Volume 6, Issue 8, August 2009, pp. 1-5. •• Somalia has been subjected to recurrent crises since the 90's with a recent surge in 2006. After 2006, there was a measurable increase in the numbers of Somali people in need of emergency food aid, but often times these crises have included attacks against aid organizations and their workers. Concerning is the fact that death rates per 10,000 people in Somalia have remained above internationally determined crisis rates since 2006, and this study attributes the retention of high mortality to the deterioration of health services and agriculture post-conflict. Included are diagrams showing the death rates according to age group and region, and a heat map of Somalia showing the most affected regions geographically. The authors advocate for a refocusing of aid onto health based priorities.
2. J. Ashley Roach, "Countering Piracy off Somalia: International Law and International Institutions," *The American Journal of International Law*, Volume 104, Number 3, July 2010, pp. 397-416. •• Recently, piracy off the coast of Somalia has become an internationally significant issue. The perpetrators in these cases have typically been Somali youth drawn into the committing piracy because of the "easy money", usually obtained by capturing ships crews and collecting ransoms dropped in Somalia or Kenya. Until 2008, international law was inapplicable and/or unenforceable when it came to crimes of piracy in territorial seas, and therefore gave Somali pirates safe haven within its maritime borders. A surge in pirate activity then led to the UN Security Council passing Resolution 1816 and other international organizations followed suit. This article gives a detailed overview into the history of international law regarding piracy and how it has been applied in the Somali case.

3. Tyler Stiem, "In Somalia's Shadow," *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, Volume 88, Number 1, Winter 2012, pp. 70-91. •• Due to historical divisions created by colonialism, the north of Somalia is actually an autonomous region called Somaliland although it is unrecognized internationally. In an attempt to break from colonialism, General Mohamed Siad Barre led a coup against the European occupiers in 1969. A later war with Ethiopia in 1977 would heavily weaken Somalia as a state and create the beginnings of the north-south division. Northern clans in Somalia were marginalized, instilling in them the desire to separate and eventually rebel. This article presents a subjective account of conditions in Somaliland in the modern day. Locals tell stories of traumatization and the reader is given a window into daily life in the region.
4. Ireneaus Sindani, Christopher Fitzpatrick, Dennis Falzon, Bashir Suleiman, Peter Arube, Ismail Adam, Samiha Baghdadi, Amal Bassili, and Matteo Zignol, "Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis, Somalia, 2010–2011," *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, Volume 19, Number 3, March 2013, pp. 478-480. •• As one of the poorest and least developed countries today, healthcare provision in Somalia is constantly lacking. Much of the widespread death occurring in Somalia can be attributed to preventable and communicable diseases like Tuberculosis. This recent study found that due to poor healthcare systems and education, multi-drug resistant Tuberculosis is on the rise. Furthermore, the cost of treating Tuberculosis infections greatly outweighs the cost of preventing them, and therefore the authors recommend additional funding for detection and second line medication.
5. Ted Dagne, "Somalia: Prospects for a Lasting Peace," *Mediterranean Quarterly*, Volume 20, Number 2, Spring 2009, pp. 95-112. •• In contemporary Somali history, "there have been fourteen Somali reconciliation or peace conferences to bring an end to the fighting in Somalia since the early 1990's." These conferences and interventions have been undertaken by a wide range of regional and international actors, and most of the time to no avail. In addition, the number of militia groups vying for power within Somalia has increased, making creation of any sort of central governance much more difficult. Finally, many Somali fishermen have been driven to piracy because toxic waste dumping has killed off fish populations. This article describes the problems Somalia is facing in detail and provides possible solutions to them. For example, some Somali community leaders think a viable option for dealing with piracy is to appeal to the Islamist groups who deem piracy morally reprehensible and do not want to be associated with it.
6. Mwangi S. Kimenyi, John Mukum Mbaku, and Nelipher Moyo, "Reconstituting Africa's Failed States: The Case of Somalia," *Social Research*, Volume 77, Issue 4, Winter 2010, pp. 1339-1366. •• While there is not an accepted definition for a "failed state", many would agree that a failed state is one that does not maintain territorial integrity and does not provide its citizens with basic security. According to these authors,

Somalia is one of these failed states by any definition, as it has many fractured autonomous zones, does not have a “monopoly on legitimate physical violence,” and is lacking critical infrastructures that governments are expected to provide to some extent, like healthcare and education systems. This article includes a long literature review on the concept of state failure in order to qualify its judgment of Somalia as a failed state. Later, the authors provide recommendations for rescuing Somalia that include a multilateral military intervention to restore order and the building of regular state institutions.

7. Skye Cooley and Amy Jones, “A Forgotten Tweet: Somalia and Social Media,” *Ecquid Novi: African Journalism Studies*, Volume 34, Issue 1, February 2013, pp. 68-82. •• In 2011, the UN officially declared a famine in Somalia based on numbers of children suffering and dying of starvation. Unfortunately, the Somali famine was determined to be multiple times worse in terms of the human toll than other disasters around the world, yet the Somali famine received far less news coverage and therefore far less international aid funding. Two multilateral organizations, the UNHCR and the African Union (AU) attempted to raise awareness and garner funding through online updates and tweets to the international community. This article examines the strategies used by the UNHCR and the AU in terms of their online presence and in doing so, the reader is given an understanding of the gravity of the very recent Somali famine.
8. Peter Woodward, “Somalia and Sudan: A Tale of Two Peace Processes,” *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, Volume 93, Number 375, July 2004, pp. 469–481. •• When this article was written in 2004, both Somalia and Sudan had been experiencing constant conflict since the 1990’s. In the case of Sudan, the southern separatist movement had been trying to secede because of the Islamization and Arabization projects of the northern controlled government. In Somalia, following the collapse of the government in 1991, no central government rose to take its place and the country was divided among clan territories as autonomous regions. This article can be used as a primary source on the history of attempts at peace negotiations in both Sudan and Somalia. In comparing the two, Sudan’s attempts were characterized by a lack of inclusiveness where the opposite was true for Somalia, there were simply too many parties wanting representation. Finally, this article explains how other countries like Egypt had, and probably still have interests in these peace negotiations.
9. Robert L. Feldman, “Amidst the Chaos a Small Force for Stability: Somalia’s Business Community,” *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, Volume 23, Number 2, May 2012, pp. 295-306. •• Despite being ravaged by conflict for multiple decades now, there are some businesses within Somalia that continue to operate and may serve as a basis for reconstruction. Lack of governance in the Somali case has both permitted and hampered business enterprises from starting up and expanding. On the one hand, lack of

government means there are next to zero regulations placed on businesses and they have almost no taxes. On the other hand, the lack of government means security and stability are fleeting; factories have to hire independent armed guards to protect their workers and products, and even then they estimate that they lose about 10% of their product in shipping. This author argues that in a sense, Somalia can be seen as the epitome of capitalism. The author concludes by explaining that there is a predicament that needs to be faced, namely whether stability comes before progress or vice versa. He adds that there are small steps that can be taken to improve both.

10. Abdi Ismail Samatara, Mark Lindberga & Basil Mahayni, “The Dialectics of Piracy in Somalia: The Rich versus the Poor,” *Third World Quarterly*, Volume 31, Number 8, 2010, pp. 1377-1394. •• Much attention has been paid to the problem of Somali piracy, a phenomenon unheard of around the Horn of Africa until 1989. While persistent conflict and governmental collapse certainly contributed to the rise of piracy, there are a number of social and economic factors that led to the apparent acceptance of carrying out piracy. Furthermore, these socio-economic conditions in Somalia have spawned different types of piracy, some of which set precedents and paved the way for other, worse forms. This article illustrates the historical contexts that allowed piracy to grow in Somalia and to become an almost legitimate profession in some Somali peoples’ views. It is critical to understand the different types of piracy that a present, namely political piracy, resource piracy, defensive piracy, ransom piracy.
11. Oscar Gakuo Mwangi, “The Union of Islamic Courts and Security Governance in Somalia,” *African Security Review*, Volume 19, Issue 1, March 2010, pp. 88-94. •• In June 2006, the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) gained power in Somalia and offered the first glimpses of stability in 15 years. The UIC was a welcomed change from the warlord driven factions that were tearing the country apart. Unfortunately, the UIC began to become dominated by fundamentalist Islamist groups like al-Shabaab, and only six months later the UIC rule collapsed. This article examines the short period of time in which Somalia experienced stability under the UIC and what led to the failure of the system. Specifically, this author argues that the embracing of jihadist ideologies made neighboring Ethiopia feel threatened enough to invade with international support.
12. H. A. Houghton-Carr, C. R. Print, M. J. Fry, H. Gadain, and P. Muchiri, “An Assessment of the Surface Water Resources of the Juba-Shabelle Basin in Southern Somalia,” *Hydrological Sciences Journal*, Volume 56, Issue 5, July 2011, pp. 759–774. •• Recurring conflict has severely damaged water resource monitoring efforts in Somalia, especially in the south. Monitoring of the Juba and Shabelle rivers is crucial, as they provide the majority of water for irrigation in this area and ground water is considered to be of low quality. After 1991, monitoring completely stopped and is making a slow

recovery. This study uses what little of the more recent data on the rivers there is and finds that flow levels are actually predicted to increase. This prediction however is not without a balancing factor, that is, along with predicted increases in the overall flow of these rivers, there are also predictions of more frequent drought periods. The authors advocate for improving the river and water monitoring systems in Somalia in order to better predict and plan for future drought and flood events.