

**CLAN WARLORDS AS A CHALLENGE IN SEARCH OF A  
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN  
MOGADISHU, SOMALIA**

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## ABSTRACT

With the collapse of Siad Barre's government in 1991, Somalia, and more specifically, Mogadishu has been characterized by civil wars. These wars are primarily clan based and, as a result, clanism has emerged as the single most important factor in determining the political and the general wellbeing of the Somalis. Despite several attempts to find a lasting solution to the raging war in Somalia not much has been achieved. Specifically, not much is known about the role that clanism plays in fuelling the civil war and the resultant lawlessness. The main objective of this study was to investigate the nature of clanism and the challenges it possess towards the peace process in Mogadishu. The study was informed by the theory of conflict dynamics in divided society which postulates that inequality in political and economic power between different groups as well as the existence of incompatible ideological convictions generates conditions for polarization and violence. The study comprised of field work done in Mogadishu between March and September, 2009 where relevant data was gathered from different sources and adopted purposive sampling technique. Data collection tools included interview, questionnaire, as well as focus individual and group discussions were used in order to get relevant information from the field. The study findings have shown that clanism contrives to be cancerous and will continue to be so. Inter- clan rivalry and warfare is indeed dictated by clan goals that have to do with political power, land, and the state of the economy as well as other social issues. At the heart of all this is, therefore, the need for Somalis to align themselves along their clans. The study argues that clanism, therefore, emerges as the only viable political option hence the escalation of the war in Mogadishu. The study further gives clear and basic information to the reader about the Somali conflict, which based on clan goals of dimensions. It revealed that clanism has played a significant role in the Somali crisis and the current scenario that the country is in. The study found out that the entire peace initiatives, which have been conducted, were based on 4.5 formulae and none has been successful. However, the establishment of an effective government in Somalia has yet to take root due to clanism. The research work is presenting in a way that will generate interest, and motivate the understanding of clanism. The study findings have shown that the rift between the clans has effectively hindered the work of peace process in Mogadishu. The study revealed that there is a broad range of clan objectives, which each clan fighting to be achieved for their own benefits along. The study focused on six different goals that each clan determines to achieve. These have contributed to the escalation of conflict and political instability in the country. The study revealed that all political functions have been inclined towards clan lines and fights for its aspirations. The study recommends that Somali people should not depend on external actors to provide self-appointed governments, who have not been elected by the Somali people. Despite the challenges that lay ahead, the study recommends that there is need to have a credible, Islamic- oriented political force to neutralize the excessive influence of clan warlords.