

# Somalia: An Analysis of Social Fit

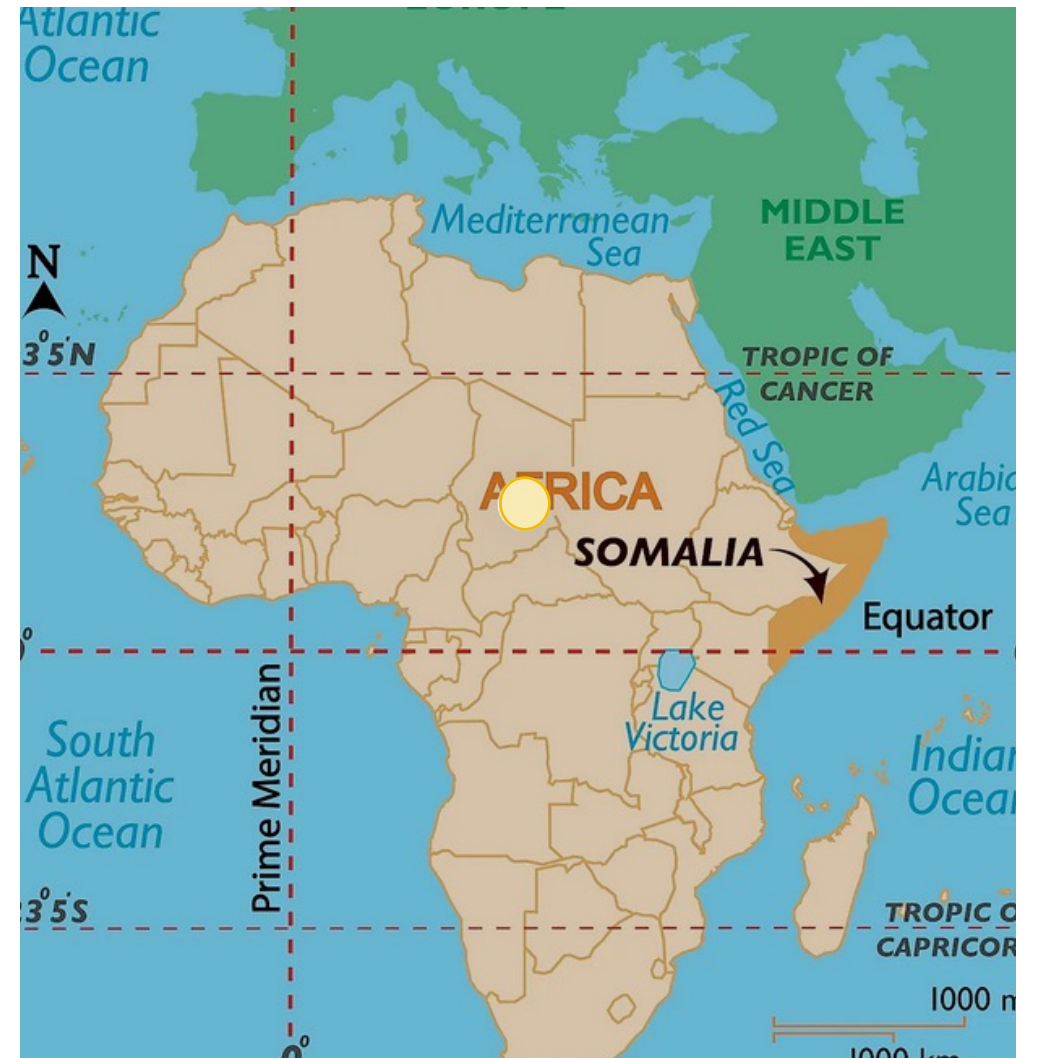
Colonel John Bishop

Advisor: Dr. Natalia Mirovitskaia

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# Agenda

- Why?
- What is Social Fit?
- Historical Context
- Applying Social Fit
- Policy Implications
- Questions



**640,000 Sq KM**  
**12 Million People**  
**99% Sunni Muslim**

# Social Fit: A Framework

## Ideological Resonance

- Alignment of governance with society's critical beliefs or values

## Expectations of Social Contract

- Expected functions of the government by citizens and performance of functions

## Comfort and Familiarity

- Degree members of society are comfortable and familiar with processes used by government in conducting affairs

# Brief History: Sultanates & Colonization



7<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Century Islamic Sultanates

## 1884 Conference on Colonization of Africa

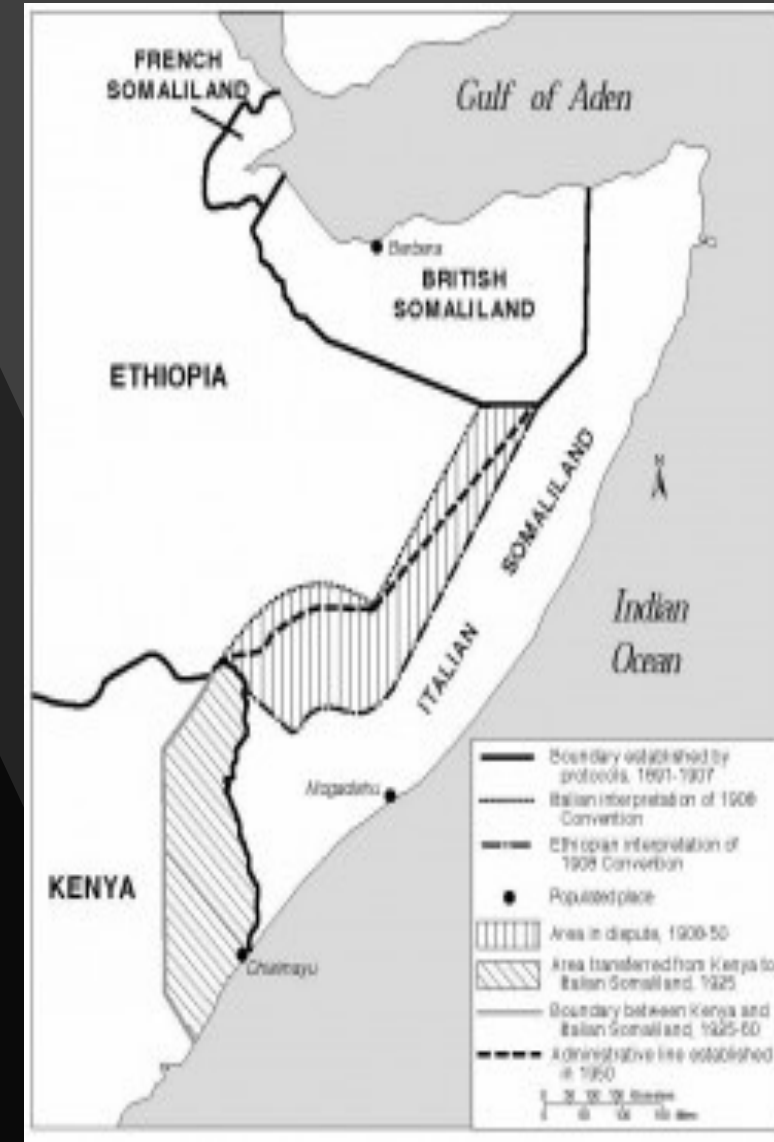
- French Somaliland: Djibouti
- British Somaliland
- Italian Somaliland
- Ethiopia Ogaden Region
- British Kenyan Northern Frontier District

## World War II & British Military Administration

- UN International Trusteeship 1950
- Italian trusteeship

## British Protectorate and Italian Trusteeship merge

- 1960 Somalia granted independence (Democracy)



# Brief History: Post Colonization

## Democracy 1960-1969

- Nationalism – emergence of “Greater Somalia” (Somali Youth League)
- USSR support to Somalia Military
- 1964: Armed Conflict with Ethiopia- Ogaden
- 1964: Support to Guerillas in Northern Frontier District- Kenya
- 1969 President Sharmarke assassination

## Socialism 1969-1991

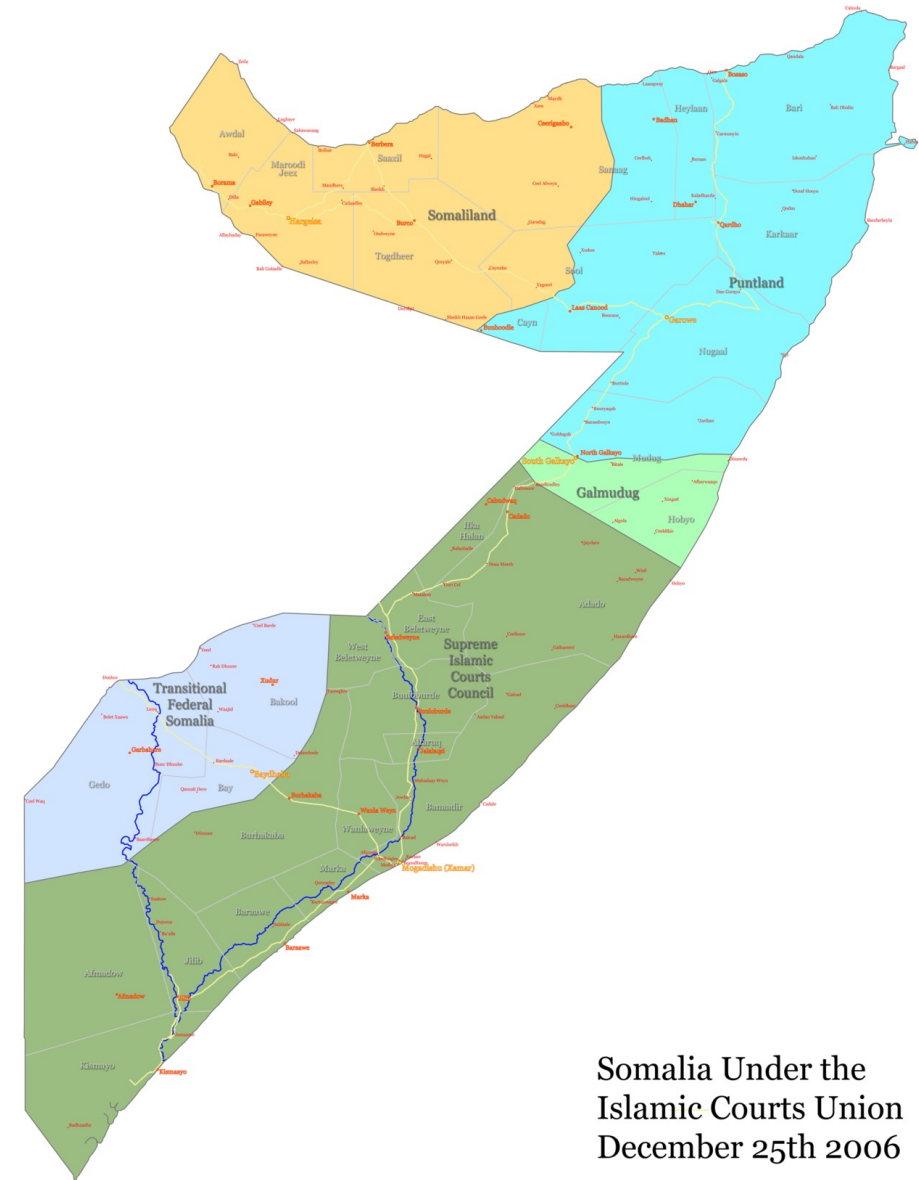
- Military Coup MG Siyad Barre
- Socialist state termed hybrid scientific socialism routed in Islam and Marxism
- 1977 Somalia invades Ethiopia again- Ogaden region
- USSR withdraws support and supports Ethiopia
- 1991 Barre flees Mogadishu
- United Somali Congress Ali Mahdi & GEN Farah Aideed establish control
- Drought and famine leads to humanitarian crisis

## 1991-2001 Interventions

- UN brokered cease fire between clans; humanitarian effort
- UNOSOM / US led Unified Task Force
- 1993 Pakistan suffers 24 casualties from Aideed forces
- 1993 US suffers 19 casualties in Battle of Mogadishu
- 1995 UN full withdrawal
- 17 Externally sponsored reconciliation conferences

# Intervention & Transition

- 2004 Transitional Federal Government
- 2006 Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter Terrorism
- Union of Islamic Courts establishes control with multi clan Al Shabaab action arm
- 2007 Ethiopian Forces invade, depose UIC
- 2007 AMISOM expels Al Shabaab from Urban Centers (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti)
- 2012 Federal Government of Somalia

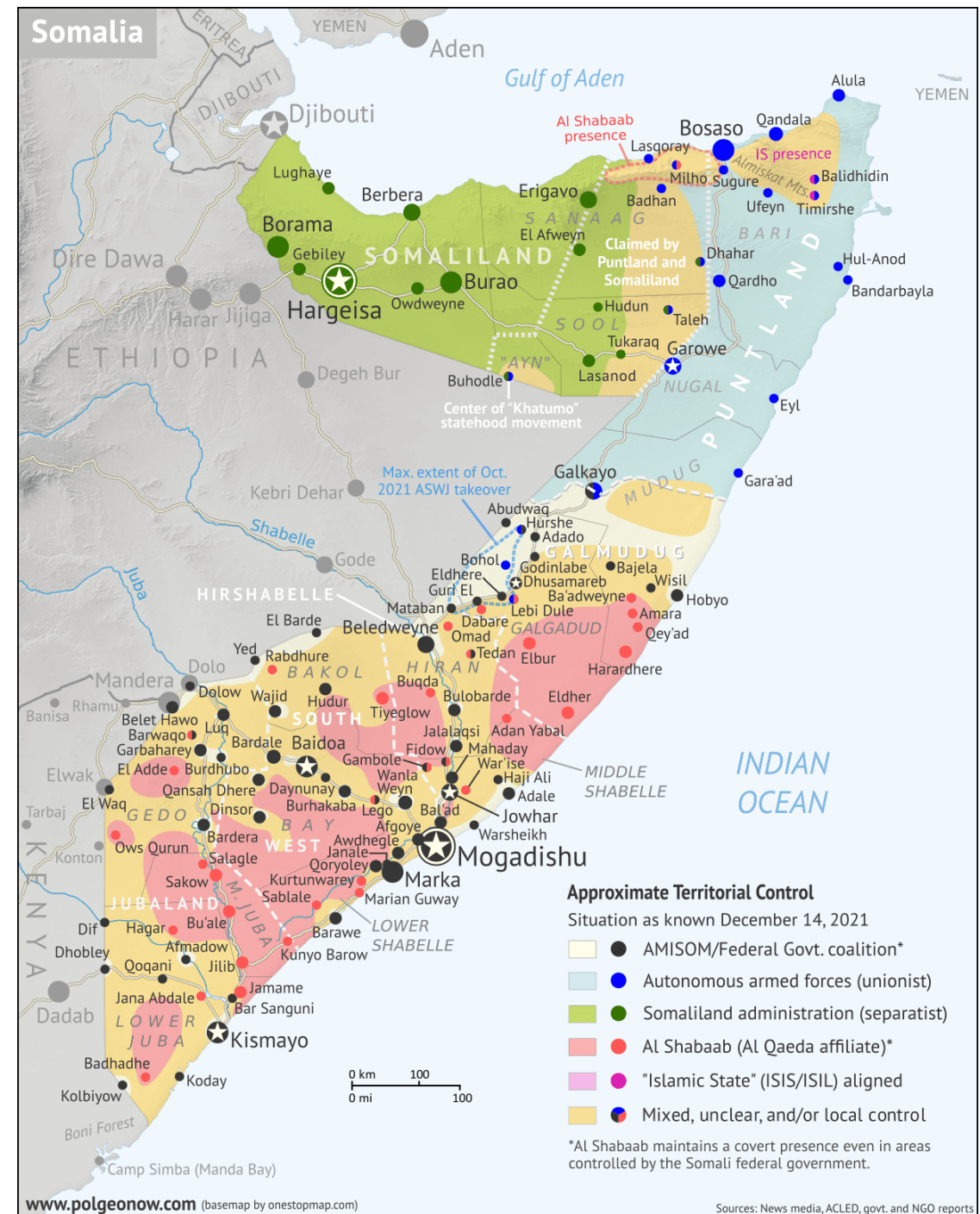


Somalia Under the  
Islamic Courts Union  
December 25th 2006



# Current State

- Ongoing Insurgency
- FGS competition with member states
- AMISOM mission expiration



# Applying Social Fit: Analysis & Conclusions

## **Ideological Resonance: Islam & Xeer as a value system**

- Role of Islam & clan structure resonates with society; therefore, we can predict some form of theocratic state is more likely to succeed

## **Expectations of Social Contract: Security, Education, Healthcare**

- Sharia provides a normative system of rules and consequences that can meet the expectations of the governed for security, education and healthcare; therefore, we can expect more rigid policing tactics in establishing order

## **Comfort and Familiarity: Electoral process & Legal System**

- Somalis are most comfortable with traditional clan processes; therefore, a decentralized “confederation of clans” might be more likely to succeed



# Policy Implications

## **Current Policy**

- Promote stability, strengthen democratic institutions, prevent safe-haven (CT), improve security capability, and alleviate humanitarian crisis

## **Implications**

- Support Somali to Somali negotiations, prepare for potential Islamist governance to emerge
- Sever Al Shabaab ties to Al Qaeda, shift from kinetic targeting to intelligence collection, information operations

Questions?

# GO DUKE!

