



## **THE ROLE OF DEMOCRACY ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN MOGADISHU, SOMALIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This study investigated the role of democracy on conflict resolution, achieve the objectives of this study, data was collected from 105 employees in Ministry of interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation. For data analysis, researchers employed correlation research design to test the relationship between democracy and conflict resolution by using SPSS software, also descriptive analysis such as frequency and percentage used to analyze the characteristics of respondents. As result of the analysis, the study revealed that all the Measurement of democracy. Total respondents of this study were 105 workers in the ministries institution of Mogadishu-Somalia, gender 71 out of 105 was male which means 67.6% while 34 of the respondents was female out the total which means 32.4%. According to this result the workers of ministries institution dominated by male. In the age group of this study was categorized into four groups such: 66 of the respondents their age between 20 -25 which means 62.9%. Also the age 22 of respondents lies 25-30 of the total of respondents on average is 21%. The age 15 of the respondents was between 30-40, in percentage is equivalent 14.2%. Lastly, the remaining respondents 40 years this means 1.9%. According the age groups of the local ministries institutions mostly their age lies 20-25 years. This result shows 61.5% of ministries institutions employees are youth.*

*The first objective of this study was to determine the role of human rights on conflict resolution in some selected ministries of Somalia. The correlation between human rights and conflict resolution as shown in the table above is 0.353. Which means one level high of human rights may cause an average of 35.3% of conflict resolution, thereby there is a weak positive relationship between human rights and conflict resolution ( $r=0.353, p<0.000$ ).*

*The second objective of this study was to find out the role of peace building on conflict resolution in some selected ministries of Somalia. The correlation between peace building and conflict resolution is 0.498. It states that one level for peace building increase may bring to 49.8% higher conflict resolution, so there is a Moderate positive correlation between peace building and conflict resolution ( $r=0.498, p<0.000$ ).*

*The third objective of this study was to investigate the impact of negotiation on conflict resolution in some selected ministries of Somalia. The correlation between negotiation and conflict resolution is 0.744. That is equivalent one level high attitudes may lead to 74.4% for a higher conflict resolution. This coefficient shows that there is strong positive relationship between negotiation and conflict resolution ( $r=0.744, p<0.000$ ).*



## 2.1 INTRODUCTION

While acknowledging that mature democracies rarely fight each other, Mansfield and Snyder (1995, 2002a, 2002b) have argued that the process of democratic reform may actually increase the probability of war. Their empirical findings, based on both qualitative and quantitative analyses, have been read not only as partly refuting democratic peace theory, but also as calling into question the wisdom of efforts to promote democracy in other countries, a cornerstone of Western foreign policy following the end of the Cold War. If the condition of being democratic decreases the probability of violent conflict, how could the process of becoming more democratic has the opposite effect? Mansfield and Snyder propose that transitional regimes experiencing high level of political mobilization despite weak institution controls are often tempted to incite external conflict (Rousseau, 2008).

Democratic political processes regulate competition among groups with conflicting preferences. Although much of the competition occurs peacefully within existing political institutions, democratic practices can also facilitate the resolution of intense conflict when the political system is challenged from within by groups fighting against the established government, and when it is challenged from without and on the brink of interstate war. This chapter provides an overview of the scholarly literature linking democracy to peace and conflict resolution, including pertinent theoretical propositions and the balance of evidence generated by empirical researchers. The promise of peace associated with civil liberty, political openness, and the foreign policies of democratic states has long figured into the writings of moral and political philosophers, perhaps most notably in Immanuel Kant's essay *Perpetual Peace*, published in 1795.

Conflict management should not be viewed as a simple, linear or structured process. Those assuming or charged with such a task must usually overcome an intensely chaotic situation. Conflicts are frequently managed directly by the society in which they occur. When not possible or when conflicts become national in scope, government normally assumes the task, provided it is not a party to the conflict. In cases where a government is unable or unwilling to intervene, international organizations increasingly assume the role of conflict manager.

According to Akpuru-Aja (2007), conflict management basically means the use of dialogue to assist opponents or parties not only to have

agreements against hostile images or actions, but to comply with earlier agreed resolutions and strategies. Given the fact that the end of hostilities in a conflict situation does not necessarily bring peace to the conflicting parties, and also bearing in mind that the most critical period is when a conflict is in the process of being addressed and resolved, at which time any mistake could be costly, there is always need to manage conflicts very well and effectively. It is a process that spans through conflict phases – from prevention through outright resolution. Thus it is seen as the process of reducing the negative and destructive capacity of conflict through a number of measures and by working with and through the parties involved in that conflict... It covers the entire area of handling conflicts positively at different stages, including those efforts made to prevent conflict, by being proactive. It encompasses conflict limitation, containment and litigation (Best, 2006:95).

In Somalia, clan identity both impacts and is impacted by conflict. In the post-independence period until the outbreak of the civil war, conflict resulted from divisions among major clans battling over power and resources. In recent years, conflict increasingly has devolved to sub clan and even sub-sub clan levels. The collapse of the central state led to fragmentation and an economy of plunder that brought leaders into conflict with other leaders, sometimes from the same clan, vying for control of the same local area and resources. This struggle for territorial control, political power, and economic control of a region that prompted lowering the level of clan identities so as to mobilize support from the sub clans. Thus, with the collapse of the central state, the clans tended to clash less across regions (northwest versus south-central versus northeast) and more within regions. Examples from the three regions illustrate this point. In all three regions, homogeneity of the clans has given way to the emergence of sub clan identity as dominant, with clans lowering their level of identity to the level of sub clans in the competition for economic power and political ascendancy. (Bank, 2005).

The nature of conflict management is such that it is very sensitive; it does not impose rigid conditions, it allows for free flow of information and communication; it is impartial, and gives a lot of leverages and relevant concessions when necessary to achieve the desired peace, which is the end-point. It could also involve either unilateral or bilateral actors; and dialogue is the desired medium of getting to the



solution of any conflict in terms of management. Knowing that conflicts are rarely completely resolved; but most often reduced, downgraded, or contained, conflict situations can be followed by a reorientation of the issue, reconstitution of the divisions among conflicting parties, or even by a re-emergence of past issues or grievances. Conflict management when actively conducted is, therefore, a constant process.

According to Ake (1996), there are two propositions for the promotion of liberal democracy as a conflict management and transformation strategy in Africa: (1). democracy provides the overlapping consensus and public reason for containing conflict in pluralistic societies; and (2). through institutional design, elections can be an opportunity for conflict management rather than an intoxicating brew from an ethnic concoction. There is a growing trend throughout the world towards democratization. Some 120 countries now hold generally free and fair elections, and a large number of internal conflicts end with a negotiated peace which includes an electoral process aimed at building political structures acceptable to all. The parties themselves agree to deliver a sustainable peaceful settlement through a democratic transition (Harris & Reiley, 1998).

According to Sisk (2003), democracy is promising as a conflict management strategy because the principles, institutions, and rules associated with democratic practice seek to manage inevitable social conflicts in deeply divided and less conflicted societies alike. Democracy provides predictable procedures in which collective decisions can be taken without the risk that losing a political battle will mean grave misfortune, imprisonment, or even loss of life. Democracy as a system of political decision-making is in many ways a system of conflict management in which the outcomes are unknown but the fundamental rules of the game provide a safe arena in which to compete. It provides a level playing ground for everybody which should mitigate bitterness even in the event of a loss in political struggle.

Democracy on conflict resolution institutions is about altering the risk of internal conflicts by facilitating effective bargaining and reducing commitment problems. It will select from the Ministry of interior.

However, in our best effort, the role of democracy on conflict resolution in public sector in Mogadishu, Somalia seems to be unclear. Therefore, this study

will consider the role of democracy on conflict resolution in Mogadishu, Somalia.

### 3.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

Democracy is a multi-faceted concept embracing political and social rights ranging from free and fair elections to accountable and transparent governance and civil society influence. Although these rights may appear in different forms in different national contexts, all democratic processes may be assessed on the basis of their realisation of two key democratic principles: the level of popular control and political equality (International IDEA, 2002:13).

According to Freedom House (2008c, pp. 9-10), to qualify as an “electoral democracy”, a country must meet “certain minimum standards”. Freedom House lists the following four criteria: (1) “A competitive, multiparty political system”; (2) “Universal adult suffrage for all citizens”; (3) “Regularly contested elections conducted in conditions of ballot secrecy, reasonable ballot secrecy, and in the absence of massive voter fraud, and that yield results that are representative of the public will”; (4) and “Significant public access of major political parties to the electorate through the media and through generally open political campaigning”. Based on the conceptual and methodic framework of Freedom House, every liberal democracy also is an electoral democracy, but not every electoral democracy qualifies as a liberal democracy.

This means that a liberal democracy demands sufficient democracy standards, and not only minimum standards. Liberal democracy goes beyond the minimum standards of an electoral democracy. (Campbell, 2008).

Concept or model of democracy, but clearly a pluralism (or plurality) of different theories and models.1 partially these varying theories or concepts could be integrated by a meta-theory or meta-concept; at the same time, however, it also should be acknowledged that some of those theories and concepts of democracy clearly contradict each other. This undoubtedly complicates every attempt of trying to set up and establish on a meta-level a process of theory/concept integration. Representatively, we may cite Bühlmann (et al. 2008, p. 5): “There is an abundant literature relating to democracy theory, with countless definitions of what democracy should be and what democracy is.” We can add on by referring (Laza Kekic 2007).



Currently (as of 2008) only three governments in the world do not self-identity themselves in their official de jure understanding as democracies.<sup>12</sup> During the second half of the twentieth century there has been a substantial empirical spreading of democracies, i.e. of democratic forms of government (in country-based democracies). In empirical terms, this clearly is being reflected by the Freedom in the World country rating scores, beginning 1972, as they are released by Freedom House. In 1972, only a minority of countries will rated as free. However, since then the number of free countries rose steadily, and since the 1990s there are more free than either partly free or not free countries (Freedom House, 2008a). According to a Freedom House survey, in mid-1992 about 24.8% of the world population lived in “free” countries. Until mid-2007, this figure increased to 45.9%.<sup>13</sup> As is being revealed by the data set of the Polity IV organization, the number of democracies increased considerably during the later years of the 1980s, and after 1990 there are clearly more democracies than “anocracies” (semi-authoritarian regimes) and “autocracies” (authoritarian regimes).<sup>14</sup> The collapse of non-democratic communist regimes in Central Eastern and Eastern Europe critically marked a crucial watershed for the advancement of democracies. Thus the hypothesis can be set up for discussion that democracy, after 1990, represents the dominant global regime type. The famous The End of History notion of Francis Fukuyama claims that in the world of ideas there exist no more real alternatives or challenges to the concept of “liberal democracy” (Campbell, 2008).

First, democratic political elites have risen to positions of leadership within a political system that emphasizes compromise and nonviolence. Conflicts of interest in democracies are usually resolved through negotiation and log-rolling. Losing a political battle does not result in the loss of political rights or exclusion from future political competition. Moreover, coercion and violence are not considered legitimate means for resolving conflict. Conversely, political leaders in nondemocratic states are socialized in an environment in which politics is more akin to a zero-sum game in which rivals and those on the losing end of political struggles are regularly removed from the game. Coercion and violence are more widely accepted as legitimate means for resolving political conflicts. In general,

political leaders in autocracies are more likely to impose decisions rather than compromise when dealing with the opposition.

Second, the argument assumes that domestic political norms are externalized by decision makers when they become embroiled in international disputes. Presidents and prime ministers approach conflicts of interest in the international environment in much the same way they approach conflicts in the domestic environment, and with conflict resolution skills honed by their domestic political experiences. Compared to their counterparts in authoritarian regimes, democratic leaders are more likely to seek negotiation, mediation, or arbitration (Dixon 1994; Raymond 1994). Their approach to international conflict resolution reduces the likelihood that an international dispute will escalate into a militarized crisis and war. The strong version of the norms argument holds that democratic leaders externalize peaceful practices of conflict resolution in their interactions with all types of regimes. In contrast to this monadic claim, those who emphasize the dyadic nature of democratic peace argue that although all decision makers are inclined to externalize domestic practices of dispute resolution when dealing with interstate conflicts, this externalization is conditional for democratic decision makers.

Democratic leaders externalize their domestic norms only if they expect similar behavior from their foreign counterparts. Because democratic decision makers expect that choices by other democratic leaders are also shaped by norms of peaceful conflict resolution, there is little risk in attempting to resolve their conflict in accordance with these shared norms.

Conversely, because democracies expect nondemocratic states to externalize coercive and uncompromising norms of conflict resolution, they adopt similar strategies when dealing with these opponents. The arguments therefore assume that a democratic state’s behavior is conditioned upon the expected behavior of its opponent and that the opponent’s regime type informs this expectation.

### 3.1.1 Human Rights

Concept of human right often revolves around the necessity to respect and protect the individual or group from violation of their fundamental rights especially by the state. It will after the Second World War that, as a reaction against the excesses of the Axis forces, human rights law became part of the body of public international law, making human



rights law a supplement to the law protecting humanity from abuses in situations of war. On the other hand, international humanitarian law is that aspect of international law which deals with such matters as the use of weapons and other means of warfare in combat, and the treatment of war victims by the enemy. It deals with the direct impact of war on the life, personal integrity and liberty of human beings (Parsch, 1982: 215). A systematic development of humanitarian law in armed conflict is said to have originated not earlier than the second half of the 19th century when the need will felt to prevent wars by establishing methods of conciliation to humanize warfare and to protect the victims of armed conflicts (Ibanga, 1993). Its generally recognized that international humanitarian law and human rights norms have different origins, and apply in different situations humanitarian law during armed conflicts and human rights during peacetime (Osita Agbu, Human Rights Implications of, 2000).

### 3.1.2 Negotiation

Negotiators are often advised to seek win-win agreements by focusing on interests (primary features) rather than issues (secondary features), but whether such advice is valid remains to be seen. Consistent with construal level theory (Liberman, 2003), Experiments 1 and 2 show that negotiators focus on secondary features (issues) more than on primary features (interests) when psychological distance is low rather than high, and concomitant construal level is local and specific rather than global and abstract. Experiment 3 showed that high construal level promoted problem-solving behavior and therefore facilitated the achievement of win-win agreement, but only when integrative potential resided in underlying interests; when integrative potential resided in the issues; low construal level negotiators achieved higher joint outcomes. Thus, both low- and high-construal negotiators may achieve win-win agreements when such agreements require tradeoffs at the level of issues, or at the level of underlying interests, respectively.

### 3.1.3 Peace Building

Peace as a concept can better be explained by stating its attributes rather than trying to use specific terms in attempts to define it. Peace therefore is a situation which guarantees the following; good governance, security, a highly motivated populace, secure environment where no human suffering is

experienced, all that brings a feeling of contentment to humanity without violating the natural law of justice and the rights of others.

There being so many peace building/keeping processes in the world today, this paper seeks to point out the role of civil society in peace building. Although this paper ultimately examines the case study of civil society in Kenya, it commences by a general evaluation from a global perspective in the initial stages. (Greenidge, 2006).

Peace building initiatives in Sudan have been conducted at the top-level before 1980 with the Addis Ababa Agreement, however between the 1980s and 2001; no specific peace building initiatives were conducted at the top-level. Important peace building elements like communication, trust and relationship building that were present in several negotiation processes were not so heavily weighted at the end as negotiations often failed. The importance of good and non-partial negotiators will crucial for the two actors. In the case of Sudan the biggest negotiation process that has had a significant impact on the top level has been the IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) process which led to the signing of the CPA. It started out as a regional initiative in 1994 (Greenidge, 2006).

The conditions most conducive to preventing the outbreak of civil war are related to those most conducive to peace settlements and the reestablishment of political stability in the wake of civil war. The power of the central government must be consolidated, its legitimacy must be established or enhanced by allowing previously excluded groups access to the policymaking process, and sufficient economic resources must be mustered and allocated to support the peace-building process. The creation of each of these conditions may be assisted in various ways by external actors (Zartman 1995; Regan 2000).

## 3.2 CONCEPT OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Conflict resolution has been conceptualized as the methods and processes involved in facilitating the peaceful ending of a conflict usually in the shapes of group members initiating a compromising dialoguer ideologies to the rest of the group. This is to say that conflict resolution is essentially aimed at intervention to change or facilitate the course of a conflict. Conflict resolution provides an opportunity to interact with the parties concerned, with the hope of at least reducing the scope, intensity and effects of conflicts. During formal and informal meetings,



conflict resolution exercises permit, a re-assessment of views and chains as a basis for finding options to crisis and to divergent point of view. Communication thus, is very pivotal in resolving any conflict and this is where the media comes in handy. However, one factor that has been found common in conflict situation is the absence of the right information or breach of communication between parties involved. Provision of the right information has been seen as the panacea for conflict resolution. According to Conflict and peace have revealed that conflict are based on deficiency of information, stressing that cases of misinformation, wrong information or missing information chance, disparity in opinions and social difference which may lead to as well as heighten conflict. Thus, a wide range of methods and procedures for addressing conflicts exist, following the reason behind them. This includes but not limited to the following

- A. Negotiation
- B. Mediation
- C. Diplomacy

#### 4.1 METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted through explanatory survey to investigate the relationship between democracy and conflict resolution, which is research strategy that is used to present oriented methodology used to investigate population by selected samples to analyze and discover occurrence (Saunders, 2009). The study will use quantitative approach; Quantitative is any data collection technique (such as a questionnaire) or data analysis procedure (such as graphs or statistics) that generates or uses numerical data (Saunders, 2009). The study will be descriptive correlation design; it will describe democracy and conflict resolution in Mogadishu-Somalia.

The population of this study will be the employee of ministry of interior, federal affairs and reconciliation in Mogadishu Somalia; therefore the target population of this study will be 143 respondents (DG, 2020).

The sample size was consist of 105 from Ministry of interior, to determine the best sample size for the population, and the sample size of this study is 105 respondents. A justification of sample size, because the researchers used Slovene's formula, With maximum acceptable error is 5%.

Sample procedures utilize probability sampling procedure particularly simple random sampling method. Simple random sampling (sometimes called just random sampling) involves

selecting the sample at random from the sampling frame using either random number tables or a computer. The sample selection process is continued until your required sample size has been reached. The main purpose of this technique is to select or use in a finite populations because this technique is used when population is known and clear.

The research instrument of this study was questionnaire as the tool of data collection, the questionnaire is used in a quantitative research method,

#### 5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The general objectives is examine the role of democracy on conflict resolution in mogadishu, Somalia. The first objective of this study was to determine the role of human rights on conflict resolution in some selected ministries of Somalia. The correlation between human rights and conflict resolution as shown in the table above is 0.353. Which means one level high of human rights may cause an average of 35.3% of conflict resolution, thereby there is a weak positive relationship between human rights and conflict resolution ( $r=0.353$ ,  $p<0.000$ ). The second objective of this study was to find out the role of peace building on conflict resolution in some selected ministries of Somalia. The correlation between peace building and conflict resolution is 0.498. It states that one level for peace building increase may bring to 49.8% higher conflict resolution, so there is a Moderate positive correlation between peace building and conflict resolution ( $r=0.498$ ,  $p<0.000$ ). The third objective of this study was to investigate the impact of negotiation on conflict resolution in some selected ministries of Somalia. The correlation between negotiation and conflict resolution is 0.744. That is equivalent one level high attitudes may lead to 74.4% for a higher conflict resolution. This coefficient shows that there is strong positive relationship between negotiation and conflict resolution ( $r=0.744$ ,  $p<0.000$ ).

The findings supported that the public institutions preferred human rights, peace buildings over negotiations. States in the findings there was a significant positive relationship between democracy and conflict resolution.

#### 6.1 CONCLUSION

This study was intended to investigate the role of democracy on conflict resolution in the ministry of interior, federal affairs and reconciliation of Mogadishu Somalia. The objective of this study was



to know the relationship between democracies on conflict resolution.

The questionnaire consisting twenty statements was used for collection of data and was distributed among 105 employees. SPSS was used for analysis.

This study reveals that all the dimensions of democracy –human rights, peace building and negotiation have a significant positive correlation with conflict resolution.

The aim of this study was to investigate the role of democracy on conflict resolution in some selected ministries of Somalia.

### 7.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Fostering social reconciliation, negotiations and cohesion and respect for human rights
2. Ensuring democracy, peace and security for all.
3. We should not forget the overriding for developing democratic governments is to enable is to enable them to support peace and democracy, social harmony and finding the middle ground.
4. Give your public servants the conflict resolution skills they need to overcome everyday challenges that stand in the way of their goals. In fact, to achieve best results you may want to make conflict resolution a part of their work this gives them the ability to brush up on their skills and perfect their problem-solving approach on a regular basis.
5. We recommend implementing the necessary legislative reforms to guarantee that all human rights and democratic freedoms are fully safeguarded, setting up the necessary mechanisms for that. As a first step, an independent body must assess the current human rights situation.
6. Achieving these goals requires appropriate leadership capacities, governance mechanisms and public administration institutions and processes

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