

## Conflict Dynamics in the Horn of Africa: Causes, Consequences, and the Way Forward

**Aemro Tenaw Birhan**

Debre Markos University, Ethiopia

Email: [aemirotenaw@gmail.com](mailto:aemirotenaw@gmail.com)

### Abstract

*By analyzing the causes, repercussions, and potential solutions to the present conflicts in the region, this study seeks to give readers a comprehensive grasp of the dynamics of conflict in the Horn of Africa. The study employs a qualitative methodology and secondary sources to investigate the conflict dynamics in the Horn of Africa. It then examines the root causes of the violence, including Historical, political, ethnic, and economic or resource, environmental, and external factors through a systematic review technique. The dynamics of the conflicts in the Horn of Africa have led to major humanitarian crises, political instability, and regional tensions. Finally, the study paper emphasizes the role of economic growth, good governance, open communication, dialogue and reconciliation, and regional cooperation to restore lasting peace in the region.*

**Keywords:** Conflict Dynamics, Causes, Consequences, the way Forward, Horn of Africa

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. Background information of the Horn of Africa

Geographically speaking, East Africa comprises the Horn of Africa. The easternmost region of Africa is made up of the states of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia, whose cultures are linked by a common past. Broader definitions usually include the states mentioned above as well as parts of Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The Horn of Africa is a region in northeast Africa, located near the easternmost point of the continent. Although there are various definitions of the term "region", the following countries are generally considered in this literature: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan.



Source: Encyclopedia of Britannica, 2024 (<https://www.britannica.com/place/Horn-of-Africa>)

Many different dynasties and civilizations have left their mark on the Horn of Africa over the course of its long and diverse history (Henneberg & Stapel, 2020). Take the Aksumite Empire, a major trading power that was once based in Ethiopia. With the spread of Islam, the region also experienced the influence of Islamic culture. Political unpredictability, ethnic conflicts, economic hardships, poverty, hunger and illegal migration are just some of the difficult problems facing the Horn of Africa. Conflicts such as the Somali civil war and the Ethiopian-Eritrean war have had a significant impact on the region. Its proximity to important waterways such as the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden also makes the Horn of Africa strategically important. Powers vying for control of the region have taken notice, both at home and abroad.

There have been more than 200 armed conflicts in the Horn of Africa since 1990, making it one of the most conflict-ridden regions in the world in recent years, when you get right down to it. For far too long, the US government, a major external actor in the region, has viewed the Horn of Africa through a prism that prioritizes counterterrorism, religious extremism, regime security, and tribalism (Williams, 2011). Currently, the Horn of Africa is dealing with a variety of issues, including political instability, ethnic conflict, and economic hardship. Furthermore, there are currently significant humanitarian difficulties resulting from problems with hunger, poverty, and irregular migration. The impact of Middle Eastern governments' security engagement in the region (Somerville, 2025) and the influence of external powers and local actors (Bentil & Asekere, 2021) have been examined in relation to the geopolitical and security elements of the Horn of Africa. In addition, research has addressed historical disagreements over national identity, the causes of wars and the post-colonial nation-state dilemma in the Horn of Africa.

The Horn of Africa is, in short, a historically and racially diverse region that is geographically unique. Its nations must cope with the social, political and economic dynamics of the twenty-first century, facing a variety of opportunities and difficulties. A great deal of academic research that advances knowledge about the opportunities and problems in the Horn of Africa is motivated by the region's rich cultural heritage and complicated socio-political environment. This paper attempts to shed light on the causes, effects and possible solutions to the current conflicts in the Horn of Africa.

## **1.2. Significance of Understanding Conflict Dynamics in the Region**

To resolve security issues, promote stability and support development, it is important to understand the dynamics of war in the Horn of Africa. Buzan and Waeber (2003) offer a unique interpretation of post-Cold War international security that is critical to resolving security issues and promoting stability in conflict-prone areas such as the Horn of Africa. They emphasize the importance of linking regional security dynamics with global power structures. Devlin et al. (2021) not only shed light on the origins and impacts of conflicts surrounding fisheries in the Horn of Africa, but also emphasize the need to understand the dynamics of resource-based conflicts in order to facilitate sustainable management practices and peace-building initiatives in the region.

As a result, addressing security issues, promoting stability and supporting development therefore depends on an understanding of the conflict dynamics in the Horn of Africa. Given the region's complicated socio-political background, historical conflicts and environmental problems, a thorough examination of the causes, effects and potential solutions to conflicts is required. In order to effectively minimize conflict, promote peace and security and address the complex problems of the region, it is therefore essential to have a thorough understanding of the conflict dynamics in the Horn of Africa. A comprehensive understanding of these problems is necessary to develop policies that successfully contain conflicts, promote peace and security and address the many difficulties in the region.

## **2. Methodology**

An approach to qualitative research has been used in this work. The need for comprehensive qualitative data justified the selection of the qualitative research approach and debate to address the conceptual concerns under investigation. The article makes substantial use of secondary sources, including books, journals, studies, and reports. The author used the systematic review research approach, which involves gathering and synthesizing previously published printed and electronic literature sources, in this work (Bowen, 2009). Ultimately, the gathered data are examined through thematic analysis, which enables the investigator to produce themes or patterns with significance from the qualitative data and qualitatively interpret them (Terry & Nikki, 2021).

## **3. Results and Discussion**

### **3.1. Causes of Conflicts**

Among the many complex and multifaceted causes of violence in the Horn of Africa are natural resources, foreign intervention, protracted conflict, political instability and historical context. Natural resources in the region are seen as potential catalysts for war (Rahman, 2012), particularly between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt. These resources include the Nile Basin. In addition, the persistent practice of mutual destabilization and subversion has always been characteristic of regional governments, leading to internal unrest and displacement (Temesgen, 2020).

External factors, namely the governments of the Middle East and North Africa, have made the conflict dynamics in the Horn of Africa worse (Twagiramungu et al., 2019). According to Donelli and Levaggi (2021), the countries bordering the Red Sea are now more interdependent in terms of security policy due to this interdependence, which indicates the competing interests of regional powers and the asymmetry of power in relation to the countries in the Horn of Africa. Another reason for the instability and violence in the Horn of Africa is the involvement of competing and rival governments from the Middle East and the Gulf region (Gebbru et al., 2023). Given the region's history of being the most affected by instability and civil war in the world, violent conflict is the rule rather than the exception (Siyum, 2021).

Regional conflicts are also significantly influenced by competition and disputes over natural resources, particularly in relation to livestock (Setrana & Adzande, 2022). The Horn of Africa remains prone to insecurity and civil wars, exacerbating tensions and conflicts, particularly in relation to pastoralism. Conflicts over the use of natural resources in the region are also linked to the struggle for political and economic resources.

In addition, ethnic affiliations and historical tensions have led to regional wars, with governments interfering in the internal affairs of other states out of loyalty to their ethnic groups and arming rebels in neighboring nations to pursue their own goals (Temesgen, 2020). Protracted violent wars such as the Issa-Afar conflict have contributed to the ongoing violence and instability in the region (Alemu, 2018).

In summary, competition for natural resources, external interference, historical tensions, political instability, climatic changes and ethnic interdependencies are just some of the complex, interlocking forces at the heart of the conflicts in the Horn of Africa. Given that these intricate issues have made the Horn of Africa more susceptible to violence and instability, it is imperative that they be addressed in order to advance security and peace in the area.

### **3.2. Historical, Ethnicity and Political Causes of Conflict**

The sources presented show that the historical and political roots of the conflict in the Horn of Africa can be derived from a complex interplay of factors. The complicated dynamics of the current conflicts can be traced back to the history of the region, which is characterized by conflicts, state formation and state collapse (Besley & Reynal-Querol, 2014; Michalopoulos & Papaioannou, 2016). The socio-political landscape in the Horn of Africa has been profoundly influenced by the long-term effects of the "Scramble for Africa" and subsequent colonial control.

Due to a complex interaction of political and historical forces, the Horn of Africa has a long history of violence. The legacy of colonialism is one of the primary historical reasons of conflict in the area. European nations, including Ethiopia, Italy, France, and Britain, attempted to take control of several regions of the Horn of Africa in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Due to this, borders were drawn arbitrarily and foreign rule was imposed, which frequently caused rivalries and tensions between various political and ethnic groupings. Many of these newly established nations inherited long-standing territorial disputes and unsolved ethnic tensions upon winning independence, which created the conditions for continuing hostilities.

The complicated institutional and political roots of violence in the Horn of Africa have also been influenced by historical conflicts over national identity, the post-colonial nation-state's dilemma, and the essential ambiguity of self-determination (McGowan, 2005). Scholarly research has also focused on the media's role, the digital politics of Somali literary promotion, and the effect of poverty on conflict, revealing the complex interplay between conflict and politics in the area (Ahere, 2019; Chonka, 2019).

Power and resource struggles are a major political factor contributing to conflict in the Horn of Africa. Authoritarian governments, interethnic conflict, and rivalry for scarce resources like oil, water, and land are just a few of the intricate political dynamics that define the area. Prolonged conflicts have frequently resulted from armed organizations and militias flourishing due to political instability and weak administration. Further inflaming tensions between regional countries and escalating violence in the Horn of Africa is the fight for control of strategically important positions and trade routes, such as the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Furthermore, Kouladoum (2023) pointed to the pervasive nature of ethnic tensions in Africa and cited cases of killings as a result of ethnic conflict. The study underscores the human cost of ethnic conflicts in the region. In addition, the role of ethnicity in shaping the political landscape is discussed in works such as "Ethnic Federalism and the Developmental State: The Search for Balance in Ethiopia" (Mekonnen, 2019), which discusses how identity politics and ethnic issues can polarize countries like Ethiopia. The long-term effects of historical events such as the Scramble for Africa on ethnic heterogeneity and conflict have been examined by Michalopoulos & Papaioannou (2016) and (Michalopoulos & Papaioannou, 2016). These works emphasize the lasting impact of past events on current ethnic dynamics and conflict patterns in Africa. Idowu et al. (2019) also emphasized how ethnicity continues to be exploited by political actors and hinder Africa's development.

In general, the Horn of Africa has experienced substantial historical and political turmoil due to the legacy of colonialism and the continuous struggle for resources and power. Achieving long-term peace and security in the area will require addressing these underlying issues and advancing inclusive government, fair resource allocation, and conflict resolution procedures.

### **3.2.1. Legacy of Historical Conflicts**

According to Besley and Reynal-Querol (2014), the dynamics of the Horn of Africa are significantly influenced by the legacy of past violence. From the beginning of human civilization to the present, research has revealed that enduring elements that emerged thousands of years ago have had a major impact on economic development (Ashraf & Galor, 2011). Scholarly research that illuminates how historical events continue to influence modern dynamics focuses on the persistence of historical conflict and how historical ethnic borders affect conflict now (Depetris-Chauvin & Oezak, 2023; Michalopoulos & Papaioannou, 2020). In addition, local disputes and security issues have been connected to the historical legacies of pre-colonial institutions and the effects of colonialism (Wig & Kromrey, 2018; Mustapha & Imam, 2021).

In addition, the historical processes that have produced the identities at the core of modern conflicts have been linked to the rise of alternative forms of statehood and the crisis of the post-colonial nation-state in the Horn of Africa (Matshanda, 2022; Siyum, 2021). Additionally, historical boundaries continue to influence the dynamics of contemporary conflict, as demonstrated by the effect of historical, ethnic boundaries on non-civil strife in Africa today and the connection between de facto historical ethnic boundaries and conflict (Oezak & Depetris-Chauvin, 2020; Depetris-Chauvin & Oezak, 2023).

In summary, the durability of historical conflict and its influence on contemporary armed conflicts are included in the larger body of research on the long-term effects of historical events on contemporary conflicts (Ito, 2020). Consequently, the enduring effects of past conflicts on statehood, economic growth, intergroup relations, and conflict persistence have affected the contemporary dynamics in the Horn of Africa. To effectively address the intricate difficulties facing the region, it is imperative to have a thorough understanding of these historical legacies.

### **3.2.2. Crisis of Post-colonial Nation-state and Emergence of Alternative Forms of Statehood**

Historically, colonialism and the ensuing battle for sovereignty have impacted the political dynamics of conflict in the Horn of Africa. Conflict and instability have gotten worse as a result of ethnic tensions and territorial conflicts brought on by the establishment of artificial and colonial borders (Matshanda, 2022). Tensions within the post-colonial nation-state have been exacerbated by political contestation and internal instability stemming from the attempt to establish effective governance systems and national identities (Matshanda, 2022; Ltipalei et al., 2019).

The conflict dynamics in the region have also become more complex due to the participation of external powers and the creation of various kinds of statehood. Power dynamics and territorial claims have been impacted by the confrontation between external forces and local actors, which has led to regional instability and the intensification of conflicts (Yloenen, 2022). There has been a spillover of insecurity and a threat of regional instability in the Horn of Africa due to competing governments' increased security engagement in the Middle East (Donelli & Levaggi, 2021).

In addition, the problem facing the post-colonial nation-state has prompted a reassessment of conventional statehood models and the rise of alternative ones. The nation-state system's built-in drawbacks and difficulties, including racial conflicts, economic disparities, and deficiencies in governance, have forced academics, activists, and decision-makers to look for novel approaches to these difficult issues. Alternative forms of statehood are becoming more popular as viable options, ranging from decentralized systems and indigenous self-government to transnational governance structures and regional integration. These experiments have exciting prospects to transform the

structure and governance of societies in a post-colonial world, even though they are still in their infancy and confront difficulties.

As we proceed, it is imperative that we critically interact with these different models and draw lessons from both their achievements and shortcomings in order to mold a future for statehood and governance that is both inclusive and sustainable. To effectively reduce violence, advance peace and security, and handle the region's complex issues, one must have a thorough understanding of these historical and modern factors.

### **3.2.3. The Impact of Intervention and External Actors**

The Horn of Africa has seen a dramatic change in the dynamics of conflict due to outside intervention (Donelli & Gonzalez-Levaggi, 2021). The complex dynamics of conflict in the region have been influenced by power struggles, territorial claims, and regional instability due to the intervention of external forces and the rise of alternative forms of statehood. The region's violence and instability have escalated as a result of this intervention's multiple repercussions, which include security issues as well as political and resource-related concerns.

The increasing influence of external security players in the Horn of Africa has put regional security institutions under pressure and made it harder for them to respond to threats to regional security (Gebru, et.al., 2023). International powers have made regional instability and conflict escalation worse by competing with local entities for territory and power dynamics (Yloenen, 2022). As a result, there has been a spread of insecurity, which could make the Horn of Africa even more unstable (Siyum, 2021).

External players' engagement has also had an impact on statehood dynamics in the region and how national policies are formulated. According to Kunyenje and Chigona (2019), foreign entities have directly impacted national policies in emerging nations, affecting their economic, social, and cultural capital." Accordingly, the impact of external players on statehood and governance varies depending on the context in which they are utilized. In certain places, their function is more notable than in others. For instance, the dynamics of war, power struggles, territorial claims, and regional instability have all been greatly impacted by outside actors' participation in the Horn of Africa. Foreign intervention and the rise of alternative state structures have complicated the dynamics of conflict in the region and brought about a number of negative effects, such as escalating conflicts and instability due to resource-based disputes, political unrest, and security issues. External security actors' involvement in the Horn of Africa has put regional security institutions under pressure and reduced their ability to deal with threats to regional security.

In summary, the Horn of Africa has experienced a dual-edged effect from external actors and intervention. External intervention has, on the one hand, occasionally made matters worse, stoked proxy wars, and increased instability in the area. The Cold War era is one historical example, when conflicts between the US and the USSR turned the Horn of Africa into a battlefield. In the recent past, regional and global entities have frequently endeavored to achieve their own geopolitical agendas, resulting in interventions that have intensified already complex confrontations. On the other hand, outside parties have additionally contributed to the region's economic growth, humanitarian relief efforts, and mediation of peace deals. To ensure permanent peace in the Horn of Africa and make a good impact on the region's future, external actors must prioritize long-term stability, encourage discussion, and respect the sovereignty of the countries in the region.

#### **3.2.4. Governance Failures and Fragile State Institutions**

According to Gemechu (2024), a lack of strong institutional framework and poor administration has produced an atmosphere that encourages political polarization, power conflicts, and internal dissatisfaction, leading to prolonged conflict and violence. Governance failure, for instance, has fueled protracted internal conflict and political unrest in nations with weak state institutions, like Somalia, undermining regional peace and stability (Nascimento & Medeiros, 2022). Therefore, a major factor in the dynamics of war in the Horn of Africa has been poor governance and weak state institutions. The region is faced with numerous obstacles, including institutional flaws that have a major impact on conflict dynamics, political instability, and weak governance institutions.

In addition, political legitimacy and authority have been undermined by poor state institutions and governance shortcomings, which have added to the fragility and failure of states. Thus, the dynamics of regional conflict have been further exacerbated by weak economies, violent warfare, and political instability linked to unstable and failing governments (Nascimento & Medeiros, 2022). Conflict dynamics are further exacerbated by weak state institutions and governance shortcomings that have an impact on resource management and economic growth. Effective resource management, environmental protection, and human development have been hampered by weak governance and institutional flaws, which have resulted in economic marginalization, poverty, and resource-related conflicts (Verhoeven, 2011; Rashad, 2020). Governance shortcomings in the Horn of Africa have exacerbated resource conflicts and environmental deterioration, making the region more prone to instability and violence (Rashad, 2020).

Quinn et al. (2022) further claim that inadequate state institutions and poor governance have impeded the provision of basic public services, such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure, aggravating social and economic disparities and fueling civil unrest and war. The region's dynamics of conflict have been exacerbated, public service delivery hampered, and social and economic problems made worse by a lack of strong institutional capacity and efficient governance. Conclusively, the dynamics of conflict in the Horn of Africa have been greatly influenced by the shortcomings of state institutions and poor governance. Domestic wars, fragile states, economic difficulties, and social unrest have all been exacerbated by weak governance systems, political instability, and institutional shortcomings, which have also weakened regional peace and stability.

#### **3.3. Environmental and Climate-Related Causes of Conflict**

The Horn of Africa's conflict dynamics are largely influenced by environmental causes, one of which is climate change. Research has demonstrated the correlation between resource rivalry, unstable land tenure, and intergroup conflict, especially between farmers and pastoralists, and climate-related ecological factors, such as shifting temperatures and rainfall patterns (Adams, 2023). The fact that an abrupt and significant decline in rainfall throughout the long rainy season in the Horn of Africa has been connected with an increase in violent armed conflict (Weezel, 2019) highlights the potential relationship between climate change and conflict dynamics. Thus, the dynamics of war in the Horn of Africa have been significantly shaped by environmental and climate-related factors. Numerous environmental stresses, including as resource scarcity, ecological degradation, and climate unpredictability, have affected the region and exacerbated conflict and instability.

The correlation between climate change and community violence in the region, as well as its effects on rainfall patterns and water availability, have highlighted the environmental dimensions of conflict dynamics (Hirpa et al., 2019). Moreover, drought-related environmental stressors have also been linked to social instability and conflict, including food and water insecurity. The region's violence

has been made worse by the depletion of resources, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, political and economic marginalization, and demographic shifts (Ltipalei et al., 2019). Furthermore, major ecological stresses have been brought about by environmental deterioration, desertification, and sea level rise, which have also fueled conflict and instability in the Horn of Africa (Freeman, 2017).

Conflict dynamics are also largely influenced by how environmental stresses affect people's security and means of subsistence. Factors contributing to violence in Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria include the effects of climate change and its consequences on environmental resources, which in turn have an impact on people's security in the region (Ehiane & Moyo, 2021). Furthermore, poverty and reliance on rain-fed agriculture heighten the region's susceptibility to environmental and climate change, in turn exacerbating conflict dynamics (Witmer et al., 2017). Let us sum up by saying that conflict dynamics in the Horn of Africa are greatly impacted by environmental and climate-related factors. Conflict and instability in the region have been made worse by climate change, resource scarcity, and environmental stressors, which have also led to resource competitiveness, unstable land tenure, and societal unrest.

### **3.4. Socio-Economic and Resource-Based Causes of Conflict**

Research on the connection between natural resources and conflict risk indicates that because natural resources reflect and impact interdependent socio-economic conditions, they may be the primary driver of violent intrastate conflicts (Koubi et al., 2013; Schellens & Belyazid, 2020). Resource-based disputes and social unrest are often the result of competition for natural resources, such as land and water, which drives conflict between pastoralist groups (El-Badawi, 2000; Rahman, 2012).

Conflict in the area is mostly caused by the region's susceptibility to harsh weather events and climate change. Climate change-related natural catastrophes, such as droughts and floods, have a negative impact on livelihoods, agriculture, and food security. They also exacerbate socio-economic insecurity and resource-related conflicts (Molua et al., 2020; Weezel, 2019; Olutegbe & Ogunbaro, 2020). Thus, the dynamics of war in the Horn of Africa have been greatly influenced by socio-economic and resource-based factors. Conflict and instability are exacerbated by the region's socio-economic vulnerability, resource shortage, and social injustice. As a result, conflicts pertaining to resources and active resistance to assimilation have arisen among pastoralist communities as a result of resource scarcity, economic and political marginalization, and demographic shifts (Ltipalei et al., 2019). Further adding to the dynamics of conflict in the area are the consequences of pastoralist-farmer disagreements, which have grown into extensive ethnic, religious, and political confrontations.

Poverty, inequality, and dysfunctional political institutions are only a few examples of the socio-economic issues that have been linked to regional violence. The high rate of poverty, the breakdown of political institutions, and the continent's economic reliance on natural resources are all linked to Africa's relatively higher rate of wars. According to Collier and Hoeffler (2002) and Razzaghi et al. (2022) these factors also have a role in wars in the Horn of Africa. Studies that emphasize the connection between socio-economic difficulties and conflict risk in the area also focus on the influence of youth unrest and socio-economic demonstrations on conflict dynamics.

In the Horn of Africa, disputes over land, water, and borders are likewise intricate, multifaceted problems that have a big influence on the peace and security of the area. Border and resource conflicts are intricate, multifaceted issues that have a significant impact on peace and security in the Horn of Africa. The region is faced with numerous challenges due to social injustices, limited resources, and economic susceptibility, which have resulted in violence and instability. The purpose of this study is



to investigate the causes and effects of resource and border conflicts in the Horn of Africa by utilizing insights from pertinent literature and research.

Water-related conflicts are a significant additional cause of stress in the Horn of Africa. Trans-boundary water conflicts have become common in the Nile Basin due to disagreements between riparian states over access and control over shared water resources (Depetris-Chauvin & Oezak, 2020). Population expansion, climate change, and the expanding demand for water from families, businesses, and agriculture have all raised the potential of conflicts over water supplies.

Regional instability can also arise from border disputes and wars, which are frequently linked to resource disputes and historical ethnic boundaries. Shared international borders have been demonstrated to exacerbate conflict since they impair communication and increase the likelihood of fighting for territory, resources, and land (Depetris-Chauvin & Oezak, 2020). Conflicts over territorial control and tensions between states have also been exacerbated by the establishment of obstacles to free movement and the growth of nationalism.

The socio-economic well-being of the people living in the Horn of Africa is impacted by the far-reaching effects of these conflicts. In conclusion, socio-economic factors and issues pertaining to resources have a big impact on how conflicts play out in the Horn of Africa. The region's complex interplay between socio-economic problems and conflict risk is highlighted by the ways in which economic weaknesses, resource shortages, and social inequality have contributed to conflict and instability.

#### **4. Consequences of the Dynamics of Conflict in the Horn of Africa**

It is true that there are a number of conflicts in the Horn of Africa, which exacerbate a number of issues such as food insecurity, social unrest, displacement, economic instability, and regional instability. An important effect of the fighting in the area is a rise in the likelihood of natural disasters, especially flooding. According to research, global variables like climate change that increase river flood risk in the future could have immediate, serious humanitarian and economic effects that would eventually hurt economic growth (Winsemius et al., 2015). Conflict-related increases in the risk of floods can have disastrous effects on communities, resulting in infrastructure devastation, job loss, and displacement. Food security and other resources are also greatly impacted by conflicts in the area.

The Horn of Africa has endured protracted strife, with lasting effects that still influence the area today. From the protracted civil war in Somalia to the territorial conflicts between Ethiopia and Eritrea, the effects of violence in this region are widespread. Among the most significant consequences are political division, economic instability, mass displacement, and humanitarian catastrophes. In order to effectively support peace, stability, and sustainable development in the Horn of Africa, it is imperative to comprehend the multifaceted implications of violence in the region.

##### **4.1. Internal displacement of populations and Humanitarian Impact**

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) (2023) has published its most important annual report, which states that there were 71.1 million internally displaced people worldwide— at the end of 2022 - an increase of 20 percent from the previous year. 28.3 million People were displaced worldwide as a result of conflict and violence, which is three times the average annual figure for the last ten years. Nine million people, or 32% worldwide, lived in sub-Saharan Africa, excluding Ukraine. There were around four million in the Democratic Republic of Congo and just over two million in Ethiopia.

Internal conflict-related displacement in the Horn of Africa is a chronic and intricate issue that significantly affects both the impacted communities and the area overall (Bentil & Asekere, 2021). Displacement brought on by conflict has resulted in a number of issues for people and communities, including as health issues, disruptions to the social and economic order, and the breakdown of vital services. This study uses data from pertinent studies and literature to analyze the effects of displacement in the setting of internal conflict in the Horn of Africa.

In the Horn of Africa, the humanitarian effects of conflict dynamics and population displacement provide a serious and ongoing issue with far-reaching effects on both the impacted communities and the region at large. Numerous issues, such as food insecurity, health problems, and social unrest, have been brought on by the intricate interactions between conflict, displacement, and humanitarian disasters. This study uses pertinent literature and research to analyze the humanitarian effects of conflict dynamics and population displacement in the Horn of Africa.

In addition to major health issues, population displacement brought on by conflict has also raised susceptibility to infectious diseases and restricted access to basic medical care. Humanitarian groups and health systems are unable to adequately treat the impacted population with basic medical care due to the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe (Achi et al., 2019). Due to the collapse of the public health system and limited access to basic healthcare, the health issues faced by internally displaced people have worsened. As a result, they are more susceptible to illness.

Furthermore, the well-being and security of impacted communities have been severely impacted by the humanitarian effects of conflict dynamics and population displacement in the Horn of Africa. As a result, there is a greater risk of poverty, social instability, and the breakdown of vital services due to the resultant relocation and disruption of livelihoods. The humanitarian crisis that has resulted has surpassed the ability of humanitarian groups to furnish essential aid and encouragement to impacted communities, hence intensifying the difficulties encountered by marginalized communities. So, the humanitarian effects of population displacement and conflict dynamics in the Horn of Africa represent a serious and continuous problem with far-reaching implications for the impacted communities and the region. Comprehensive and inclusive policies that prioritize the security and well-being of impacted individuals and communities are necessary to address the humanitarian consequences of conflict and displacement.

In conclusion, there is a significant and wide-ranging effect of conflict dynamics on displacement. In addition to uprooting people and communities from their homes, displacement exacerbates humanitarian issues, damages the social fabric, and causes economic instability. Long-term physical, psychological, and socio-economic effects affect both individuals and communities after the initial period of displacement. In addition, it is important to remember the strain that host nations and communities have in providing shelter and other forms of support to displaced people.

#### **4.2. Economic Repercussions and Impediments to Development**

A great deal of research has been done on the complex and diverse subject of how conflict dynamics impact economic development and growth in the Horn of Africa. It has been demonstrated that regional conflicts have a major detrimental impact on development and economic growth. Conflict has been shown to have a negative effect on growth, with particular attention paid to the destruction of capital assets and the reallocation of economic activity from investment spending to government spending. Moreover, it has been noted that geographical locations and natural resources are possible catalysts for war in the Horn of Africa (Rahman, 2012).

Apart from the obvious consequences, fighting can also have indirect repercussions on economic growth. Nyasha et al. (2020), for instance, talked about how tourist development benefits economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa, but they also pointed out that violence is still a major factor to consider when analyzing the dynamics and effects of tourism expansion in the continent. This implies that the potential advantages of industries like tourism for economic growth may be impacted by conflict. Additionally, it has been demonstrated that social division and war have an adverse impact on the economic development of Sub-Saharan African nations, demonstrating the widespread and harmful consequences of conflict dynamics on the region's economic progress (Harry, 2021).

External powers' meddling in the Horn of Africa has also had an impact on the economy and created obstacles to progress. Rivalries and competing geo-economics policies among external entities have destabilizing effects on the region as a whole, causing financial instability and impeding efforts to achieve sustainable development. The region's economic resilience has been weakened as a result, and long-term development objectives have not been as close to being achieved.

To summarize, the Horn of Africa is greatly impacted by conflict dynamics, which have the following effects on the economy and impede development:

- Resources that should be going into infrastructure, healthcare, and education are being diverted by conflict. Money that could have gone toward development initiatives is instead allocated to the military and the handling of conflicts.
- Trade routes, cross-border trade, and foreign investment are all hampered by ongoing hostilities. Economic growth is impeded by insecurity and instability, which discourage investment. As an illustration, the boundary dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea has hampered investment and trade in the area, which has an impact on livelihoods and the stability of the economy.
- Critical infrastructure, including ports, bridges, and highways, is harmed by conflicts. Transportation networks are affected, trade is hampered, and company expenses are raised. Both the Somali and Ethiopian civil wars' infrastructural destruction had a lasting negative economic impact.
- Humanitarian crises result from displacement caused by conflict. Resources are strained, host towns are overburdened, and poverty is made worse by the displaced people. Conflicts can damage opportunities for development and livelihoods, as demonstrated by the tremendous displacement caused by the South Sudanese civil war.
- An atmosphere unfriendly to investment is produced by ongoing disputes. A high danger of violence deters investors, which impedes economic diversity and expansion. Despite its advantageous location, Djibouti's potential for economic development is hampered by regional instability.
- Food insecurity results from the conflict's disruption of agricultural activities. A lack of security causes farmers to abandon their crops and cattle to go missing. The Ogaden War between Ethiopia and Somalia has impacted food security in the area and uprooted pastoralists' means of subsistence.
- The violence erodes cohesion and collaboration within the region. Political unrest, trade restrictions, and closed borders all impede economic collaboration. Economic collaboration and cross-border trade have been hampered by the ongoing tensions between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

In conclusion, the Horn of Africa's development has been hampered by the war dynamics, which have had a considerable negative economic impact. The region's social and economic development is significantly impacted by the ensuing economic instability, development obstacles, and disruptions to business operations. Strategies that prioritize the security and well-being of impacted individuals

and communities must be comprehensive and inclusive in order to address the economic effects and development impediments.

### 4.3. Social and Cultural Implications

As per the Center for Strategic and International Studies (2022), one of the world's most conflict-ridden regions is the Horn of Africa. For many years, political turmoil has had an impact on all of the Horn of Africa's nations. Violent conflicts and acts of violence have made the effects of climate shocks worse for the impacted communities by adding demands and challenges for local frontline actors and international humanitarian organizations. The majority of these simultaneous crises fall on women and girls because of pervasive gender disparities that make it difficult for them to participate in decision-making processes, humanitarian relief and recovery operations, and the inclusion of local actors in humanitarian action.

Nearly 6 million children under the age of five are severely malnourished, and more than 20 million people in the region are currently at risk of hunger, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies (2022). By mid-2022, more than 25 million people are expected to be at risk of severe food insecurity, with Ethiopia and Somalia being the worst affected. Malnutrition and global hunger could be the result.

In Somalia, the famine is estimated to affect about 81,000 people by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (Integrated Phase Classification 5). In addition, the fighting in the country's north and the drought will mean that 20 million Ethiopians will have to live with a food crisis (Integrated Phase Classification 3) or worse, by the end of 2022.

As a result, the conflict dynamics in the Horn of Africa have a complicated social and cultural impact that affects the impacted populations deeply. Numerous issues have arisen as a result of the intricate interactions between conflict, social structures, and cultural norms, such as social unrest, displacement, and the decline of traditional cultural traditions.

The following points provide an insight into the social and cultural impact of conflict dynamics in the region:

- People are migrating both within and across borders as a result of displacement brought on by violence, tearing apart communities. Customary social systems are dismantled, and families are split apart. Social cohesiveness and cultural customs have been impacted by the huge refugee flows caused by the Somali civil war.
- The Horn of Africa is home to several tribes and ethnic groupings. Conflicts frequently make preexisting tensions worse, breed prejudice, and result in bloodshed. Ethnic divisions impact societal cohesion, as demonstrated by the fighting in Tigray and the conflicts between the Amhara and Oromo peoples in Ethiopia.
- Cultural heritage locations, artifacts, and traditions are often destroyed in conflict zones. Indigenous wisdom, historic landmarks, and antiquated manuscripts are in jeopardy. Parts of the Horn of Africa are also impacted by the ongoing crisis in Yemen, which poses a threat to the rich cultural legacy.
- Conflict exacerbates the issue of gender-based violence, which disproportionately affects women and girls. Sexual exploitation, rapes, and forced marriages are commonplace. During the South Sudanese civil conflict, women have experienced atrocities that have affected their social position and general well-being.

- Ongoing disputes are the root source of collective trauma. In communities, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder are prevalent. The Red Terror in Ethiopia or the Sudanese civil war haunt survivors and shape their cultural myths.
- Religious rituals and conflicts interact. Radical ideologies cause radicalization by taking advantage of weaknesses. Extremism's effect on religious and cultural standards is highlighted by Al-Shabaab's presence in Somalia and the surrounding areas.
- Social trust is weakened by the conflict. Communities are splitting apart due to mistrust, fear, and treachery. Neighboring populations' trust has been eroded by the ongoing conflicts between Ethiopia and Eritrea.
- Traditional healing methods are being disrupted by the violence. Trauma and displacement pose challenges to traditional coping strategies. Indigenous healing practices and community support systems are confronting difficulties in places touched by conflict.

In conclusion, conflict experiences are deeply ingrained in the social and cultural fabric of the Horn of Africa. In order to foster resilience and restore communities, peace-building, reconciliation, and cultural preservation initiatives are crucial.

#### **4.4. Regional Instability**

The Horn of Africa is rife with conflict and instability, which is exacerbated by a variety of factors. One of the main factors contributing to the instability and violence in the region has been identified as the participation of governments in the Middle East and the Gulf (Gebru et al., 2023; Donelli & Levaggi, 2021). Driven by rivalry and competitiveness, this involvement has increased regional instability and caused a cascade of insecurity (Gebru et al., 2023; Donelli & Levaggi, 2021). Additionally, it is anticipated that the likelihood of armed conflict in the Horn of Africa will continue, particularly in light of climate change, ethnicity, and its negative impacts, which include drought and floods that compromise food security (Hoch et al., 2021). Moreover, external conflicts like the one between the US and the USSR have globalized the Horn of Africa's regional conflicts and elevated the region as a whole to the status of a major hotspot (Ltipalei et al., 2019).

The impact of armed conflicts in the Horn of Africa goes beyond traditional security concerns. For instance, as seen in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia, armed conflict has been found to affect the development of diseases like tuberculosis (Gele & Bjune, 2010). Furthermore, the region's participation in regional security affects its stability because nations like Kenya have the power to affect the geopolitical and security landscape of the larger Horn of Africa (Holla, 2021). There is also evidence that the dynamics of conflict in the area are significantly influenced by climate change. Understanding its effects on African conflict, peace, and security is of increasing attention (Ehiane & Moyo, 2021; Hoch et al., 2021).

The growth of terrorism and its effects on regional security as a whole aggravate security issues in the Horn of Africa (Kagwanja, 2006). Moreover, armed conflict has made the area more susceptible to infectious diseases like HIV, underscoring the relationship between conflict dynamics and health (Daw et al., 2022). Furthermore, transnational aspects of the region's complex conflicts contribute to instability and insecurity there (Temesgen, 2020).

The growth of terrorism and its effects on regional security as a whole aggravate security issues in the Horn of Africa (Kagwanja, 2006). Moreover, armed conflict has made the area more susceptible to infectious diseases like HIV, underscoring the relationship between conflict dynamics and health (Daw et al., 2022). Furthermore, transnational aspects of the region's complex conflicts contribute to instability and insecurity there (Temesgen, 2020). Thus, greater regional and global dynamics impact

the security concerns that the Horn of Africa faces. For instance, the region's marine features have drawn a lot of attention from around the world, particularly in response to Somali maritime piracy, underscoring the connection between regional security and global maritime governance (McCabe, 2019).

In conclusion, complicated conflict dynamics with broad ramifications for regional stability affect the Horn of Africa. Peace and development in the region are seriously challenged by the volatile environment that has been generated by the interaction of historical grievances, climatic change, political instability, ethnic conflicts, and foreign interference.

### **5. The Way Forward: Mitigating Conflict Dynamics**

In order to reduce the dynamics of conflict in the Horn of Africa, a thorough and inclusive strategy that tackles the underlying causes of conflict and fosters long-term peace and development is needed.

- **Encouraging Regional Integration and Cooperation:** Regional cooperation is crucial for conflict resolution and peacekeeping in the Horn of Africa. Addressing shared issues like resource management, cross-border conflicts, and transnational terrorism can be made easier by promoting communication, collaboration, and cooperative projects amongst the nations in the region. Collaboration and dispute resolution are made possible by platforms such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Through the advancement of trade, regional integration, and cooperative development initiatives, the Horn of Africa can cultivate interdependence and mitigate the probability of conflicts stemming from rivalry for resources or geopolitical objectives. Building trust, settling conflicts, and maintaining collective security in the Horn of Africa are all made possible by regional collaboration.

For instance, resolving cross-border disputes—which frequently serve as fuel for conflict in the Horn of Africa—requires regional cooperation and diplomatic initiatives. Increased cooperation in border management, trade, economic cooperation, intelligence sharing, counterterrorism, infrastructure development, and regional security are some examples of this (Ubaydullaeva, 2023). In order to resolve border disputes, resource conflicts, and other concerns that have previously sparked tensions, the countries in the region must cooperate. Through regional institutions such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), nations can cultivate citizen trust and resolve conflicts in ways that benefit both parties.

- **Giving Focus for Economic Growth:** Setting economic development as a top priority is an essential tactic for settling conflicts and securing peace in the Horn of Africa. This entails encouraging programs to reduce poverty, create jobs, and invest in infrastructure. The region may improve stability and lessen discontent by addressing socio-economic inequities and offering possibilities for economic progress. Furthermore, encouraging economic interdependence among the nations in the region through cross-border projects and regional trade agreements can support the development of mutual trust and collaboration. The Horn of Africa can provide a basis for peace and tackle certain root causes of violence by emphasizing economic growth.
- **Fostering Good Governance:** Resolving conflicts and maintaining long-term peace in the Horn of Africa require effective government (Çelikpala, 2010). To do this, we must fight corruption, advance transparency, and fortify institutions. The region may resolve complaints, defend human rights, and offer channels for nonviolent political engagement by establishing inclusive and accountable governing systems. Establishing independent judicial systems and advancing the

rule of law can also aid in resolving disputes amicably and foster mutual confidence between various political and ethnic groups. Stability and the consolidation of peace in the Horn of Africa depend on good governance practices along with efficient dispute resolution and mediation procedures.

- **Encourage Open Communication:** Building confidence and resolving conflicts between disputing groups in the Horn of Africa requires open and inclusive communication. Divides can be repaired and mutually agreeable solutions can be found by promoting communication and providing forums for all parties involved to express their worries and points of view. Including marginalized populations, religious authorities, and civil society organizations in peace-building efforts is part of this. Furthermore, propaganda and false information that frequently intensify disputes can be thwarted by supporting press freedom and guaranteeing access to trustworthy information. Clear lines of communication make it possible to discuss ideas, look into shared interests, and develop the kind of connections that are essential for long-lasting peace.
- **Address the Root Causes via Dialogue and Reconciliation:** Historical grievances must also be addressed if long-term peace and stability are to exist throughout the Horn of Africa. Many of the region's battles are primarily caused by ingrained historical elements including resource competition, ethnic strife, and the legacy of colonialism. Acknowledging and addressing these problems might help countries start to mend the scars from the past and provide a basis for peaceful cohabitation. In order to bridge these historical gaps and create a common future vision, it is imperative that nations in the region engage in communication and collaboration. Invite governments, racial and religious communities, civil society organizations, and other regional players, among other pertinent parties, to participate in inclusive discourse.
- **Promoting Early Warning Mechanisms:** It's also critical to invest in systems that can identify early warning indicators of conflict and activate early response mechanisms. This may entail bolstering regional systems for resolving disputes amicably, endorsing programs aimed at promoting peace, and offering local communities' tools and training in amicable dispute settlement. Furthermore, there is a need for inclusive, efficient conflict resolution processes that deal with the underlying political, social, and economic issues. To build mutual understanding and trust between parties involved in dispute, this may entail encouraging communication, mediation, and reconciliation procedures.

In conclusion, resolving historical grievances, regional cooperation, and sound governance are all necessary components of an all-encompassing strategy to diffuse the conflict dynamics in the Horn of Africa. The nations in the area may create a more stable and peaceful future for their population by cooperating to settle international conflicts, bolsters institutions, and encourages communication and cooperation.

## 6. Conclusion

Conflict dynamics significantly and intricately impact the Horn of Africa's regional stability. Complicated issues involving numerous parties and interests plague the region. Significant humanitarian disasters brought on by these conflicts include food hunger, displacement, and the breakdown of social and economic institutions. In addition, how conflicts have interacted with one another has produced a vicious cycle of instability whereby one conflict frequently feeds the next. However, despite these obstacles, there have been impressive regional cooperation and peace-building attempts. Promising progress has been made through international interventions, mediation

procedures, and diplomatic initiatives. Regional and global actors need to keep supporting these efforts to successfully address the root causes of violence, which include ethnic tensions, resource conflicts, and political grievances. Only through sustained engagement and collaboration can the people of the Horn of Africa enjoy long-term peace, stability, and prosperity.

Conflict dynamics in the Horn of Africa are primarily determined by the historical, political, and socio-economic factors that have sustained the region's violence and instability. The ramifications of these battles have been catastrophic, leading to fatalities, population displacement, and impeding advancement. Nonetheless, there is potential for a solution through coordinated initiatives to deal with the underlying causes of conflict, encourage communication and peacemaking, fortify political institutions, and encourage regional collaboration. The Horn of Africa may work toward a more peaceful and prosperous future for all people by prioritizing peacemaking activities and funding sustainable development. To support these initiatives and lay the groundwork for long-term peace and stability in the area, local, national, and international stakeholders must band together. The Horn of Africa cannot overcome its problems and work toward a better future for coming generations unless it takes a united approach to conflict resolution.

## 7. References

- Adams, E. A., Thill, A., Kuusaana, E. D., & Mittag, A. (2023). Farmer–herder conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa: drivers, impacts, and resolution and peace-building strategies. *Environmental Research Letters*, 18(12), 123001.
- Ahere, J. R. (2019). Can the media be conflict sensitive? An analysis of Kenya and South Africa. OAlib.
- Alemu, M. G. (2018). A critical analysis of Issa-Afar violence in Ethiopia and the imperative for constructive transformation (Doctoral dissertation, University of Pretoria).
- Alexandre, M., Willman, A., Aslam, G., & Rebosio, M. (2012). Societal dynamics and fragility: Engaging societies in responding to fragile situations.
- Ashraf, Q., & Galor, O. (2013). The "Out of Africa" hypothesis, human genetic diversity, and comparative economic development. *American Economic Review*, 103(1), 1-46.
- Bentil, S., & Asekere, G. (2024). Internal Conflict Displacement Galore in the Horn of Africa: Ethiopia on the Radar. Authorea Preprints.
- Besley, T., & Reynal-Querol, M. (2014). The legacy of historical conflict: Evidence from Africa. *American Political Science Review*, 108(2), 319-336.
- Buzan, B., & Waever, O. (2003). *Regions and powers: the structure of international security* (Vol. 91). Cambridge University Press.
- Celikpala, M. (2010). Escalating rivalries and diverging interests: prospects for stability and security in the Black Sea region. *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, 10(3), 287-302.
- Center for Strategic and International Studies (2022). Annual report on famine and starvation. 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036, USA
- Chonka, P. (2019). # Bookfairs: New' old'media and the digital politics of Somali literary promotion. *New media & society*, 21(11-12), 2628-2647.
- Collier, P., & Hoeffler, A. (2002). On the incidence of civil war in Africa. *Journal of conflict resolution*, 46(1), 13-28.
- Depetris-Chauvin, E., & Özak, Ö. (2020). Borderline disorder: (de facto) historical ethnic borders and contemporary conflict in Africa. *Available at SSRN 3541025*.
- Depetris-Chauvin, E., & Özak, Ö. (2020). Borderline disorder:(de facto) historical ethnic borders and contemporary conflict in Africa. *Available at SSRN 3541025*.



- Devlin, C., Glaser, S. M., Lambert, J. E., & Villegas, C. (2022). The causes and consequences of fisheries conflict around the Horn of Africa. *Journal of Peace Research*, 59(6), 890-902.
- Donelli, F., & Gonzalez-Levaggi, A. (2021). Crossing roads: The Middle East's security engagement in the Horn of Africa. *Global Change, Peace & Security*, 33(1), 45-60.
- Ehiane, S., & Moyo, P. (2022). Climate change, human insecurity and conflict dynamics in the Lake Chad Region. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 57(8), 1677-1689.
- El Achi, N., Papamichail, A., Rizk, A., Lindsay, H., Menassa, M., Abdul-Khalek, R. A., ... & Patel, P. (2019). A conceptual framework for capacity strengthening of health research in conflict: the case of the Middle East and North Africa region. *Globalization and health*, 15(1), 1-15.
- Elbadawi, E., & Sambanis, N. (2000). Why are there so many civil wars in Africa? Understanding and preventing violent conflict. *Journal of African economies*, 9(3), 244-269.
- Freeman, L. (2017). Environmental change, migration, and conflict in Africa: a critical examination of the interconnections. *The Journal of Environment & Development*, 26(4), 351-374.
- Gebru, M. K., Zeru, G., & Tekalign, Y. (2023). The impact of the Middle East and Gulf states' involvement on the Horn of Africa's peace and security: Applying regional security complex theory. *Digest of Middle East Studies*, 32(3), 223-245.
- Gele, A. A., & Bjune, G. A. (2010). Armed conflicts have an impact on the spread of tuberculosis: the case of the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia. *Conflict and health*, 4, 1-6.
- Gemechu, D. K. (2023). Inter-Clan Conflicts and the Long Journey to State-Building in Somalia—Internal and International Effects. *Przegląd Strategiczny*, 13(16), 167-179.
- Harry, Y. M. (2021). The Occurrence of Conflicts and the Social Divide Do They Affect the Economic Growth of Sub-Saharan African Fragile Countries? *International Journal of Social Science and Economics Invention*, 7(05).
- Henneberg, I., & Stapel, S. (2020). Cooperation and Conflict at the Horn of Africa: A New Regional Bloc Between Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia and Its Consequences for Eastern Africa. *Africa Spectrum*, 55(3), 339-350.
- Hirpa, F. A., Alfieri, L., Lees, T., Peng, J., Dyer, E., & Dadson, S. J. (2019). Streamflow response to climate change in the Greater Horn of Africa. *Climatic Change*, 156, 341-363.
- Hoch, J., de Bruin, S. P., Buhaug, H., von Uexkull, N., van Beek, R., & Wanders, N. (2021). Projecting armed conflict risk in Africa towards 2050 along the Shared Socio-economic Pathways: a machine learning approach. <https://eartharxiv.org/repository/view/2460/>
- Holla, A. (2021). Rethinking Strategic Security: Juxtaposing Kenya's Participation in Regional Security with Stability in the Horn of Africa Region. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science*, 5(6), 51-54.
- Idowu, A., Oladiti, A., & Adenuga, A. (2019). Ethnicity, inequality and the tragedy of african development: a comparative case study of Nigeria and the south Sudan. *Journal of Globalization Studies*, 1(10). <https://doi.org/10.30884/jogs/2019.01.08>
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's flagship annual report (IDMC), (2023). Global Report on Internal Displacement: Internal displacement and food security.
- Juma, T. O. (2020). Application of Regional Security Complex Theory in Electoral Management, a View of East African Region. *Trends in Technical & Scientific Research*, 4(2), 55-62.
- Kagwanja, P. (2006). Counter-terrorism in the Horn of Africa: New security frontiers, old strategies. *African Security Review*, 15(3), 72-86.
- Koubi, V., Spilker, G., Böhmelt, T., & Bernauer, T. (2014). Do natural resources matter for interstate and intrastate armed conflict?. *Journal of peace research*, 51(2), 227-243.
- Kouladoum, J. (2023). Cultural conflicts and wellbeing in Africa. *Sustainable Development*, 31(5), 3609-3621. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.2614>

- Ltipalei, J., Kivuva, J. M., & Jonyo, F. O. (2019). External Conflict Escalation Among the Nilotic Pastoral Communities of Northern Kenya. *Journal of Social and Political Sciences*, 2(4).
- Mamkhezri, J., Razzaghi, S., Khezri, M., & Heshmati, A. (2022). Regional effects of maternal mortality determinants in Africa and the Middle East: How about political risks of conflicts?. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 10, 865903.
- Matshanda, N. T. (2022). The crisis of the postcolonial nation-state and the emergence of alternative forms of statehood in the Horn of Africa. *History Compass*, 20(10), e12750.
- McCabe, R. (2019). Policing the Seas: Building Constabulary Maritime Governance in the Horn of Africa—The Case of Djibouti and Kenya. *African Security*, 12(3-4), 330-355.
- McGowan, P. J. (2005). Coups and conflict in West Africa, 1955-2004: Part I, theoretical perspectives. *Armed forces & society*, 32(1), 5-23.
- Mekonnen, G. (2019). Ethnic Federalism and the Developmental State: The Search for Balance in Ethiopia. <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/341e/54098ad23f8c19f3443a5b6a9b4149863c4a.pdf>
- Michalopoulos, S. and Papaioannou, E. (2016). Scramble for Africa and its legacy, the. 1-11. [https://doi.org/10.1057/978-1-349-95121-5\\_3041-1](https://doi.org/10.1057/978-1-349-95121-5_3041-1)
- Michalopoulos, S. and Papaioannou, E. (2016). The long-run effects of the scramble for africa. *American Economic Review*, 106(7), 1802-1848. <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.20131311>
- Molua, E. L., Mendelsohn, R. O., & Akamin, A. (2020). Economic vulnerability to tropical storms on the southeastern coast of Africa. *Jàmá: Journal of Disaster Risk Studies*, 12(1), 1-14.
- O'Loughlin, J., Witmer, F. D., Linke, A. M., Laing, A., Gettelman, A., & Dudhia, J. (2012). Climate variability and conflict risk in East Africa, 1990–2009. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 109(45), 18344-18349.
- Olutegebe, N. S., & Ogunbaro, O. O. (2020). Efficacy of the Ekiti State Antigrazing Law: Key Stakeholders' Perspectives. *Afrika Focus*, 33(2), 117-136.
- Purdeková, A. (2020). Itinerant nationalisms and fracturing narratives: Incorporating regional dimensions of memory into peace-building. *Memory Studies*, 13(6), 1183-1199.
- Quinn, J. M., Jigar, T., Reinwald, M., Annan, P. S., Aapore, T., Wilson, J. M., ... & Haggenmiller, C. (2022). Comprehensive medical support in complex emergencies (CMSCE): pilot course review. *Globalization and Health*, 18(1), 39.
- Rahman, M. A. (2013). Water security: Ethiopia–Egypt transboundary challenges over the Nile river basin. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 48(1), 35-46.
- Rashad, S. M. (2020). African Climate Refugees: Environmental Injustice and Recognition. *Open Journal of Political Science*, 10(03), 546.
- Schellens, M. K., & Belyazid, S. (2020). Revisiting the contested role of natural resources in violent conflict risk through machine learning. *Sustainability*, 12(16), 6574.
- Setrana, M. B., & Adzande, P. (2022). Farmer-Pastoralist Interactions and Resource-Based Conflicts in Africa: Drivers, Actors, and Pathways to Conflict Transformation and Peace-building. *African Studies Review*, 65(2), 399-403.
- Siyum, B. A. (2021). Underlying Causes of Conflict in Ethiopia: Historical, Political, and Institutional? <https://www.dpublication.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/N-856.pdf>
- Temesgen, K. A. (2020). The Ethiopia-Eritrea Peace Talk and Normalization of Relations: Implication for Sub-Regional Security. *International Affairs and Global Strategy (IISTE)*, 79(9), 186-195.
- Twagiramungu, N., Duursma, A., Berhe, M. G., & De Waal, A. (2019). Re-describing transnational conflict in Africa. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 57(3), 377-391.

- Ubaydullaeva, S. F. (2023). Enhancing Cooperation for Interconnected Regional Security: Central Asian Countries and Afghanistan. *Journal of Law and Sustainable Development*, 11(12), e2527-e2527.
- Van Weezel, S. (2019). On climate and conflict: Precipitation decline and communal conflict in Ethiopia and Kenya. *Journal of Peace Research*, 56(4), 514-528.
- Verhoeven, H. (2011). Climate change, conflict and development in Sudan: global neo-Malthusian narratives and local power struggles. *Development and change*, 42(3), 679-707.
- Wig, T., & Kromrey, D. (2018). Which groups fight? Customary institutions and communal conflicts in Africa. *Journal of Peace Research*, 55(4), 415-429.
- Williams, P. D. (2011). The Horn of Africa: webs of conflict & pathways to peace. Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University.
- Winsemius, H. C., Aerts, J. C., Van Beek, L. P., Bierkens, M. F., Bouwman, A., Jongman, B., ... & Ward, P. J. (2016). Global drivers of Future River flood risk. *Nature Climate Change*, 6(4), 381-385.
- Witmer, F. D., Linke, A. M., O'Loughlin, J., Gettelman, A., & Laing, A. (2017). Subnational violent conflict forecasts for sub-Saharan Africa, 2015–65, using climate-sensitive models. *Journal of Peace Research*, 54(2), 175-192.
- Ylönen, A. (2022). A scramble of external powers and local agency in the Horn of Africa. *Notes internacionales CIDOB*, (280), 1-7.