

## **Somalia**

### **Rice**

Somalia was initially two colonies that were managed by Britain and Italy, respectively. In 1960, both colonies were granted independence and united to become the Somali Republic. The first President of the Republic was Aden Abdullah Osman Daar, a member of the Somali Youth League party (SYL). Osman Daar was in power until 1967, when he was defeated in a presidential election by his former Prime Minister, Abdirashid Ali Shermarke, also a member of the SYL. This is not a SOLS change. Shermarke was in power until 1969, when he was assassinated by one of his bodyguards. Following this, a bloodless military coup took place and Major General Mohamed Siad Barre (Mil.) was installed as President. This is a SOLS change. Siad Barre's regime is classified by Geddes as being personalist.

Siad Barre created a government led by the Supreme Revolutionary Council (which he created in 1976), and led the country to become ideologically and economically dependent on the Soviet Union (United States Department of State, 2010). He served as the Secretary General of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party (SRSP), though originally his official title was the President of Somalia. Consequently, Barre's SOLS changes from Mil SRSP. His government became increasingly repressive. In 1977, following a failed war with Ethiopia, Siad Barre severed ties with the Soviet Union and accepted Western assistance. Opposition groups to Barre began to form, including the Somali National Movement (SNM), the United Somali Congress (USC) and the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM). Armed opposition and civil war characterized most of the 1980s, and, coupled with an economic crisis, the government began to decay. In the later 1980s, the Somali army disintegrated. In December 1990, Barre declared a state of emergency. In January 1991, he was driven out of power and the central government completely collapsed. Ali Mahdi Muhammad, a member of the United Somali Congress-Somali Salvation Alliance (USC-SSA), took office as an interim President, but was unable to create a stable government that could restore order in the country. This is not a SOLS change. Archigos codes no leader of Somalia after Barre.

International forces intervened to attempt to restore order in Somalia, and several attempts were made at reconciliation between the various Somali factions that had begun fighting for control of the country. All have been unsuccessful. From 1991 until the present, Geddes classifies the situation in Somalia as "warlordism", as there is still no central government. The United Nations similarly classifies Somalia as a country without a government. There has been no recognized leader of Somalia's government since Barre fled the country in 1991, and therefore, there is no SOLS data from 1992-2008.

## **References**

United States Department of State. "Country Background Note: Somalia". Last edited 14 May 2010.  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2863.htm>

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