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Abstract

The Somalia Clans were the downfall of Operation Mogadishu. The United States probably will not understand other countries devotion to religion, tradition and beliefs. The Somalia Clans had been interference since colonial history. In 1993 the United States could not perform their mission because the Clans were taken for granted. The Somali's Clans had weapons and war fighting experiences that could not be match by the American Soldiers.

“The country lost ownership during the colonial period of the nineteenth century, the area in which ethnic Somalis were found was divided between Great Britain, Italy, Ethiopia, and France” (Brown, 1993, p. 11). I could argue that the colonization of Somalia cause all the confusion. The land was divided up without considering the clan relationships in the country. “The presence of the British colonial government had temporarily halted most inter-clan antipathies within the Protectorate”(Brown, 1993, p.12). When the British pulled out in 1912 , the clans begin to fight, over time the internal fighting amongst the clans caused poor economic and social conditions for the Somalia people. “One of the main a source of power in Somalia has been the control of food supplies”(Snyder, Operation Restore Hope/Battle of Mogadishu 2001, para 2). With that said food was used for numerous of things to include buying loyalty of clan leaders and exchanged for weapons from countries. “The result was that Somalia became the second, after Iraq, most armed-per-capita country in the Third World” (Ahmed, 1995).

The United States provided military support to Said Barre and were allowed to take the former Soviet installations in Somalia. Food was stolen in the early 1990’s while thousand of Somalis people died of starvation. In 1992 Operation Provide Relief began to provide humanitarian relief for the people. They were unsuccessful because of looting from various clans.

Ahmed (1995):

It is our belief that international aid worsened the political, economic, and social situation of the country for the following reasons. First, the aid given fostered the dictatorial regime, endowing it with a new life. Secondly, it created a dependency on imported foodstuff, discouraging local production. Last but not least, aid made thieves of

imported foodstuff, discouraging local production. Last but not least, aid made thieves of nearly all the state employees, whose salaries were not enough to support their families even for a week. (p.115)

The clans are fighting each other to get control of the foreign aid. “Since decolonization there has been no real centralized authority in Somalia, and presently the country is divided into at least sixteen warring factions, based on clan alliances, which constantly change”(Synder, 2001).

The extent of the problem affected the Somalia people from years of fighting for power amongst the clans.

Roberts (1993)

Infact the major conflict came between two sub-clans of the Hawiye clan –Aideeds Habar Gidir sub-clan and Ali Mahdi’s Abgall. The tribes fought for control of the ports and airports as booty in the war and as a means of acquiring the upper hand in the civil war. (para 3)

All the fighting and no government stability cause famine in the country. People were starving and needed help. The United Nations ask the United States to help.

Clark and Herbst (1997)

President George Bush would announce the American intervention (December 4, 1992): “Our mission is humanitarian, but we will not tolerate armed gangs ripping off their own people, condemning them to death by starvation” (page 242).

(Clake and Herbst, 1997) states that President Bush authorized General William Hoarr to take what ever military actions needed to protect the troops and the Somalia people. In February 1993 the relief efforts by the United Nations appeared to be going smoothly. “There was increased relief delivery to ports and major distribution centers in the country”(Makinda, 1993). “Much of what went wrong in the Somalia operations can be traced to the Bush and early Clinton administration’s schizophrenia when confronted with the fact that any intervention would deeply involve the United States in Somali politics”(Clarke and Herbst, 1997).

The Battle of Mogadishu on October 3, 1993 took the elite force of the United States Army by surprised. The American Soldiers conducted numerous missions at night throughout the cities of Somalia. “They used their Helicopters and machine guns to terrorize the Somali people” (Revolutionary Worker, 1999). Now the tables were turning, this mission would drop Soldiers from helicopters into the city of Mogadishu in the day time to captured people that were attending a meeting with Aidid’s clan. The big difference came when the Somali people of the neighborhood responded by setting fires to piles of tires. “This was a signal for the people throughout the city to grab their guns, if they had any, and converge on the columns of smoke” (Revolutionary Worker, 1999). _When the Black Hawk helicopters were shot down it was the turning point to everything that could go wrong with the mission. The Somalia fighters had learned various fighting techniques from the Sudanese who fought against the Russian helicopters in Afghanistan. “The Somali fighters rewired RPGs so they would explode with timers instead of a contact. They also learned to dig holes, cover them with trees or green cloth and shoot from this camouflage, and not to shoot from roof tops since they become easy targets and they were taught to shoot at choppers from behind, since the rear of the chopper was its

weak point” (Revolutionary Worker, 1999). The Rangers were not a custom with fighting on the ground. “They were use to fighting with missiles and jets hitting the enemy from afar “ (Revolutionary Worker, 1999).

The “Battle of Mogadishu” a planned ninety minute mission which turned into a deadly seventeen hours of turmoil for the American forces. The Somali fighters and people did not like the American people, even though the Americans were there to help with the food shortages and the political unrest. For centuries someone or some country has tried to change the society, to help the people. The country has had wars dating back to mid 1890’s. Each time the ruling clan’s are the only benefactors. Million of dollars, food and weapons had been given to the country. The Clans do not want to help the Somali people. From historical events, the clans want to keep the Somali people under control by not letting them be free of charity, family parasitism and culture of being in clans.

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