

Imperialism Case Study

Somalia

Essential Question:

How did European-imposed borders create problems for Somali people?



Learning Targets:

- I can describe how European-imposed borders led to problems for Somalia.
- I can compare/contrast Somalia's border issues with ethnic border conflicts in Africa as a whole.

GEOGRAPHY

- Key location @ intersection of Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, & Indian Ocean
- close to Middle East
- African nation with longest coast

Why does this matter?



Somali people have historically lived in the pink-shaded areas.

The black lines show European-created borders.

What do you predict the effects of this situation to be?




Geography

- Historically, much of the country was nomadic (moving in response to seasons, food availability)
- South was more agricultural.

What cultural differences might result?



A man in a white t-shirt is shown from the side, working on a thatched roof structure. He is reaching up with both hands, possibly adjusting or securing the thatch. The structure is made of natural materials, with a prominent thatched roof and a wall made of woven reeds or similar material. A blue and white striped object is visible in the background. The scene is set outdoors, and the lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning.

But sometimes when there's rain, what they do is place the hide

Colonization of Somali Areas



- Italians colonized the southeast arm.
- British colonized the north arm.
- British also colonized Kenya (to the south)
- French colonized around Djibouti
- Ethiopia controlled Ogaden

What do you predict the effects of this situation would be?

Italian vs. British Somaliland

- **Italy** economically invested in large, planned projects (sugarcane, bananas)
- **British** mostly ignored their conquered area – spent years fighting Somali resistance
- Lasting differences:
 - south** = more infrastructure and skilled workers, richer



north = less infrastructure, fewer skilled workers, poorer



How did the division of Somalis create problems?

Shifita War 1963-67: Somalia vs. Kenya

- Some Somalis fought to leave Kenya, join Somalia
- Kenyan government put people in concentration camps, killed livestock



How would an event like this impact Somali-Kenyan relations?

How did the division of Somalis create problems?

- Somalis are a minority group in Kenya and Ethiopia.
- “Pan-Somalism” = desire to unite Somalis into one country
- Ogaden War 1977-78 against Ethiopia
- Somalia invaded Ogaden in an attempt to make it part of Somalia.



First Somali President, Dr. Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke (1962):

“Our misfortune is that our neighboring countries, with whom we seek to promote constructive and harmonious relations, are not our neighbors but **our Somali kinsmen** whose citizenship has been falsified by indiscriminate boundary ‘arrangements.’ They have to move across artificial frontiers to their pasture lands. They occupy the same terrain and pursue the same pastoral economy as ourselves. We speak the same language. We share the same God, the same culture and the same traditions. **How can we regard our brothers as foreigners?**”

