

Conflicts in the Horn of Africa: human and ecological consequences of warfare

Edited by
Terje Tvedt



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EPOS, Research Programme on Environmental Policy and Society
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Foreword

No single academic discipline can monopolize the research necessary to analyse and comprehend complex social phenomena such as wars and the consequences of wars. This volume of essays stems from a workshop held at the University of Bergen in Norway, April 9–12, 1992, which was both multidisciplinary and international. The participants were chosen to represent different disciplines, geographical areas and perspectives. Each of the essays is an independent contribution presenting points of view not necessarily in agreement with the others. All are, however, based on a common effort to understand and describe this important problem, examined in a range of cultural, political and geographical settings on the Horn of Africa using the approach and apparatus of respective disciplines. The essays are elaborated from some of the papers presented at this workshop, co-organised by the Scandinavian Institute of African Studies (SIAS) in Uppsala, Sweden and the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) at the University of Bergen. The workshop was part of two larger research programmes: "Human Life in African Arid Lands" at the SIAS, led by M.A. Mohamed Salih, and "Consequences of war/rehabilitation of societies after war" at the CDS, led by Terje Tvedt. This interest coincided with that of the research programme on "Human Life in African Arid Lands" and its sub-project on the "Human and Ecological Consequences of War in African Drylands", in turn operated in cooperation with the project on "People, Environment and Security in Africa" (Anders Hjort af Ornäs; the Swedish Council for Planning and Coordination of Research). Hence the present volume is an outcome of this joint effort and mutual interest between the two research projects in Norway and Sweden.

As a co-convener I wish to express my deep gratitude to M. A. Mohamed Salih. Prior to the workshop he provided the participants with a position paper on major themes relating to the workshop. During the workshop his professional and social skills encouraged fruitful and open discussions. I am also most grateful to Barbara Hendrie who carefully read, criticised and proposed detailed revisions for all the included papers. Special thanks are also due to Thelma Kraft for the very efficient organisation of the workshop and to Christine Axelsen, also Centre for Development Studies, for secretarial assistance. I also wish to thank the Norwegian Research Council for Sciences and the Humanities, the Swedish Council for Planning and Coordination of Research and the Scandinavian Institute of African Studies for financing the workshop.

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Terje Tvedt