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

Edited by
Terje Tvedt
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Foreword

No single academic discipline can monopolize the research necessary toanalyse and comprehend complex social phenomena such as wars and theconsequences of wars. This volume of essays stems from a workshop held atthe University of Bergen in Norway, April 9–12, 1992, which was bothmultidisciplinary and international. The participants were chosen to representdifferent disciplines, geographical areas and perspectives. Each of the essays isan independent contribution presenting points of view not necessarily inagreement with the others. All are, however, based on a common effort tounderstand and describe this important problem, examined in a range ofcultural, political and geographical settings on the Horn of Africa using theapproach and apparatus of respective disciplines. The essays are elaboratedfrom some of the papers presented at this workshop, co-organised by theScandinavian Institute of African Studies (SIAS) in Uppsala, Sweden and theCentre for Development Studies (CDS) at the University of Bergen. Theworkshop was part of two larger research programmes: “Human Life inAfrican Arid Lands” at the SIAS, led by M.A. Mohamed Salih, and“Consequences of war/rehabilitation of societies after war” at the CDS, led byTerje Tvrdt. This interest coincided with that of the research programme on“Human Life in African Arid Lands” and its sub-project on the “Human andEcological Consequences of War in African Drylands”, in turn operated incooperation with the project on “People, Environment and Security inAfrica” (Anders Hjort af Ornäs; the Swedish Council for Planning andCoordination of Research). Hence the present volume is an outcome of thisjoint effort and mutual interest between the two research projects in Norwayand Sweden.

As a co-convener I wish to express my deep gratitude to M. A. MohamedSalih. Prior to the workshop he provided the participants with a position paperon major themes relating to the workshop. During the workshop hisprofessional and social skills encouraged fruitful and open discussions. I amalso most grateful to Barbara Hendrie who carefully read, criticised andproposed detailed revisions for all the included papers. Special thanks are also
due to Thelma Kraft for the very efficient organisation of the workshop and toChristine Axelsen, also Centre for Development Studies, for secretarialassistance. I also wish to thank the Norwegian Research Council for Sciencesand the Humanities, the Swedish Council for Planning and Coordination ofResearch and the Scandinavian Institute of African Studies for financing theworkshop.

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