

Form 4 History

Chapter 2 Summery

THE MILITARY COUP OF SOMALIA IN 1969

Table showing the alterations of the civilian governments of Somalia from 1960 - 69

<i>Period</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Prime minister</i>	<i>From</i>
1960 – 64	Adam Abdulle Osman	South	Abdirashid A. Sharmarke	South
1964 – 67	Adam Abdulle Osman	South	Abdirizak H. Hussein	South
1967 – 69	Abdirashid A. Sharmarke	South	Mohamed H. Ibrahim Egal	North

- On 15th October 1969, the president of Somalia, **Abdirashid Ali sharmarke**, was shot dead in *Laasanod* by one of his police guards.
- He was visiting drought-stricken regions in the north.
- The Prime Minister (**Mohamed H. I. Egal**), who was in new-York at the time of the assassination, hurried back home to organize an election of a new president.
- On 20th October, the ruling party of **SYL** party agreed that **Haji Musa Boqor** to be their candidate.
- In the morning of 21th October 1969, the day after the burial of the president's body, a group of military officers led by Mohamed Siyad Barre (*commander of the Somali armed forces*) overthrew the government and took over the power by force.
- This was a well-staged and bloodless coup which encountered no opposition.
- These army officials argued that they were impatient with the corruption, inefficiency and weak administration of the civilian government led by Sharmake and Egal.
- The leaders of the coup took the following immediate steps:
 - a) All the key positions in the capital were occupied by the army.
 - b) They arrested the prime minister, all the ministers, former president and most of the top leaders.
 - c) The parliament was abolished.
 - d) The constitution was suspended.
 - e) All the political and social organizations banned.

- f) They announced through the radio that they seized the power and overthrew the government.
- On the 1st November 1969, more than one week after the coup, it soon became clear the names of the military officers who took the power.
- They named themselves as **Supreme Revolutionary Council** (SRC) with Gen. **Mohamed Siyad Barre** became the chairman.
- The SRC had 25 members drawn from the military and the police ranging from general to captain. This council embarked on energetic **internal administrative** policy;
 - a) They took over all the duties of the president, the prime minister, the cabinet and the parliament.
 - b) The civilian district governors were all replaced by military personals.
 - c) Unemployed, drop outs etc. mostly from the south, were recruited for the whole series of public workers.
 - d) The death sentence replaced the blood compensation to abolish the traditional clan division.
 - e) Tribalism, nepotism, corruption and misrule were eliminated.

Scientific socialism and dictatorship

- In the first anniversary of the military coup, on 21st October 1970, the regime *Siyad Barre* announced that Somalia adopted scientific socialism.
- Scientific socialism in Somali literally mean “**wealth sharing based on knowledge**” (*Hanti-wadaagga Cilmiga Ku dhisan*). This greatly changed the political direction of Somalia to the soviet union (USSR)
- Scientific socialism was coupled with national campaigns and crash programs;
 - a) An effigy of the dead body of tribalism was buried or burnt in all over the country believing that the clan difference would be eradicated in this way.
 - b) The word JAALE meaning comrade was officially launched replacing the traditional word of uncle and cousin
 - c) People were organized to lead and participate community development and self-help projects.
 - d) Destitute children and orphans were gathered into Revolutionary Youth Centers where they were fed, educated and clothed to become new revolutionary ideals.
 - e) Military training was made compulsory for every student to join **Halane Military Academy**.

- f) Project of land forms and nationalism.
 - g) All the privately owned sector of the economy, banks, insurance companies, pharmaceutical, shipping, electricity, the imports and distribution of the goods were **nationalized**.
 - h) In 1972, the Somali government announced that the Somali language would have an orthography in Latin script.
- A national cult was made around the head of the state – MSB – father of the nation. His speeches of *less talk and more work* were daily aired through the national radio. As the chairman of the SRC, MSB held the reign firmly only in his hands and had a dominant control, he was the strategist and thinker of the military junta.
 - 1972 three high-ranking officials were executed, these were;
 1. *General .Mohamed Ainanshe from North.*
 2. *Colon .Salad Gabayre from South.*
 3. *Abdulkadir dhel from Central reg.*
 - In 1974 the OAU held its annual conference in Mogadishu and MSB was nominated as head of the OAU in that year
 - In the same year Somalia joined the **Arab League Organization** although its ideology was against the socialism.
 - In 1975, the regime Siyad Barre executed 10 sheikhs after they fiercely criticized the regime's **new law of inheritance** which clearly and intentionally ignored some verses of the holly Quran.
 - In 1976, the ruling party- **Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party** (SRSP/XHKS) was formed with Barre its head.

The 1977 war against Ethiopia

- Since the independence of 1960, Somalia and Ethiopia fought at least two times over the issue of reserve area.
- I. In 1963-64 – *Ethiopian forces invaded some of frontier regions.*
 - II. In 1977-78 – *Somalia and Ethiopia got full-scale war.*
 - Three **reasons triggered or contributed to the out-break of the 1977 war**;
 1. The regime Siyad Barre wanted to distract new oppositions that were organizing both at home and abroad.
 2. In June 1977, Djibouti achieved its dependence. This inspired the western Somali liberation front (WSLF) who requested urgent support from Somalia.

3. In 1974, Ethiopia emperor – **Haile Selassie** – was overthrown by the **DERG** (military). This left the situation in Ethiopia confused as many groups competed for the power. M.S.B wanted to take advantage of this.
- In July 1977, the Somali National Army (SNA) with the WSLF, began heavy military campaigns to expel the Ethiopians out of the Reserve Area.
 - They cut the rail way line between Djibouti and Ethiopia and then swiftly captured vast area by liberating 90% of the Somali-inhabited territory.
 - The Ethiopian army got demoralized and nearly lost the war.
 - However, Ethiopia got immediate and huge support from the USSR and its allies.
 - East Germany, South Yemen, North Korea and Cuba poured modern weapons, troops and even military experts to Ethiopia.
 - In 1978, the Somalis retreated back and were finally defeated after they rejected to accept a cease fire.

Why was Somalia defeated in the war?

- a. Ethiopia got enormous help from foreign nations.
- b. Ethiopia had better politics in foreign affairs than Somalia.
- c. Lack of foreign help especially the USSR who preferred to help Ethiopia.
- d. During the war there was military purges in the SNA.
- e. Poor leadership by de dictator.
- f. The USA rejected to give any assistance to Somalia.

What were the results of the 1977 war?

- 1. Loss of lives, property and equipment in both sides.
- 2. Somalia was defeated and Ethiopians got victory.
- 3. Ethiopia recaptured all the disputed area (ogadenia).
- 4. Russian-Somali relations broke and thousands of Russians were expelled from Somalia.
- 5. The Siyad's government replaced the USSR relations to the USA.
- 6. Large number of refugees from Ethiopia to Somalia especially in the north.
- 7. The war greatly weakened the SNL.
- 8. Attempted coup of 1978 in Somalia

The attempted coup of 1978

- In 1978, a group of Somali military officers mostly from the central and northern regions tried to over throw,

- But they failed their attempt and Barre survived.
- Most of them were captured and 17 persons found guilty were executed.

What caused this attempted coup?

- a. The SNA got demoralized after the defeat of the Ethiopian war.
- b. Many troops were discharged because of the poor economics.
- c. Ill treatment from the dictator.
- d. Many civilians were jailed without fair trial.
- e. Evacuations by the regime to the army.

What were the outcomes of this attempted coup?

- 1. These officers failed to overthrow the regime Siyad Barre
- 2. 17 officers were executed by firing squad.
- 3. Some officers escaped to Kenya and then Ethiopia.
- 4. Formation of guerilla opposition SSDF and SNM
- 5. The popularity and prestige of M.S Barre declined.