

Editorial Note

Dear readers and colleagues,

We are pleased to present our issue of 2020, volume five of *Somali Studies: A Peer-Reviewed Academic Journal for Somali Studies*.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of this journal. It was early 2014 when we started the initial arrangements, although, the final decision was taken on 12 May, 2014. After two years of constant efforts, the inaugural volume became ready, in print and online forms, in May 2016. It became first of its kind issued from Somalia. Actually, launching a periodical academic journal devoted to Somali studies in Mogadishu at that time was both exciting and challenging!

This volume also has coincided with the 60th anniversary of Somalia's independence, the birth of a modern Somali Republic in 1960. This commemoration was sparked a vigorous and heated debate on what caused the collapse of the Somali state thirty years after its birth, and has stirred up a controversial discussion on the challenges and impediments which are hindering the recovering process. These discussions have been raging in academia, media outlets and other community platforms both across the country as well as the Somali diaspora around the globe. The articles of this issue are not far from these debates.

The first article examines the phenomenon of foreign aid dependency, which Somalia pursued throughout 1960-1990. The author finds that Somalia relied heavily on foreign aid in the economic, development, humanitarian and military fields throughout the three post-independence decades. Obviously, this behavior has become prevalent in the mindset of Somali leaders.

The second article entitled "*Somali Elite Political Culture: Conceptions, Structures, and Historical Evolution*", where the author formulates that

“the ruling elite political culture is responsible for the Somali state’s collapse and the impediment to its resuscitation”. The author strongly argues for the indispensability of changing the political culture of the ruling elite, otherwise, there is no escape from the vicious cycle of state failure.

The next two articles discuss the significance of improving the Somali legal instruments, and they provide valuable suggestions each in his field of study. The third article signifies the importance of modernization of the Somali Penal Code to deal effectively with the new crimes and the complex forms of criminal activities that have emerged recently. It provides practical recommendations in this regard. The fourth article revises the newly adopted law for foreign investment and proposes some recommendations to improve it.

The last article is a literary essay under the title of (*“Pen to Poet Is Weapon”—the Political in Abdirahman Mirreh’s Poetry (1976-1994)*). It explores the miserable condition experienced by the Somali people because of tyranny and political violence by examining the political themes in selected collections of Abdirahman Mirreh’s Poetry.

The preparation of this issue coincided with the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic, which caused a delay of its release for a few months due to the complex challenges during these turbulent times.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our respected authors, our reviewers & the Editorial and Advisory Boards for their dedication and commitment to accomplish this volume successfully despite the uncertainty and disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mustafa Feiruz
Editor-in-Chief