



Into the abyss: Somalia to become the century's Armageddon theatre

By Adan Ismail
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When the Ethiopians sealed a [dubious port deal](#) with a septuagenarian Somalia separatist leader against the sky-high furore of all Somalis across the divide, the Addis office gloated over the deal with a tone reminiscent of an ancient Abyssinian leader's relish after registering a landmark victory. Added to this was how people in Addis Ababa rejoiced as if their country won a decisive battle against an avowed enemy. Whatever the deal meant to Ethiopians, it was a piercingly painful dawn to the general Somali public. It rekindled memories of aggressions by the defunct Abyssinian Empire, pricked old wounds and signalled a resumption of Addis's undying claims over Somali Lands.

Having already annexed a big chunk of Somali territories in the past century, with the connivance and help of the British Empire, the current events are seen as the completion of the *terre irredente* dream; the claim that Somali territories are rightfully Abyssinian and will one day become part of their great empire. Whether or not that dream is set to materialise, the deal sets a troubling trajectory for the region. It recharged a decayed radical Somali nationalism, embodies Islamist forces and above all, marks a prelude to the involvement of more destabilising foreign forces in the region with ramifications reaching beyond its boundaries. Ramifications that can dramatically remake the world, or at least the Middle East and Eastern Africa.



PM Abiy Ahmed and President Muse Bihi

Dragged to the frontier of hell

When the deal was announced, the government in Mogadishu immediately unleashed whirlwind diplomatic overtures. First calling on its traditional Arab allies and then Eritrea, an arch rival of Ethiopia. Voices of support from these two were enormous, positive and encouraging. Other actors like the European Union and individual states including the United States voiced similar support for Somalia while the African Union and the IGADD gave broad-brush statements interpretable as to dissuade Ethiopia from making an aggressive move. In diplomatic circles, Somalia appears to be gaining ground, while Ethiopia, with each passing day, faces potential embarrassment, if not ultimate isolation. However, beneath these apparent triumphs lies a critical error that Mogadishu is being urged to avoid—the potential invitation of Egyptian troops into the country.

Proponents of this idea often cite the simplistic but unsubstantial notion that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend," pointing to Cairo's unresolved disputes with Ethiopia over the GERD. Others highlight the historical ties between the two nations, emphasizing Egypt as the preferred ally among Arab 'brothers.' From a strategic perspective, aligning with Egypt is seen as beneficial for Somalia in deterring a potential Ethiopian invasion. In the short term, Egypt could effectively impede any advances Ethiopia might make towards Somalia. However, beyond these surface tensions, there are underlying complexities that warrant careful consideration.

For the longest time, national threats that preoccupied Somalia's leaders emanated from two geographical fronts: Ethiopia and Kenya; creating the mental fear of 'two black African enemies at the gates.' Although the latter's threats have not been explicit since the 1967 Arusha Agreement, Addis Ababa and Mogadishu have never achieved full reconciliation from their past animosities that peaked during the 1977 Ogaden War. Later, hostilities were deepened by Ethiopia's military interventionism in Somalia and the backhanding policy it has been dealing with fragile Mogadishu in the last three decades. Bound by ethnicity and blood, its Northwest neighbour, the stamp-sized Djibouti was not a security concern for Somalia and did not bother the leaders. Across the Sea and the Ocean sat the closest Arab neighbour; Yemen whose relations with Somalia have been benign courtesy of Somali society's pro-Arab attitudes and the deep-rooted trade and social relations spanning centuries between the two peoples. It is even believed that Somalia toned down its claim of the sovereign ownership of the Socotra Island to remain on good terms with the Yemeni people. Taken together, these have been the geopolitical realities that surrounded them and shaped the thinking of Mogadishu's leaders. While the three other fronts largely remain the same, the geopolitical ground on the Yemeni front has so vastly shifted to give rise to what could become Somalia's next frontier of hell if Mogadishu leaders are not careful. Since the Houthi rebels seized Sanaa, the devastating Persian-Arab proxy war and its concomitant sectarianism are closer to Somalia than ever before.

Egyptian boots on Somalia's soil serve one purpose to Mogadishu but two for Cairo. Through Egyptian muscle, Somalia sees Ethiopian aggression contained but Cairo, Somalia provides a convenient ground to coerce, intimidate and possibly invade Ethiopia should it fail to comply with Egyptian GERD negotiation terms. Secondly, Egypt with its allies intends to keep a watchful eye on the Houthis and if need be, act against them because of their sporadic attacks in the Red Sea that are choking the Suez Canal, depriving Cairo of considerable revenue and hurting its economy. Also, Egypt does not want its status as the preeminent force in the Red Sea since the Pharaonic times to erode and may bear every cost to preserve this status from the Houthis and their masters, Iranians. Because of these reasons, it is assured that Egyptians once they set foot on Somalia will be guarding two fronts to preserve their interests and Cairo's allies may too well have more sophisticated plans. Moving against Yemenis while stationed on Somalia's soil throws Mogadishu into the Iran/proxies versus West/Israel/Arab crossfire, eventually sliding the country into a flaming maelstrom with unpredictable consequences. If mounting suspicions that the Ethio-Somali tensions are farce mechanisation and the elephant in the room is dealing with Houthis and routing Iranian influence in the Red Sea are vindicated, then Egyptian deployment to Somalia is just a curtain-raiser toward that direction.

Smoking guns are detectable

Latest Houthi actions in the Red Sea have proved that Iran, which exercises natural sovereignty over the Hormuz Strait has, through its outgrown Soleimani arm, seized the Bab El Mandeb. Together with its outreach to Western Sahara's Polisario to influence the affairs of the Strait of Gibraltar, Iran is out of its shell, prepared to take on its adversaries on every front. General Mohamed Reza, the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards was not mean with words when he threatened to close the Mediterranean Sea, directly threatening Europe. Daring humanity's powerhouse and the roots of its prestige, then going out to bomb nuclear Pakistan, Iranians are out knocking on every door and daring the house's occupants.

The greatest concern now for the West, Israel and Arabs is the Bab el Mandeb because overlooking the current Houthi nuisances will prove costly in the future and make Iran more violent. Attempts to dislodge them through air campaigns led by Saudi Arabia have failed to yield objectives, nor the naval blockade. Efforts by a Gulf-installed regime buttressed by money and mercenaries to topple them have not succeeded either. Against the background of these failures, continued Houthi control in Yemen that permits them to exercise authority over the Red Sea on behalf of Iran is still viewed as too dangerous a reality to live by, especially by the Gulf Arabs, Egyptians and Israel.

No one else today is more restless and fearful of an Iranian threat than the Arabs. Though Saudis may not admit it, Iranians have effectively besieged Riyadh with powerful proxies and brought the opulent royal family to kiss Tehran's knees in a face-saving deal which some hailed as a 'rapprochement' but in the real sense, was a humiliating crush to the country that is deemed the source of Arab spirituality and pride. As that is not enough, Iranians are again taking on Egypt though at best as collateral damage to indirect war with Israel. Egypt and Iraq were counted as the flag bearers of Arab Civilization but Iraq was ruined by Western invasion with the aid of its other Arab brethren in blatant betrayal of the blood kinship. Lucky Iran seized the wreckage and today a completely different Iraq is under Tehran's firm grip. Iranians may be nose-tweaking the Egyptians now but it will not be so long after which they will take it head-on and then send back the Arabs to the pre-Islamic times of discombobulated desert tribes. In time, Persians will inherit the abundant treasures of the Arabian Desert that have turned ordinary Arab men slaves of materialism and consumerism.

The heat of such a gloomy fate now seems to be catching the Arabs, particularly the rich Gulf countries and the embattled Egyptians. Amid the admixture of confusion and fear, the pendulum of fate has so weirdly swung that Arabs and Israelis swept aside their firmly rooted biblical enmities and have suddenly forged the 'children of Abraham' camaraderie disguised as Abraham Accords; to collectively shield against a common enemy, the Persians. Of course, this newfound romance did not come without a price. Arabs had to abandon their fellow Palestinian kinsmen to be decimated by Israel not just to appease them but because Hamas has proved to be an irritant Arab child in bed with the enemy; a rotten organ in the Arab body treatable only by chopping off. Their hands untied to freely act and obliterate Gaza Palestinians for being too nuisant to Abraham's favourite child, Israelis on their part as the distant cousins of Western Civilisation are bringing a valuable item into the situation room: Western might. By joining the mix, Westerners are not volunteers or merely helping their cousin and his comrades but also have their stakes.

Occupying the peak of the pyramid of human hierarchy, the Westerners did not get there because they were chosen by God. More than any other group of people, they have perfected the art of systematically dwarfing competitors, by skill or by sword. With great ingenuity, Western Civilization can twist the narrative of a scene so ugly as the destruction of Iraq to frame it as planting the seeds of peace, prosperity and liberty. One of this civilization's contemporary scholars, Samuel Huntington, observed this systematic dwarfing of competitors and rightly attributed Western pre-eminence not to the superiority of its ideas and values but to the application of 'organized violence.' The only Godly gift bestowed upon the Westerners, as their scholars would admit, is the favourable geography that placed them at the forefront. Now, to prolong their domination, the West has to join forces with Abraham's children to deal with belligerent Persians who have overstepped their limits to such an extent that they are amassing forces at the gates of Rome. By threatening to close the Mediterranean, Persian sons born and raised in dry mountains want to snatch the Pearl of the World, the pompous and prosperous life, from European children. With Arabs and Israelis concerned about their survival and Westerners committed to once more dwarfing an agile competitor to prolong their lifespan, things now seem so neatly arranged that some of us, the bystanders, can speculate the decisive moment is nearing. Shreds of evidence emerge in a desolate part of the Earth - the Horn of Africa - that the plan to fold Iran's long and most violent arm is being moulded there.

The unmatched British trickery at work in the Horn of Africa.

Deception is a skill that not everyone is suited to invent and utilise it. While some people can so insanely choreograph a deadly deception, others can so easily be deceived. Such is the rule of nature. In coordination with its cousins and their comrades, but also the Americans, the British who are known to manufacture deception plans as insane as the *Mincemeat*, its invincible hand seems to be involved in inventing the Memorandum of Understanding deal between Ethiopia and the separatist Somalia's Northern state. A deal that is designed to generate storms to finally drown the long arm of Iran in the Bab El Mandeb; the Houthis.

How the deal that is driving the storms came about is worth examining. Britons, like other Western powers, have inextricably penetrated every aspect of the Somali space: social, political, and security. They have knotted strings so tight that they can pull them any time of their choosing to their advantage. A few months before the MoU, the United Kingdom thumbed Somalia's central government to backtrack its decision to elevate the SSC-Khaatumo regions into a full-fledged federal member-state which if it came to pass, would have sent its former colonial entity, British Somaliland, into oblivion. Inhabited by the Dhulbahante of the Harti clan, they have so forcefully weaned off their territory from the pro-British Somaliland. Britain's efforts to cut the violent uprising in the bud have not succeeded but they have later found a soft spot to pinch them: forcing the central government in Mogadishu to deny them federal state membership, for the time being. Mogadishu's sudden reversal of a policy that was almost coming to fruition, elicited endless queries for those who cared to ask.

All answers narrow down to the point that the British were intent on keeping their old British Somaliland entity intact to possess the illusory status of statehood and continue engaging in bilateral agreements with foreign countries until the perfect opportunity to throw in a dubious deal with Ethiopia avails. The kind of a deal that would trouble the water to make it ideal for fishing. In yet another skilful manoeuvre, London pressed on Somalia's president to revive the stagnating Mogadishu-Hargeisa talks knowing full well that the leader of Somaliland lacked the legitimacy to carry such a grand mission forward because of overstaying power after illegal term extension. Like the pendulum of fate has stitched together Arabs and Israelis to abandon their biblical enmities, it has struck the British sense to depart from their religiously followed doctrine of democracy and freedom and made them cuddle a small tyrant holed in a tribal enclave. Britain had the more sensible option of first ramping up efforts to get Somaliland elections done and once a legitimate leader was installed, push for talks with Mogadishu. Something it did choose not to do. Discernibly, the pinching of the SSC-Khaatumo and the 'talks' initiative was probably meant to pull Bihi out of the mud that disfigured him and his enclave after the shocking defeat by the Dhulbahante, clothe him with legitimacy and once he is emboldened, set him free to create a useful mess. When everything was set to throw the stone to stir up the water, the Americans joined.

Barely two months before the arranged Mogadishu-Hargeisa 'talks' resumed, the US secretary of defence jetted around the region and met Somalia's president in Djibouti on September 24, 2023. Despite broaching the surface-level mantra of combating terrorism, likely, a great deal of information from this meeting is thought to be under wraps. If the British are expert deceptors, the Americans have a thing in keeping secrets. While still pondering about these successive procession of events, we are to be reminded that the Ethiopian Parliament briefed a delegation of their European counterparts about 'the several options' on Ethiopia's table to access the sea and it's within the bounds of possibility that a greenlight was given to the Ethiopians to move ahead with aggressive sea access. In this briefing, the British footprints slowly fade to the background since it is not a member of the EU and the said delegation was led by the Portuguese-born Isabel Wiseler-Lima. But it likely supervised the contour of the goings. The briefing event happened on 20th December 2023, barely a week before the Djibouti summit and 10 days before the signing of the infamous deal on January 1st. On closer scrutiny, one can detect that Britain got the deceptive plan off the ground, walked with it, refined and in one way or another, involved its allies until the deal was done.

Pretending they were caught off-guard, a high-pitched harangue of denouncing the deal and raising the stakes for potential regional conflict came from London and most other Western and Arab capital cities.

We should also be keen on how the West/Arab alliance is split concerning this issue, shedding light on the sophistication of a British-conceived deception plan to initiate Ethio-Somali hostilities to create a launchpad for Yemen intervention. France and UAE seem to be on the Ethiopian side, perhaps elbowing Addis Ababa to go on the offensive. Paris, which has reconstituted and equipped the Ethiopian navy, is today the president of the Security Council and has been dilly-dallying to convene an emergency session to address the matter, which by all proportions is a serious security concern for the world. It is either they care less about the region going aflame, which is highly unlikely, or something they are complicit in has already been worked on in dark rooms. Similarly, unlike other Arab nations, the UAE did not voice official support for Somalia and is known to be Abiy's staunch ally supplying him with cash and arms. Looking at this split, we can almost certainly see a sophisticated line of deceit designed to raise stakes to create room for exploitable crises.

Hot rhetoric, domestic calm

More than twenty-four days have passed since the MoU was signed in Addis Ababa; a move which Somalia interpreted as a declaration of war by Ethiopia. Surprisingly, there are no signs that Somalia is bracing for an imminent Ethiopian invasion. Domestic mobilization stands at zero, trade and diplomatic relations with Ethiopia remain unscathed, troop deployments and redeployments by Mogadishu are non-existent, and except for hot rhetoric by the president and government officials, nothing indicates Somalia is actually at a heightened state of war. So far the only thing the Somali president has since done is a few phone calls to foreign leaders requesting them to come to the aid of his country. Ideally, this is akin to a folly of epic proportions for it gives the impression that Somali leader believes foreigners can defend the country on behalf of Somalis without them moving a finger. Realistically, it is the strength of a defender that deters an enemy and not the expression of solidarity by a faraway foreigner.

One should not be mistaken to believe that Somali leaders are completely powerless to strengthen their domestic power base and do the needful. They have several options on the table most important of which is to call up for mobilisation of tens of thousands of Somali volunteers whose will to fight is driven by the electrified nationalist sentiments. Suffice it to say that Somalis, whether guerilla or conventional force, are naturally experts in warfare; a skill that is gotten from their nomadic warlike tendencies, centuries of confrontation with the Abyssinian Empire, their ancient wars of expansionism and most importantly, skill constantly refined by the unending tragedy of tribal warfare. The warrior ethos is so central in the nomadic culture of the Somali people that when a son was born, gun fires rent the air to celebrate and take pride in the birth of a new warrior. They are ferocious fighters if only they are motivated by a core loyalty to a cause and are efficiently organised by a leader. Doing this today amid the emotional outbursts occasioned by the charged nationalism is not a task too great to be undertaken by a government and its leader.

Suppose the government is hamstrung by the dearth of resources to do a massive nationwide mobilisation. In that case, it has the more limited and viable option to organize the pro unionist Northerners to constitute an anti Bihi administration force. With the valiant Khaatumo-SSC already there yearning for government collaboration and ready to offer a convenient venue for Northern command in such an initiative, the equally bold Toghdeer region community (Garhejis) exasperated by Bihi's intimidation and fiercely opposing Ethiopian aggression present, together with Awdal (Borama, Saylac-Lughaya) communities and the rest, the Somali government has the chance to not only stave off Ethiopian incursion but also end the bed-ridden secessionism and reunify the country. It therefore defies all rational confines that leaders with all these options at their disposal would resort to mere phone calls while sitting in their comfort zones and foreign trips to pave the way for bringing in foreign troops to do a job they can do all by themselves.

And worse still, when it is all clear the advent of such a foreign force will drag the country into a devastating proxy conflict and global wars fuelled by conflicting interests. If the government needs foreign backing, it has the better alternative to call on willing partners not or least involved in this proxy fray. It is the laxity of Somali leaders that raises the question if there is really any credible Ethiopian threat or if these tensions are manufactured to drive greater interests. Underlying this laxity is, however, the strings pulled by the British government and allies so its deception plan remains on track.

The final course of the events

To begin with, Ethiopia is pale of its former self, deeply divided, a hollow country, a paper tiger trudging on a delicate catwalk determined only to survive. Unlike its 2006 invasion of Somalia, when the country was politically stable, economically booming and had considerable global standing, today all these have vanished into the doom of the unknown. Its leader, despite his insatiable appetite for wars and bloodshed, is perhaps not too naive to start a war whose unfathomable consequences are greater than his domestic experiences. More than anybody else, he understands it is not a cakewalk venture to forcefully take the Somali waters and expect the storm to settle quietly. An ill-fated invasion will morph into a war of attrition which his flailing economy and divided country cannot sustain. His army will be pinned down by not necessarily a conventional army that knows and respects the rules of engagements but a massive multifrontal guerilla counterattack conducted by marauding nomads, religious zealots and uncompromising nationalists and in the process, face all the possible scenarios of total decimation. In case he is buoyed by human wave attacks, strained supply routes will be a chagrin given the vastness of the territory exclusively inhabited by the ethnic Somalis.

Owing to the ongoing virulent tirades in social media, the course of the conflict is likely to be an ethnic warfare pitting the Somali against the Oromo; two communities that are strewn side by side across the expansive Horn of Africa region. An ethnic war involving two communities with a combined population of more than sixty million people will have earth-shattering consequences for the entire Eastern African part. Al-Shabaab keen on asserting its legitimacy will obviously jump into the fray; one time projecting themselves as the saviours of Somali interests and another twisting the narrative to interpret the conflict as a rebirth of the mediaeval Crescent versus the Cross wars. While citing the historical significance of Northern Somalia to early Islam, Al-Shabaab will not remain on the defensive but penetrate Ethiopia, radicalise its vast Muslim population and recruit an enormous number of fighters to take the fight to Addis's doors eventually.

The Somali region in Ethiopia will no longer remain calm as a population already tensed by the ethnonationalism sentiments raging in the country will take up arms and fight to declare independence thus, culminating in the disintegration of Ethiopia as other communities are likely to follow suit. Further disorienting for Abiye will be the activation of the undeclared Eritrea-Somali alliance that will see Asmara aggressively act against him on another front. Coupled with his domestic woes, Abiye, his lieutenants, foreign backers and international actors interested in the region's stability are aware of these dangers and many more. It is therefore unlikely that Abiye is prepared to take this risky route of launching an all-out invasion of Somalia. Instead, he and his allies might have other invincible, complex and multilayered plans that will eventually work out well for all of them.

If there is any gain for Ethiopia from this MoU is that it explicitly states its declaration of intent which for the long term, serves as a tool to harass neighbours, and intensify and justify future claims of access to sea. Secondly - and this is where British-conceived trickery is detectable - Abiye intends to strike a shock into the Somali conscience and out of fear, drive them into the arms of Arab 'brothers', particularly Egypt whose arrival in Somalia will lay the ground for more complicated developments. While maintaining the momentum of the threat, Abiye will in the end negotiate with the Egyptians to trade a free commercial Somali port forfeiting the emphasis on naval base not to compete with Cairo's naval ambitions. In return, he will seek to placate Cairo by loosening his tough stance on the GERD and making considerable compromises on that. Such an offer gleefully pushed by the Egyptians and Gulf Arabs will arm-twist Mogadishu to accept the Ethiopian demand to retain the

slogan ‘maintaining unity and territorial integrity’ and if that does not convince them, Hargeisa will unilaterally do so in exchange for sovereign recognition by Addis Ababa and most likely UAE.

This arrangement holds two meaningful advantages for Abiye: his country will shift from the expensive-to-use Djibouti port to the newly secured commercial free port and secondly, under the guise of bringing in a massive workforce, seeks to alter the demographic composition of this area. In the future, however long it takes, it will be an easy claim for Ethiopia. While Somali leaders and people are fed with the preoccupation of the lip-surface threat of Ethiopian annexation, they are being outsmarted through a skilfully choreographed game. Djibouti which can create some disturbances for economic reasons due to the Ethiopian shift, will be appeased through economic aid and other financial grants. Whether Somali leaders are aware of this but are restrained by the strings, or not, is open to question. Of course, the masters of this game are the West, Israel and the Gulf Arabs.

In a benign mood, it would be difficult to get Somali consent to bring in Egyptians or mercenaries and for that reason, a pandemonium replete with tensions and fear has to be created. In his press conference with Somalia's president, El-Sisi's speech carried a tone that suggested Somalia is an Egyptian-trusted territory and no one should dare touch it, thereby tacitly declaring the deployment of his armed forces to Somalia since Ethiopia has not yet retracted the deal. Going by the mode of his speech delivery, which repeatedly referred to guaranteeing Egyptian interests, and almost entirely addressed to the Egyptian public, a calculated guess leads us to the aforesaid possibility of a GERD-port deal between Cairo and Addis Ababa. After all, the last and the first Egyptian interest is to preserve its lifeline; the Nile water. If it can secure this interest without the enormous cost of life and resources, it is a heaven-sent opportunity. As Somalia's image gets obscured in this big-boys game, the allies are the ultimate winners with their fixation on snatching off the Bab El Mendab from the claws of Iran and its Houthi proxy.

In the final procession of events, the last or perhaps the second last will be swamping Somalia with mercenary forces brought in by the alliance. In that case, the Egyptian advent is just to pave the way for the incoming of such forces; funded, trained and coordinated by the coalition. Egypt may then take the role played by Pakistan during the Soviet-Afghan War. The fast-tracking of the lift of the arms embargo thoroughly pushed by the UAE and Britain, although it was Somalia's right after three decades of blockage, bears another signal of the massive amount of armaments that will pour in to equip the mercenaries. We may not do justice if we claim to estimate the actual number of mercenary forces expected on Somalia's soil, but it will border a number enough to launch an amphibious assault on Houthis who can mobilize nearly two million men in such an encounter. Needless to say, a war of this sort will also involve a large number of coalition troops together with Ethiopians who may well be asked to contribute forces as a payback token.

One might be tempted to ask why choose Somalia as a venue to launch an assault on Houthis while Arab neighbours not separated by waters can do that. These countries sit on valuable treasures too worthy to be sacrificed in the event of the Houthi fightback. It should be remembered that one of the reasons Saudis signed the rapprochement deal with the Iranians was after the repeated missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia, especially the 2019 Abqaiq oil facility that not only risked its economic backbone but also threatened Western industries. For the same reason, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have also walked back from the naval coalition forces assembled by the US last month to deal with the Houthis. Possessing a missile arsenal with a regional reach, and accompanied by their credible threats, it is unthinkable that other Arab countries will dare to host an anti-Houthi coalition. In the eyes of sadistic forces, Somalia together with Somaliland, in this case, have nothing to lose; an impoverished society, no oil wells, no industries, no great ports too useful to be destroyed, no complex industrial system, no meaningful infrastructures...no nothing. Just like they have in the past been nuclear waste dumpsites, they should bear the brunt of what could become the Armageddon of the century.

Lastly, Houthis with Iran in their backyard will fight back mercilessly. The intensity of the assault against them will be so great that the coalition intends to pin them down in one front so they don't have an empty hand to fire missiles and suicide drones to knock out the valuable treasures in the desert. That means the combined strength of Houthis, their proxy comrades and the godfather which although will not be of match to the capabilities of the attackers, will cause unfathomable destruction in Somalia leaving behind unspeakable horrors.

Such horrors may be as a result of deploying weapons of mass destruction such as biological and chemical with Somalia's main urban centre becoming a high-value target. Western intelligence agencies, with their ingenuity, just like they did during the Soviet-Afghan war, can pour a fuel into this fire by inserting the sectarian notion: a war of Sunni versus Shi'a. Like tens of thousands of Muslim volunteers travelling to Afghanistan, an overwhelming number of volunteers may come to Somalia turning into an epicentre of sectarian war.

After the dust has settled, with the defeat of Houthis and Yemen in tatters, we may not know what will remain to be called Somalia. Perhaps, Ethiopia or another country not affected by the war will seize the remaining wreckage like Iran inherited ruined Iraq after the US invasion.

Aden Ismail

Email: aden.mohedi@gmail.com