Kalashnikovs & Calculators

Warfare, Administration and State Making:
A Case Study of Somalia and Somaliland

STATE FRAGILITY... is one of today's most pressing global public policy challenges ...

... and constitutes a formidable conundrum for the academic community ...

General consensus: institutions matter

Crisis States Research Centre (LSE): The fragility or resilience of states hinges on institutional multiplicity.

Proposition I:
State making is about institutional standardization - a process whereby a common set of "rules of the game" gain dominance within a territory.

1) "State making is not only about institutions, but also identities!"

"The ruling is only half the story!!"

There is a need to forge a national identity ...

OK, BUT what brings about such institutional and socio-cognitive standardization?

2) Central Administration

We need to stop war, if it isirable

War is a demon of murder...

3) SO WHAT?

Examples:

1) Common argument that the unmaking of Somalia started with the dictatorial reign of a had Barre ...

NOT TRUE. Partly due to the enhanced administration, the early rule of had Barre saw steeply increasing levels of institutionalization and state making.

2) General proposition that war did not contribute to state unmaking in Somalia ...

QUESTIONABLE. The civil war has been institutional and socio-cognitive standardization.

3) Frequent argument that state of Somaliland was built by traditional authorities from the "bottom up".

More nuanced view. Major processes of standardization were carried through by modern elites from top-down.

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