INTRODUCTION
Several powerful Somali states dominated the Indian Ocean trade from the 13th century onward. In the late 19th century, the area that would become Somalia was colonized by Britain in the north and Italy in the south. The two colonies merged in 1960 to form the new nation of Somalia. Since 1991, civil war and political instability have resulted in the country being split into several regional governments.

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
low-income African Horn economy; 30 years of war and instability crippled economic potential; high remittances for basic survival; new fiscal federalism approach; cleared some unsustainable debt; environmentally fragile; digitally driven urbanization efforts

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $13.19 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $800 (2020 est.)
Industries - light industries (including sugar refining), textiles, wireless communication
Agricultural products - camel milk, milk, sheep milk, goat milk, sugarcane, fruit, sorghum, cassava, vegetables, maize
Exports $819 million (2014 est.)
gold, sheep, goats, sesame seeds, insect resins, cattle (2019)
partners: UAE 47%, Saudi Arabia 19%, India 5%, Japan 5% (2019)
Imports $94.43 billion (2018 est.)
cigarettes, raw sugar, rice, broadcasting equipment, textiles (2019)
partners: UAE 32%, China 20%, India 17%, Turkey 7% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population 12.1 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth 2.35% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity Somali 85%, Bantu and other non-Somali 15% (including 30,000 Arabs)
Language Somali, Arabic, Italian, English
Religion Sunni Muslim
Urbanization urban population: 46.7% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 4.2% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)
as of October 2021