

## **Shaping the New World – Area Reconfigurations between Forced Globalization Processes and Auto Dynamics: The Horn of Africa, Western Asia and Central America in Comparison**

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The paper intends to compare the political, economic, social and military reconfigurations in three different parts of the world which are located on different continents and represent different cultures. Nevertheless, they all share a long history of continued armed conflict, they all experienced a prolonged and difficult transformation from war to post-war societies, they all had to cope with political and economic transformation processes, and they all faced the challenge of permanent threat to state authority and even state integrity ever since globalisation processes started to determine the world order after the decay of the Eastern bloc.

The paper will use three country case studies to explore these regional reconfiguration processes: Eritrea, Kurdistan-Iraq, and Nicaragua. All three of them are ruled by ex-liberation fronts which gained power after prolonged liberation wars, all three of them had to re-shape their ancient revolutionary heritages due to a permanent changing global economic environment, and all of them are embedded into extremely fragile regional settings which determine their permanent balancing within the triangle of (voluntary or forced) isolation, efforts of joining and participating in global economies, and permanent struggle to avoid a collapse of the economic and political systems on the one hand, and the dissolution of the respective social and societal make-up on the other hand.

This contribution will open a new perspective on the developments in the Horn by analysing its socio-political, economic and military developments through comparison with other parts of the world, thus trying to explore to what extent the situation in East Africa is unique, and to what extent it reflects global changes.