

## **Somalia: In the Midst of Anarchy and Chaos, Life Continues**

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Since 2001, the current picture of the Somali conflict has been woven by three narratives. The first viewed clanism as the root cause of the war. The second attributed the armed violence to the so-called “conflict trap”, whereby the warlords, in their greed, took advantage of the collapsed Somali state to amass wealth. The third portrays Somalia as the haven of warlords, the al-Qaeda network, pirates and other criminal networks and, therefore, a threat to both local and global security. The aim of this paper is to analyse the way these three narratives create a blurred picture of the reality of Somalia and to reveal their limitations in order to offer a multi-causal perspective of the conflict. Somali history and politics will be taken into account and the full range of local, regional and international actors operating in the country will be made visible.