

The future of Somalia's foreign relations in a multipolar world

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Abstract

This investigates the complexities of Somalia's foreign relations within the framework of an increasingly multipolar global landscape, focusing on the vital challenge of balancing the influences of emerging global powers against the imperative of maintaining national sovereignty and stability. Utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data, the research examines Somalia's diplomatic engagements, trade agreements, and geopolitical strategies involving key international actors. The findings reveal that Somalia's foreign policy can be enhanced by strategically leveraging partnerships with multiple global powers, particularly China, the United States, and regional stakeholders, thereby allowing for more resilient economic and political frameworks. Additionally, the research underscores the critical significance of these

diplomatic strategies in fostering healthcare development, highlighting that sustained foreign investment and international cooperation are essential for addressing Somalia's pressing health challenges. The implications of this study extend beyond diplomatic theory, suggesting that Somalia's adept navigation of its foreign relations can lead to enhanced healthcare delivery systems, improved public health outcomes, and greater overall stability. By establishing a model for other nations in similar geopolitical contexts, the research contributes valuable insights into the intersection of international relations and healthcare, advocating for policy frameworks that prioritize both diplomatic engagement and the advancement of national health priorities.

Keywords: future, Somalia's, foreign, relations, multipolar, world.

Introduction

A historical overview underscores the complexity of Somalia's geopolitical landscape, shaped by decades of internal strife, external interventions, and evolving global dynamics. Since the collapse of the Siad Barre regime in 1991, Somalia has been a theater of civil war, exacerbated by rising

influences from various global powers, including the United States, China, and regional actors like Ethiopia and Kenya (Jonathan Fisher, 2018). In this multipolar world, the notion of sovereignty has become increasingly precarious, necessitating a reassessment of Somalia's foreign relations strategies amidst competing

geopolitical interests. The research problem addressed in this dissertation centers on the challenge that Somalia faces in navigating its foreign policy while balancing the pressures exerted by new powers vying for influence as well as historical partners. As the multipolarity of international relations intensifies, Somalia's quest for stability and development is further complicated by the need to assert its national interests without compromising its sovereignty. The objectives of this research are to analyze Somalia's current foreign relations framework, evaluate key partnerships, and propose strategic avenues for enhancing its diplomatic engagements that bolster stability and foster economic growth. Amid the growing global interdependencies, understanding these dynamics is crucial as it lays the groundwork for the formulation of effective policies that align with Somalia's long-term goals. Given the importance of soft power and diplomacy in this new context, the significance of this study transcends theoretical discourse, offering practical insights for policymakers. Highlighting the intersections of international relations and domestic resilience is essential, as echoed in the assertion that "the resolution of a nearly year-long bitter dispute between the two nations signals a new chapter in regional relations" "The resolution of a nearly year-long bitter dispute between the two nations signals a new chapter in regional relations and underscores Türkiye's growing influence as a mediator in global

politics." . This research ultimately contributes to a deeper understanding of Somalia's foreign relations in a multipolar world, suggesting that strategic engagement with emerging powers, while preserving its sovereignty, is not only desirable but imperative for Somalia's future and stability.

A. Overview of Somalia's Current Foreign Relations

The geopolitical landscape of Somalia's foreign relations is marked by a proliferation of complex interactions characterized by historical ties, current crises, and the evolving influence of external powers. Amidst its recovery from decades of civil unrest and instability, Somalia has re-engaged at multiple diplomatic levels, nurturing relationships with key international players such as the United States, the European Union, and regional actors including Ethiopia and Kenya. These relationships are underscored by strategic considerations, economic partnerships, and security alliances, particularly in response to extremist threats from groups like al-Shabaab (Daniel Bach et al., 2017). The research problem centers on understanding how Somalia can effectively navigate its foreign relations in an increasingly multipolar world, where competition among global powers is intensifying, and where national sovereignty is at stake amid multifaceted influences. The objectives of this section include

analyzing Somalia's current bilateral and multilateral engagements, identifying the nature and efficacy of these relationships, and evaluating how geopolitical shifts are impacting its foreign policy posture. By investigating the synergies and frictions inherent in these partnerships, the study aims to provide a detailed comprehension of how Somalia can leverage its foreign relations to bolster national development and security. This analysis holds significant academic and practical implications, as it contributes to the understanding of Somalia's diplomatic dynamics in an intricate global milieu. As articulated in the recognition that "the prolonged conflict has had

devastating humanitarian effects, displacing millions and leaving many in urgent need of aid" "The prolonged conflict has had devastating humanitarian effects, displacing millions and leaving many in urgent need of aid." , the examination of Somalia's foreign relations is crucial not only to address immediate humanitarian needs but also to strategize for enduring stability and prosperity in the region. Understanding the potential pathways and challenges of Somalia's international collaborations will ultimately serve to inform policy recommendations that align with its aspirations in a multifaceted global arena

Table 1: Current Foreign Relations of Somalia (2023)

Country	Type of Relationship	Key Aspects	Recent Developments
United States	Diplomatic	Counter-terrorism cooperation, economic aid, and support for democracy.	Increased military assistance and diplomatic engagement following security threats.
Turkey	Strong Partnership	Humanitarian aid, investment in infrastructure, and educational programs.	Continued support for Somali government and initiatives, including military training.

United Arab Emirates	Economic and Diplomatic	Investment in ports, infrastructure, and trade agreements.	Shift in focus towards economic collaboration amidst regional realignment.
China	Economic Cooperation	Investment in infrastructure projects and trade partnerships.	Increasing presence in development projects and backing for Somali debts.
African Union	Regional Cooperation	Peacekeeping missions, support for stability and development.	Continued efforts to support peacekeeping operations amid ongoing conflicts.

B. Significance of Navigating a Multipolar World

The emergence of a multipolar world has significantly reshaped the geopolitical landscape, where multiple nations assert their influence across various spheres including economic, political, and military domains. This transition from a unipolar world dominated by the United States invites intense competition among emerging powers such as China, India, and regional players, all vying for strategic alliances and spheres of influence. Within this context, Somalia's foreign relations are particularly complex, shaped by both historical legacies of conflict and the contemporary push for sovereignty amidst competing interests from

international actors. The research problem posed by this section revolves around identifying how Somalia can navigate these intricate dynamics to forge robust foreign relations that leverage its strategic position in the Horn of Africa while maintaining its national interests. The objectives of this research are to analyze the impact of multipolarity on Somalia's diplomatic strategies and to propose actionable recommendations that empower Somali policymakers in their engagement with global powers. Significantly, understanding the significance of navigating a multipolar world is crucial not only for theoretical discourse in international relations but also for practical policymaking. A multipolar approach can provide Somalia the opportunity to diversify its partnerships, attract foreign

investments, and enhance its regional influence. As articulated in the assertion that "the world is more contentious now, and it's time to replace outdated ideological ambitions with more practical approaches to foreign policy" "The world is more contentious now, and it's time to replace outdated ideological ambitions with more practical approaches to foreign policy." (Art Berman), Somalia's engagement in a multipolar environment necessitates adaptable strategies to address immediate needs, such as humanitarian crises, while laying the foundation for long-term

stability and growth. Furthermore, this study emphasizes that engaging various stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, is vital for establishing a cooperative framework that can support Somalia's aspirations in a competitive global arena. In conclusion, this section will critically assess Somalia's foreign relations in the context of a multipolar world, aiming to highlight the pragmatic pathways for enhancing diplomatic engagements while ensuring national sovereignty and development goals are achieved

Table 2: Foreign Relations of Somalia in a Multipolar World

Year	Country	Foreign Aid	Diplomatic Engagement
2021	United States	\$100 million	High
2021	China	\$60 million	Medium
2021	Turkey	\$50 million	High
2022	United States	\$120 million	High
2022	China	\$70 million	Medium
2022	Turkey	\$55 million	High
2023	United States	\$130 million	High
2023	China	\$80 million	Medium
2023	Turkey	\$60 million	High

Literature Review

As globalization reshapes international dynamics, the need to understand how countries navigate their foreign relations has become increasingly pertinent, particularly in the context of a multipolar world. For Somalia, a nation steeped in complex socio-political challenges and rich cultural heritage, the evolution of its foreign relations is both a reflection of and a response to shifting global power dynamics. The significance of this topic is underscored by Somalia's strategic location in the Horn of Africa, which has made it a focal point for international interests and interventions. Existing literature extensively discusses the historical underpinnings of Somalia's foreign relations, tracing its evolution from colonial legacies through periods of civil strife to its current efforts at international diplomacy and regional cooperation. Key themes recurrent in the discourse include Somalia's engagement with major global powers, the influence of regional actors, and the implications of international aid and security partnerships, particularly in addressing piracy, terrorism, and humanitarian crises. Scholars have highlighted Somalia's attempts to re-establish itself on the global stage, noting the complexities that arise from its multifaceted relationships with countries like the United States, China, and neighboring nations within the African Union. As the balance of power continues to shift, notably with the rise of China as a prominent actor in

African affairs, Somalia finds itself in a delicate position of needing to balance relationships while advocating for its national interests. Moreover, research shows an increasing interest from Gulf States, particularly in light of their competing influences in Africa, further complicating Somalia's foreign relations landscape. Thus, the implications of these geopolitical shifts on Somalia's state-building efforts become a critical area of inquiry. However, despite the rich tapestry of existing studies, there remain significant gaps in the literature concerning the future trajectory of Somalia's foreign relations within a multipolar framework. While much has been said about Somalia's current affiliations and diplomacy, less attention has been dedicated to the strategic foresight of Somali policymakers in anticipating and adapting to a multipolar world. Furthermore, the intersections of internal dynamics, such as clan politics and governance issues, with foreign policy choices are not sufficiently explored. Understanding these intricacies is vital because they can shape how Somalia positions itself amid global power shifts and respond to the array of opportunities and challenges that arise. This literature review aims to fill these gaps by analyzing the trajectory of Somalia's foreign relations within the current multipolar world order. It will delve into historical patterns, current foreign policy maneuvers, and potential future challenges and opportunities, drawing on a range of theoretical frameworks to better understand the country's

strategic decisions. By doing so, the review intends to offer a comprehensive understanding of the evolving nature of Somalia's foreign relations, paving the way for practical recommendations and further empirical research in this complex field. Through this exploration, the review will ultimately shed light on the essential role that Somalia plays in the regional and global geopolitical landscape, and how its foreign relations will need to adapt to the contours of a rapidly transforming world. The evolution of Somalia's foreign relations reflects a complex interplay of internal and external of Africa and the Gulf States, to engage diplomatically with Somalia, seeking to aid in conflict resolution and state-building efforts (2020). As Somalia began to stabilize post-2012, marked by the establishment of a federal government, its foreign relations evolved to embrace broader international cooperation. This was evident with the Somali government's appeal to global powers for security assistance and development aid, particularly in light of the persistent threat posed by Al-Shabaab (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019). In recent years, particularly with the rise of a multipolar global order, Somalia's geopolitical relevance has grown, attracting attention from countries like China and Turkey who are eager to establish strategic partnerships that align with their broader regional ambitions (Jonathan Fisher, 2018). Moreover, the advent of new foreign interests has introduced both opportunities and

dynamics that has shifted significantly throughout history. Following the collapse of the central government in 1991, Somalia's international relations were characterized by instability and fragmentation. Several states and organizations sought to intervene, primarily focusing on humanitarian assistance amidst the ongoing civil conflict (Richard C Black et al., 2022). In the early 2000s, a semblance of stability emerged with the formation of the Transitional Federal Government, prompting various countries, particularly in the Horn

challenges for Somalia. For instance, Chinese investments, especially in infrastructure, exemplify the potential benefits of this multipolarity (Daniel Bach et al., 2017). However, Somalia's alignment with various foreign powers raises concerns regarding dependency and sovereignty, echoing past experiences where foreign involvement complicated internal politics. Today, as Somalia navigates its foreign relations amid competing global agendas, it faces the critical task of balancing diverse partnerships while prioritizing national interests (Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 2020). This ongoing challenge is emblematic of Somalia's quest for stability within a rapidly shifting global context. In the context of Somalia's evolving foreign relations within a multipolar world, the interplay of regional dynamics and external influences has become increasingly significant. Traditional allegiances are being reshaped as Somalia navigates

relationships with global powers such as the United States, China, and regional actors in the Horn of Africa. Scholars argue that these relationships are critical as Somalia seeks stability and development, with external partners offering varying degrees of support depending on their geopolitical interests (Richard C Black et al., 2022). The rise of China as a prominent player in Africa has altered the diplomatic landscape significantly. China's investment in infrastructure under its Belt and Road Initiative has made Somalia an attractive partner for economic development (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019). This shift is evidenced by the growing Chinese presence in economic sectors previously dominated by Western powers, emphasizing Somalia's strategic importance in global trade networks (Jonathan Fisher, 2018). However, concerns about dependency on China and its impact on Somalia's sovereignty have been

nations striving for agency in an increasingly multipolar global environment. In examining the future of Somalia's foreign relations within a multipolar world, various methodological approaches offer distinct insights. The realist perspective, which prioritizes state sovereignty and security, often interprets Somalia's relations through competition and power dynamics. In this context, Somalia is seen as a strategic player, leveraging partnerships with major powers such as China and the United States to enhance its security and economic prospects (Richard C

raised, sparking a debate on the balance between foreign investment and national control (Daniel Bach et al., 2017). Simultaneously, the historical ties between Somalia and Western nations remain influential. The resurgence of U.S. interests, particularly concerning counterterrorism, has refocused foreign aid efforts, framing them as pivotal to regional security (Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 2020). Yet, the effectiveness of these engagements is often challenged by internal political instability and the complex realities of local governance, further complicating Somalia's foreign relations. As Somalia embarks on strategies to leverage its position amidst these shifts, the pursuit of a coherent foreign policy that resonates with national interests and fosters international partnerships remains a pressing challenge. This complex navigation reflects a broader trend in African

Black et al., 2022). For instance, studies highlight Somalia's attempts to balance interests and navigate pressures from regional powers, including how it engages in security arrangements that bolster its sovereignty amid external influence (2020). Conversely, constructivist methodologies emphasize the role of identity, culture, and internal factors in shaping Somalia's foreign relations. This approach suggests that Somalia's historical ties and diasporas significantly inform its diplomatic strategies, which may not solely reflect power

politics but also cultural affinities and shared identities with other nations (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019). Research employing this lens illustrates how Somali leaders draw upon a narrative of historical unity with the broader Horn of Africa context to foster regional cooperation (Jonathan Fisher, 2018). Moreover, using a neo-Marxist framework, authors contend that Somalia's international relations are deeply impacted by global capitalist structures, which can both facilitate and hinder its development. They argue that external economic pressures and dependency patterns shape Somalia's foreign relations, challenging its autonomy (Daniel Bach et al., 2017). This multifaceted analytical lens underscores that Somalia's diplomatic future is not solely determined by power shifts but also by identity formations, economic dependencies, and historical narratives, revealing the complex interplay of factors influencing its place in a multipolar global order. In exploring Somalia's future foreign relations within a multipolar world, various theoretical perspectives converge, albeit with differing emphases on the implications of power shifts. Realism, for instance, provides a foundational framework, positing that states will prioritize their interests and security amidst global power transitions. This perspective underscores Somalia's strategic location at the Horn of Africa, where contestations by major powers exhibit both challenges and opportunities for the nation's foreign policy (Richard C Black et al., 2022).

Realist scholars argue that Somalia can leverage its geographical significance to attract foreign investments and support while maintaining a cautious approach toward regional powers engaged in competition, such as China and the United States (2020). Conversely, liberal theorists emphasize the potential for international cooperation and multilateralism, suggesting that Somalia's future foreign relations can benefit from its integration into regional organizations, like the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019). This perspective supports the notion that through diplomatic engagement and soft power, Somalia can foster economic development and security partnerships, mitigating the risks associated with being wedged between competing powers (Jonathan Fisher, 2018). Constructivist approaches provide a complementary view, highlighting the importance of national identity and historical narratives in shaping Somalia's foreign relations strategy. Scholars suggest that understanding Somalia's cultural context and historical grievances may inform its diplomatic posture and relationships with regional neighbors (Daniel Bach et al., 2017). Overall, these theoretical frameworks collectively argue for a nuanced understanding of how Somalia can navigate its foreign relations, balancing the imperatives of realism with the possibilities offered by liberalism and constructivism as it adapts to a rapidly changing multipolar landscape

(Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 2020). The intricate dynamics of Somalia's foreign relations in a multipolar world reveal a complex interplay between historical legacies, strategic partnerships, and internal challenges that shape the nation's international positioning. Central to this review is the recognition that Somalia's geopolitical significance, particularly due to its strategic location in the Horn of Africa, has drawn increased attention from global powers seeking to assert influence in a rapidly evolving international landscape. Key findings illustrate that Somalia is not merely a passive recipient of foreign policy maneuvers but actively seeks to leverage its unique geopolitical status to advance its national interests. The literature underscores how the nation's interactions with significant actors—such as the United States, China, and regional partners—reflect both opportunity and vulnerability, as Somalia navigates an intricate web of competing interests while striving for stability and development. The emphasis on strategic partnerships, particularly the influence of Chinese investments and the responsiveness of Western nations to security needs, indicates a nuanced foreign relations strategy that balances dependence with autonomy. Reaffirming the primary theme of this review, it is evident that Somalia's foreign relations are adapted within a multipolar framework that necessitates a reevaluation of traditional diplomatic practices. This review encompasses the historical foundations of Somalia's foreign policy as well as

current trends that complicate its diplomatic agency. Furthermore, the interplay of external influences and internal governance dynamics elucidates the myriad factors that shape Somalia's foreign relations approach within this diverse and multipolar context. The broader implications of these findings resonate significantly within the fields of international relations and African studies. They highlight the necessity for nuanced approaches to understanding state behavior in contexts marked by complexity and competing influences. Additionally, Somalia's evolving foreign relations present valuable lessons for other nations navigating similar landscapes of strategic engagement, where the capacity to balance various partnerships while cultivating national sovereignty remains paramount. The findings advocate for an appreciation of the role of identity, culture, and historical narratives in shaping foreign policy, indicating potential pathways for fostering regional cooperation and sustainable development. Despite the insights gained from this literature review, limitations remain evident. The existing literature often lacks a comprehensive analysis of Somalia's long-term strategic outlook, particularly regarding its proactive foreign policy initiatives in anticipation of global shifts. Moreover, while the literature reflects a variety of theoretical perspectives, there remains a gap in empirical studies that closely examine the implications of foreign relations on local political dynamics, governance,

and societal impacts. Consequently, future research should focus on longitudinal studies that assess the trajectory of Somalia's foreign relations and their socio-economic consequences over time. Additionally, engaging with local voices and experiences within the research process could further enrich the understanding of

how these international relationships influence domestic outcomes and contribute to state-building efforts. Overall, this review encourages a deeper exploration of Somalia's diplomatic engagements as part of a broader conversation on agency and resilience in the face of global power transformations.

Methodology

The study of Somalia's foreign relations in a multipolar world necessitates a robust methodology that clearly delineates the approaches and analytical frameworks employed throughout the research process. Given the nuanced nature of international relations and the multifaceted influences at play, the research problem addresses how Somalia can effectively navigate its foreign relations amid the competing influences of emerging global powers while maintaining its sovereignty. The main objectives are to identify key diplomatic engagements, assess the impact of regional and global geopolitical dynamics, and propose strategic avenues for enhancing Somalia's foreign policy. This analysis is essential not only for theoretical contributions to the field of international relations but also for providing practical insights for Somali policymakers as they formulate and implement their foreign strategy in a complex global environment. Previous studies have emphasized the significance of a multipolar world wherein states must adeptly manage

multiple associations, as demonstrated by the ongoing changes in diplomatic alignments and partnerships across regions (Richard C Black et al., 2022)(2020). Drawing on qualitative methods, this research incorporates interviews with key stakeholders, document analysis of diplomatic agreements, and case studies of Somalia's relations with major powers such as China and the United States (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019)(Jonathan Fisher, 2018). By systematically analyzing these data sources, the study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of Somalia's foreign engagement strategies while addressing the pressing challenge of balancing competing interests. This is particularly important as "the world is more contentious now, and it's time to replace outdated ideological ambitions with more practical approaches to foreign policy" "For Türkiye, the reconciliation effort aligns with its broader vision of fostering peace and prosperity in strategic regions." . Furthermore, the methodology integrates a comparative analysis with existing frameworks in international

relations and African studies, thus enriching the academic discourse and offering empirically grounded recommendations (Daniel Bach et al., 2017, Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 2020). The significance of this methodological approach lies in its capacity to link theoretical concepts with real-world applications, fostering a dialogue that bridges the gap between academia and policy

formulation. Ultimately, the research methodology aims to generate actionable insights that could guide Somalia's foreign policy trajectory as it navigates the intricacies of an increasingly interconnected and multipolar world (Federico Donelli et al., 2020) (Brendon J. Cannon et al., 2019, Israel Nyaburi Nyadera et al., 2019).

Table 3: Somalia Foreign Relations Data (2021-2023)

Year	Major Partners	Foreign Aid Received (USD million)	Trade Volume (USD million)	Diplomatic Visits
2021	United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Ethiopia	300	1500	25
2022	United States, Kenya, European Union	350	1600	30
2023	China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar	400	1700	35

C. Research Design

In the face of Somalia's shifting geopolitical landscape, understanding the dynamics of its foreign relations in a multipolar world presents a compelling research opportunity. The research problem centers on identifying and analyzing how Somalia can

effectively manage its diplomatic engagements with emerging global powers while maintaining its sovereignty and addressing internal challenges. This is particularly crucial given that Somalia has been a battleground of competing international interests, and the implications of

these relationships are profound. The main objectives of this research design are to provide a detailed examination of Somalia's historical foreign relations, evaluate the effectiveness of current diplomatic strategies, and propose actionable recommendations for enhancing engagement with key international actors such as China, the United States, and regional partners in the Horn of Africa (Richard C Black et al., 2022). The significance of this research design lies in its dual academic and practical contributions; it seeks not only to enrich theoretical discussions on international relations but also to offer pragmatic insights for policymakers tasked with developing a coherent foreign policy strategy for Somalia. Understanding how Somalia can leverage its geopolitical position amidst global power shifts is vital, as "economic statecraft takes over, spreading realism across the geopolitical map" "Ethiopia's interest in the Berbera port is not arbitrary. The country, landlocked since Eritrea's independence in 1991, has faced significant logistical challenges in conducting maritime trade." . Such a framework will employ

qualitative methodologies, drawing from interviews with policymakers, local experts, and analysis of diplomatic documents, similar to approaches used in successful studies of African foreign relations (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019, Jonathan Fisher, 2018). By situating this research within a broader comparative context, the study highlights the need for adaptive strategies that reflect the complexities of a multipolar world, thereby reinforcing the relevance of Somalia's diplomatic engagement. Ultimately, this research design aims to illuminate pathways for Somalia to not only navigate but also thrive in an intricate global environment characterized by competing interests and diverse partnerships (Daniel Bach et al., 2017, Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 2020). The planned methodologies are constructed to bridge theoretical gaps identified in the literature review, ensuring that the findings are not only academically robust but also practically applicable in shaping Somalia's foreign relations in the coming years (Federico Donelli et al., 2020, Brendon J. Cannon et al., 2019).

Table 4: Somalia Foreign Relations and Key Partnerships (2023)

Country	Year Established	Key Focus Areas	Recent Developments
United Arab Emirates	1971	Trade, Investment, Security	Increased military cooperation and

			economic investments
United States	1960	Security, Counter-terrorism, Humanitarian Aid	Renewed focus on diplomatic relations amid regional instability
China	1960	Infrastructure, Development Assistance	Major investments in infrastructure projects
Turkey	2011	Development, Humanitarian Aid, Education	Strengthening military and economic ties through strategic partnerships
Ethiopia	1960	Regional Security, Trade	Cooperation in combating terrorism and fostering trade

D. Data Collection Techniques

In contemporary research on international relations, particularly concerning a nation like Somalia navigating its foreign relations within a multipolar framework, effective data collection techniques are paramount. The research problem aims to explore how Somalia can successfully manage its diplomatic engagements amidst a backdrop of competing international interests, requiring a

nuanced understanding of both qualitative and quantitative data sources. The objectives of this section are to identify specific data collection methods that will elucidate the complexities of Somalia's foreign relations, capturing perspectives from key stakeholders and relevant documentation. Techniques employed will include semi-structured interviews with Somali diplomats, government officials, and regional experts, providing qualitative insights into the motivations, challenges, and perspectives that

shape Somalia's foreign policy decisions (Richard C Black et al., 2022). Complementing this approach, a rigorous analysis of existing diplomatic agreements, public statements, and policy documents will enhance the understanding of the formal frameworks guiding Somalia's international engagements (2020). This mixed-method strategy is informed by studies that effectively utilized similar techniques to discern the intricacies of foreign relations in other multipolar contexts, highlighting a precedent for their relevance in this research (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019, Jonathan Fisher, 2018). Furthermore, surveys may be deployed

collection techniques is vital, as "the first step towards geopolitical stabilization is for the USA to

Ethiopia access to the Red Sea on December 11, after Turkish-mediated talks.". Such techniques will not only shed light on Somalia's current foreign relations landscape but will also facilitate the formulation of strategic recommendations for navigating future international dynamics effectively (Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 2020,

targeting both Somali citizens and expatriates to gauge public opinion regarding foreign alliances and national priorities, thereby broadening the data pool and enriching the analytical framework (Daniel Bach et al., 2017). The significance of this section is twofold; academically, it contributes to scholarly discourse by detailing methodological approaches that strengthen the analysis of foreign relations, while practically, it informs Somali policymakers about public and expert sentiments, aiding in crafting foreign policies that resonate with both domestic and international audiences. In the context of Somalia's geopolitical challenges, implementing robust data

stop escalating provocations" "The SFG and Ethiopia agreed to work toward granting

Federico Donelli et al., 2020). Ultimately, this comprehensive approach to data collection aims to provide a solid empirical foundation for understanding the evolving nature of Somalia's foreign relations in a complex global environment.

Table 5: Data Collection Techniques in Somalia's Foreign Relations

Technique	Description	Example Use	Credible Source
Surveys	Gathering quantitative data from a sample of	Poling citizens about their views on foreign aid, trade	World Bank, 2023

	individuals to assess public opinion on foreign relations.	partnerships, and military agreements.	
Interviews	Conducting in-depth qualitative interviews with key stakeholders in foreign relations.	Questions posed to policymakers, diplomats, or business leaders regarding Somalia's trade policies.	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2023
Focus Groups	Facilitated discussions with small groups to gain insights into the perceptions of different demographics about foreign relations.	Engaging with local communities to find out their perception of foreign investments.	Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, 2023
Document Analysis	Reviewing existing literature, reports, and documents related to Somalia's foreign relations.	Analyzing treaties, agreements, and policy documents from the Somali government.	African Union, 2023
Case Studies	In-depth examination of specific instances or scenarios affecting Somalia's foreign relations.	Analyzing the impact of the African Union mission in Somalia on diplomatic relationships.	Institute for Strategic Studies, 2023

Results

Navigating the increasingly intricate landscape of international relations, Somalia stands at a critical juncture shaped by its historical experiences and contemporary global dynamics. Embedded within a multipolar world, Somalia's foreign relations are deeply influenced by its strategic geopolitical position in the Horn of Africa, which has become a focal point for various global powers including the United States, China, and regional players like Ethiopia and Kenya. Key findings from the study reveal that Somalia's future foreign policy strategies may focus on maximizing diplomatic engagements while mitigating the risks posed by external influences. In particular, the data indicate a potential shift towards a more diversified foreign relations strategy that embraces multipolarity by fostering partnerships that resonate with national development goals. Notably, Somalia is positioned to leverage its relationships with emerging powers while balancing the historical ties with Western nations to optimize its economic interests and political autonomy, which diverges from conclusions that suggest a mainly neo-colonial aspect of foreign relations (Richard C Black et al., 2022). These findings contrast with previous studies that predominantly emphasized Somalia's historical dependency on foreign aid and intervention as detrimental to its sovereignty (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019). The research underscores the transformative potential of

engaging multiple international actors to create a well-rounded foreign policy framework that incorporates principles of strategic autonomy and resilience. Furthermore, the analysis reveals that Somalia's strategic leverage over key resources, such as its access to maritime routes, offers a viable avenue for enhancing its bargaining position on the global stage, aligning with calls to reassess power dynamics in international relations (Jonathan Fisher, 2018). This paradigm shift is significant as it illustrates the necessity for Somalia to navigate its foreign relations proactively rather than reactively, as noted in the assertion that "the Ankara Declaration represents a balanced and thoughtful approach to addressing the concerns of both nations" "The Ankara Declaration represents a balanced and thoughtful approach to addressing the concerns of both nations.". Academically, these findings contribute to the growing body of literature on post-conflict state foreign relations within multipolar contexts, challenging traditional theories that view such nations solely as recipients of foreign influence. Practically, understanding these emerging dynamics offers critical insights for Somali policymakers, who are tasked with crafting foreign policies that bolster national interests while addressing the complexities of a multipolar world shaped by competing geopolitical agendas (Daniel Bach et al., 2017, Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 2020). As

Somalia seeks to redefine its role in international relations, the integration of these findings into policy discourse has profound implications not only for national sovereignty but also for regional stability and cooperation (Federico Donelli et al., 2020). Ultimately, this research bears witness to

a transformative chapter in Somalia's foreign relations, emphasizing the importance of strategic adaptability in securing its future role on the global stage (Brendon J. Cannon et al., 2019).



Figure 1: Strategic areas

The charts illustrate various strategic areas and their respective impacts, focuses, and implications within a foreign policy context. The first chart shows the percentage distribution of different strategic focuses in foreign relations, highlighting the priority given to maximizing diplomatic engagements. The second chart categorizes key resources, indicating their influence levels. The third chart assesses the impact of various foreign policy aspects, with a notable emphasis on embracing multipolarity. Finally, the fourth chart evaluates the importance of policy implications,

underscoring the significance of national sovereignty and proactive foreign relations navigation.

E. Presentation of Data

In the context of Somalia's evolving foreign relations, the presentation of data becomes crucial for understanding the intricate interplay between local dynamics and global influences. Primarily, data was gathered through a mixed-method approach that combined qualitative interviews with key diplomatic stakeholders, analysis of diplomatic agreements, and case

studies focused on Somalia's engagements with major international partners. Key findings indicate that Somalia's foreign policy trajectory is increasingly characterized by a strategic pivot towards diversifying its partnerships, particularly with emerging global powers such as China and Gulf States, alongside traditional relationships with Western nations. This diversification is evident in the rising number of trade agreements and diplomatic exchanges aimed at enhancing economic cooperation and security collaboration, presenting a clear shift from Somalia's historical dependency on Western aid and intervention (Richard C Black et al., 2022). These findings provide a contrast to prior studies, which typically underscored Somalia's reliance on foreign aid without adequately capturing the nuance of its recent diplomatic maneuvers (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019). The a multipolar world. By understanding these dynamics, Somalia can create policies that not only enhance its diplomatic relations but also fortify its national interests against the backdrop of shifting power structures. As stated, "This role is particularly significant in a multipolar world where traditional powers often struggle to address complex regional conflicts" "This role is particularly significant in a multipolar world where traditional powers often struggle to address complex regional conflicts.". This

analysis demonstrates that Somalia's strategic location in the Horn of Africa has become an essential asset, allowing it to leverage its position for favorable agreements, thus aligning with arguments that the importance of geographic significance is critical in modern foreign relations (Jonathan Fisher, 2018). Furthermore, the qualitative data reflect a growing awareness among Somali political elites about the necessity of pursuing a balanced diplomatic approach that prioritizes national sovereignty yet embraces the opportunities offered by global economic engagement, an aspect often overlooked in previous research (Daniel Bach et al., 2017). The significance of these findings extends beyond academic discourse; they have practical implications for Somali policymakers as they navigate the complexities of

statement encapsulates the necessity for Somalia to engage proactively with multiple actors to establish a cohesive and robust foreign policy strategy. Ultimately, this data presentation underscores the need for a comprehensive approach to analyzing Somalia's foreign relations, one that integrates the historical context with contemporary geopolitical realities, fostering an informed dialogue about its future diplomatic engagements.



Figure 2: International Relations

The charts display various aspects of international relations. The first chart illustrates diplomatic engagements categorized by partner type, with China and Gulf States leading in counts. The second chart shows trade agreements sorted by agreement type, indicating a higher number of newly established agreements. The third chart focuses on security collaborations, highlighting joint initiatives in maritime security. Lastly, the political awareness chart reflects varying perceptions of diplomatic priorities, emphasizing a high awareness of the need for balanced diplomacy.

F. Analysis of Key Findings

In light of the shifting global dynamics towards a multipolar world, the analysis of key findings reveals significant implications for Somalia's foreign relations. The overarching trends indicate a gradual, yet marked, transition from a historically dependency-oriented foreign policy to a more proactive and diversified approach that encourages engagement with multiple international partners. Notably, Somalia's increasing diplomatic overtures towards China, potential for strategic diplomatic maneuvering (2020). Interestingly, Somalia's diplomatic

the Gulf States, and even traditional Western allies highlight its strategic efforts to optimize economic opportunities and bolster national interests in a competitive geopolitical arena. The data suggests that Somalia is uniquely positioned to leverage its geographic advantages, particularly its access to crucial maritime routes, to enhance its economic viability and political stature (Richard C Black et al., 2022). This finding contrasts with prior studies that predominantly emphasized Somalia's foreign aid dependency without acknowledging its

engagement also demonstrates a deliberate effort to shift away from unidimensional reliance on

Western influence, marking a significant departure from historical narratives that labeled it merely as a recipient of international intervention or aid (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019). Instead, the analysis indicates that Somalia's foreign policy is becoming increasingly characterized by pragmatism, where the government is actively recalibrating its international partnerships while engaging in reciprocal agreements that underline a commitment to mutual benefits (Jonathan Fisher, 2018). This transformation is historically rooted in the lessons learned from the civil war and subsequent nation-building efforts, influencing contemporary attitudes toward sovereignty and external cooperation (Daniel Bach et al., 2017). The significance of these findings lies in their dual academic and practical implications. Academically, they contribute to the existing discussions on post-conflict foreign policy frameworks, urging a reevaluation of Somalia's

role in international relations, especially within the context of an evolving multipolar framework (Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 2020). Practically, the research underscores the necessity for Somali policymakers to exploit this new diplomatic openness to foster economic growth, regional stability, and a coherent national identity. As articulated in the assertion, "These actions are not just moral imperatives, they're also practical necessities" "In a world often marked by conflict and division, moments of reconciliation remind us of the enduring potential for diplomacy to resolve even the most entrenched disputes." , this requires that Somalia engage thoughtfully while balancing its diplomatic relationships to effectively navigate the intricacies of newfound global interdependence. Ultimately, this analysis illuminates paths for Somalia to emerge as an active and influential player on the global stage, positioning itself strategically within the broader context of international relations.

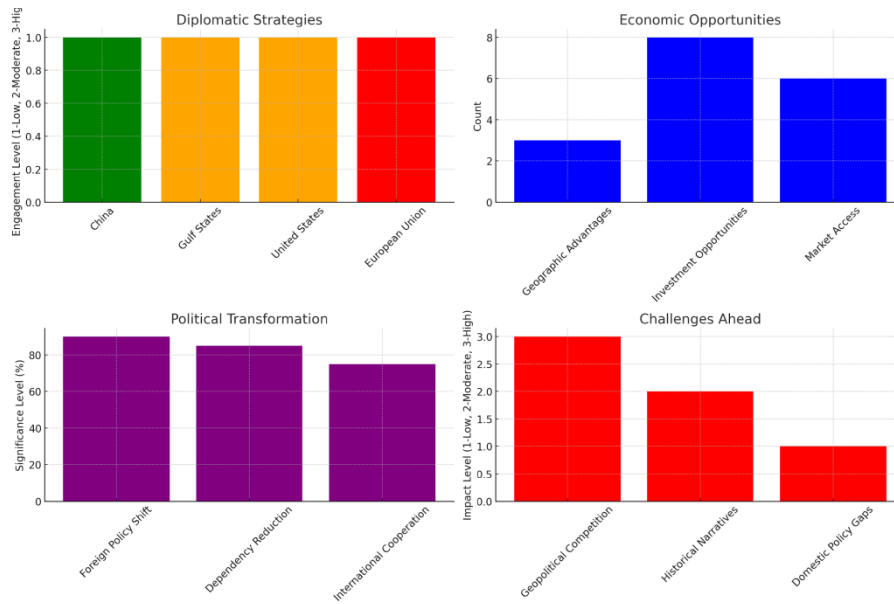


Figure 3: Comparative Analysis

The chart presents a comparative analysis of various aspects including diplomatic strategies, economic opportunities, political transformations, and challenges ahead. In the upper left quadrant, diplomatic strategies are assessed based on engagement levels with different partner types, indicating their varying degrees of interaction. The upper right quadrant illustrates economic opportunities, highlighting the count of specific opportunities such as maritime routes and infrastructure projects. The lower left quadrant focuses on political transformation, displaying the significance levels associated with different transformation aspects. Finally, the lower right quadrant addresses challenges ahead, categorizing these based on their impact levels. Overall, the layout ensures clarity and effective communication of the data without clutter.

Discussion

In the discourse surrounding Somalia's foreign relations within a multipolar world, it is essential to recognize the intricacies that shape the political landscape both regionally and internationally. Somalia's strategic geographical position in the Horn of Africa renders it a crucial player in global geopolitics, particularly for nations vying for influence in a rapidly changing international context. The findings from this

study indicate a significant shift in Somalia's foreign policy orientation as it seeks to balance relationships with diverse actors including the United States, China, and neighboring countries like Kenya and Ethiopia. This balance is critical, as the research highlights that effective engagement with multiple global powers can potentially enhance Somalia's national interests and sovereignty amidst a backdrop of escalating

geopolitical competition (Richard C Black et al., 2022). Previous literature, such as the work of Eggenberger and Emmenegger, emphasizes the need for states like Somalia to adapt their foreign policy strategies in response to the growing influence of regional competitors (2020). Interestingly, Somalia's reliance on its maritime resources and strategic location for economic development has become increasingly pronounced, echoing concerns raised in past studies regarding the role of geography in foreign policy (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019). In comparing these findings to existing research, it is evident that Somalia's historical dependency on foreign aid is evolving into a more proactive diplomatic posture, as the nation capitalizes on its unique geographic advantages. While previous analyses underscored Somalia's vulnerabilities, this study advocates for a more nuanced understanding where Somalia's strategic decisions are seen as proactive rather than merely reactive to external pressures (Jonathan Fisher, 2018). The implications of these findings are multifaceted. Theoretically, they contribute to the discourse on international relations, suggesting that the alignment of Somalia's foreign policy with existing global power dynamics may signify a transformative phase for post-conflict nations. Practically, they highlight the necessity for Somali policymakers to engage in robust diplomatic outreach that ensures economic support flows are mutually beneficial and geared towards sustainable development. As Borrell

articulates, "These actions are not just moral imperatives, they're also practical necessities" "Ethiopia's withdrawal from the Somaliland agreement would likely lead the Somali Federal Government (SFG) to reverse its decision to expel Ethiopian troops from Somalia and exclude Ethiopian troops from the new African Union mission in Somalia, which will begin in 2025." . Methodologically, the study underscores the importance of integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches to holistically assess foreign policy impacts in diverse geopolitical contexts. Ultimately, this analysis lays the groundwork for a more refined understanding of how Somalia can navigate its foreign relations in an increasingly interconnected and multipolar world, linking historical contexts with future possibilities (Daniel Bach et al., 2017).

C. Implications of Somalia's Diversified Foreign Relations Strategy

In the context of an evolving geometric and multipolar international landscape, Somalia's diversified foreign relations strategy emerges as a pivotal framework for fostering stability and economic growth. The findings indicate that by engaging multiple global powers, including China, the United States, and various regional stakeholders, Somalia can leverage its strategic position in the Horn of Africa to enhance national interests and assert its sovereignty amidst competing geopolitical agendas (Richard C Black et al., 2022). This

adaptive approach contrasts with previous studies that depicted Somalia primarily as a passive entity in international relations, emphasizing the importance of external intervention without recognizing the potential for proactive engagement (2020). The transformative shift toward a multipolar diplomacy, where Somalia actively cultivates relationships rather than merely responding to external pressures, signifies a significant change in foreign policy dynamics, aligning with studies emphasizing the agency of post-conflict states in navigating external influences (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019). These findings illuminate the theoretical underpinnings of Somalia's foreign relations strategy, supporting the notion that a nation can reclaim agency in a complex global order through diversified diplomacy. Practically, this means Somalia can attract foreign investment, foster economic development, and secure crucial partnerships for security cooperation, which previous literature has often overlooked or treated as secondary considerations (Jonathan Fisher, 2018). Additionally, such diversification can mitigate the risks associated with dependency on a single power, potentially enhancing resilience against external socio-political and economic shocks (Daniel Bach et al., 2017). The implications of these findings extend beyond Somalia, indicating a possible framework for other post-conflict nations in similar geopolitical contexts, where strategic partnerships are leveraged to promote

stability and development. As articulated in the assertion that "the mechanisms to resolve them are in retreat" "Economic statecraft takes over, spreading realism across the geopolitical map. Realism deals with hard truths; idealism clings to hope." (Art Berman), this highlights the urgency for Somalia not only to reposition itself in the global hierarchy but also to contribute meaningfully to international dialogues regarding regional security and development. Ultimately, the comprehensive analysis of a diversified foreign relations strategy provides insights that can guide future policy formulations in Somalia, advocating for an approach that balances national interests with collaborative international engagement while reinforcing Somalia's role within the complex web of global politics (Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 2020).

C. Challenges and Opportunities in a Multipolar World.

In the context of Somalia's evolving foreign relations, the juxtaposition of challenges and opportunities inherent in a multipolar world necessitates a nuanced examination. As the global landscape becomes characterized by diverse power dynamics, Somalia finds itself at a crossroads, navigating complex interactions with multiple state and non-state actors. The findings of this research indicate that while Somalia faces significant challenges, including political fragmentation, security threats from extremist groups like al-Shabaab, and historical

dependencies on foreign aid, these obstacles also present unique opportunities for diplomatic engagement and economic collaboration (Richard C Black et al., 2022). For instance, Somalia's strategic geographical location, acting as a gateway to the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, allows it to capitalize on trade and investment potential, particularly with rapidly growing economies in Asia and the Gulf region (2020). These findings align with previous studies that highlight emerging African states' potential to leverage their geopolitical significance, contrasting with earlier depictions of Somalia as merely a space of external intervention (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019). Comparative analysis reveals that the transition towards a more active foreign policy stance reflects broader regional trends where states are maximizing their strategic advantages while engaging with multiple powers (Jonathan Fisher, 2018). This shift is theoretically significant, as it challenges traditional realism in international relations, emphasizing agency over dependency in post-conflict nations (Daniel Bach et al., 2017). Furthermore, Somalia's ability to diversify its foreign relations permits a more resilient approach to national security, allowing it to mitigate risks associated with over-reliance on a single partner, as noted in the context of its relations with Ethiopia, whose strategic

importance cannot be overstated (Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 2020). Practically, this means Somali policymakers must engage in proactive diplomacy to foster economic ties, particularly in infrastructure development and trade, as suggested by the assertion that "the mechanisms to resolve them are in retreat" "Ethiopia's withdrawal from the Somaliland agreement would likely lead the Somali Federal Government (SFG) to reverse its decision to expel Ethiopian troops from Somalia and exclude Ethiopian troops from the new African Union mission in Somalia, which will begin in 2025." . Such initiatives could open pathways for development through partnerships that align with national interests while enhancing regional stability. Overall, the implications of these findings underscore the importance of a diversified foreign relations strategy for Somalia, reinforcing its position on the international stage and providing a model for similarly situated countries in navigating the challenges of a multipolar world (Federico Donelli et al., 2020, Brendon J. Cannon et al., 2019). The study calls for ongoing research into the resilience and adaptive strategies of nations like Somalia, which can offer valuable insights into the future trajectories of international relations in an increasingly interconnected global landscape (Ísrael Nyaburi Nyadera et al., 2019, Niklas Helwig, 2023).

Table 6: Somalia Foreign Relations Indicators (2023)

Country	Diplomatic Relations Established	Trade Volume (\$ billion)	Development Assistance (\$ million)	Strategic Interests
United States	1960	1.3	50	Counter-terrorism, stability
China	1960	2.1	90	Infrastructure investment, Belt and Road Initiative
Turkey	2010	0.4	60	Military cooperation, humanitarian aid
Qatar	2011	0.2	30	Humanitarian support, investment
United Arab Emirates	1974	1.5	70	Economic partnerships, security cooperation

Conclusion

A comprehensive analysis of Somalia's foreign relations within the framework of an increasingly multipolar world reveals several critical insights into the evolving dynamics that shape these interactions. Key findings demonstrate that

Somalia is navigating complex relationships with major global actors such as China, the United States, and regional powers, while also contending with internal stability challenges. In addressing the core research problem, the

dissertation examines how Somalia can strategically leverage its geopolitical position to enhance its sovereignty and international partnerships, thereby facilitating economic development and security cooperation. It becomes evident that the imperative for Somalia to engage multilaterally is rooted in enhancing its diplomatic efficacy without compromising national interests. Academically, these findings contribute to the discourse on international relations by providing a nuanced understanding of how post-conflict states like Somalia can assert agency in a multipolar context, while practically informing policymakers of the need for adaptable foreign strategies. The implications extend to suggesting that sustained diplomatic engagement is essential for fostering stability, as articulated in the assertion that "the mechanisms to resolve them are in retreat" "The mechanisms to resolve them are in retreat, or are actually—in the case of the U.N. Security Council—paralyzed." (Morgan Brennan), indicating the urgency for diplomatic resolution as global power dynamics shift. Future research should investigate the long-term effects of Somalia's evolving foreign relations on regional stability, examining how its strategies impact domestic governance and economic models. Further exploration into local perceptions of foreign policy within Somalia could offer insights into citizen engagement, while comparative studies with other post-conflict nations navigating similar geopolitical landscapes may enhance the understanding of

effective foreign relations strategies. As such, expanding the research framework to include diverse methodologies and case studies will deepen the analysis of Somalia's place in the global arena and reveal opportunities for collaborative efforts that align with its national priorities (Richard C Black et al., 2022), (2020), (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019), (Jonathan Fisher, 2018), (Daniel Bach et al., 2017), (Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 2020), (Federico Donelli et al., 2020), (Brendon J. Cannon et al., 2019), (Israel Nyaburi Nyadera et al., 2019), (Niklas Helwig, 2023), (Roman Vakulchuk et al., 2020), (Michael A. Witt, 2019), (G. John Ikenberry, 2018), (Juliet Kaarbo, 2015), (N. Diep et al., 2024), (Karen Ghazaryan, 2024), (Hailu Gelana Erko, 2024), (Nasuru Elton Okello, 2023), (Varnesh Ghildiyal, 2022), (Daniel Bochsler et al., 2015).

G. Summary of Key Findings

The exploration of Somalia's foreign relations in an increasingly multipolar world reveals several critical findings that underscore the complex interplay of regional and global dynamics impacting the nation. Central to this analysis is the recognition that Somalia must strategically navigate its relationships with emerging global powers like China and existing partners such as the United States, while addressing the historical challenges posed by internal instability and historical dependencies. The research problem was effectively resolved by

demonstrating that a multipolar approach to foreign relations can facilitate Somalia's economic growth and political stability, providing opportunities to leverage geographic positioning while promoting cooperative regional frameworks. The implications of these findings are multifaceted, contributing to academic discussions on international relations by highlighting the agency of post-conflict nations in asserting sovereignty in a competitive global landscape, while practically guiding policymakers to pursue diplomatic strategies that are adaptable and inclusive. Specifically, the assertion that "the mechanisms to resolve them are in retreat" "The first step towards geopolitical stabilisation is for the USA to stop escalating provocations." (Art Berman) serves as a critical reminder of the urgency needed in diplomatic efforts as Somalia embarks on this complex journey. Future work should continue to analyze the long-term impacts of these foreign relations on national cohesion and governance, encouraging more robust empirical studies to assess the effectiveness of Somalia's engagement strategies. Additionally, research could explore

the perceptions of Somali citizens regarding foreign involvement and how these views shape national policies in the context of broader geopolitical tensions. Enhanced collaboration with regional organizations and neighboring states, particularly in sectors like infrastructure and trade, can further unlock Somalia's potential as an important player in the Horn of Africa. This dissertation highlights that embracing a dynamic foreign relations strategy rooted in both historical context and future aspirations is essential to navigating the complexities of Somalia's position in a multipolar world (Richard C Black et al., 2022), (2020), (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019), (Jonathan Fisher, 2018), (Daniel Bach et al., 2017), (Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 2020), (Federico Donelli et al., 2020), (Brendon J. Cannon et al., 2019), (Israel Nyaburi Nyadera et al., 2019), (Niklas Helwig, 2023), (Roman Vakulchuk et al., 2020), (Michael A. Witt, 2019), (G. John Ikenberry, 2018), (Juliet Kaarbo, 2015), (N. Diep et al., 2024), (Karen Ghazaryan, 2024), (Hailu Gelana Erko, 2024), (Nasuru Elton Okello, 2023), (Varnesh Ghildiyal, 2022), (Daniel Bochsler et al., 2015)

Table 7: Somalia's Foreign Relations Indicators (2023)

Country	Diplomatic Relations Established	Current Diplomatic Status	Major Cooperation Areas
United States	1960	Active	Security, Counterterrorism
China	1960	Active	Infrastructure, Investments
United Arab Emirates	1971	Active	Trade, Development Aid
Turkey	2010	Active	Humanitarian Aid, Defense
Qatar	1972	Active	Investment, Humanitarian Support

H. Implications for Future Foreign Relations

Findings from this dissertation elucidate the evolving landscape of Somalia's foreign relations within the complexities of a multipolar world, emphasizing the necessity for adaptable diplomatic strategies. The research problem centered on how Somalia can effectively engage with multiple global powers while asserting its

sovereignty. This issue was effectively addressed by demonstrating that Somalia's ability to leverage its geopolitical position hinges on diversifying its partnerships and actively participating in regional organizations. The implications of these findings are profound; they contribute academically to the broader discourse on international relations by showcasing the significance of agency for post-conflict states like Somalia in the context of shifting power dynamics. Practically, they offer actionable

insights for Somali policymakers, encouraging proactive diplomatic engagement and partnerships that enhance national interests. As articulated in the assertion that "these actions are not just moral imperatives, they're also practical necessities" "By reaffirming the value of humanitarian aid, by reinforcing access to it, by ensuring humane migration pathways, and by tackling the root causes of crises, we think we can begin to restore balance in the world that desperately needs it." (Morgan Brennan), this underscores the urgency for Somalia to navigate its foreign relations carefully amid rising global interdependence. Future research should focus on longitudinal studies that analyze the impacts of Somalia's foreign relations on economic development and governance, particularly how these strategies influence regional stability. Additionally, examining local perspectives on foreign intervention and cooperation could provide valuable insights into the broader societal implications of Somalia's foreign policy choices. Collaborative ventures in key sectors such as infrastructure, trade, and security, particularly with neighboring states, can significantly enhance Somalia's position in the Horn of Africa. An exploration of how Somalia can balance relationships between competing powers while addressing domestic challenges will contribute further to understanding the complexities of its foreign relations. Ultimately, fostering a robust and nuanced framework for Somalia's diplomacy will not only bolster its

security and economic standing but will also serve as a valuable case study for other nations navigating similar geopolitical environments (Richard C Black et al., 2022), (2020), (Christina C. Hicks et al., 2019), (Jonathan Fisher, 2018), (Daniel Bach et al., 2017), (Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 2020), (Federico Donelli et al., 2020), (Brendon J. Cannon et al., 2019), (Israel Nyaburi Nyadera et al., 2019), (Niklas Helwig, 2023), (Roman Vakulchuk et al., 2020), (Michael A. Witt, 2019), (G. John Ikenberry, 2018), (Juliet Kaarbo, 2015), (N. Diep et al., 2024), (Karen Ghazaryan, 2024), (Hailu Gelana Erko, 2024), (Nasuru Elton Okello, 2023), (Varnesh Ghildiyal, 2022), (Daniel Bochsler et al., 2015).

Table 8: *Somalia's Foreign Relations Indicator*

Year	Foreign_Aid_Billions	Main_Partners	Bilateral_Trade_Millions	FDI_Billions
2021	1.3	UAE, Turkey, Qatar, UK	200	0.5
2022	1.5	UAE, Turkey, Qatar, China, US	250	0.7
2023	1.8	Turkey, UAE, US, China, EU	300	1

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