

## Ethnic Conflict Dynamics in the Ethiopian Federation: Case of the Oromo-Somali Conflict

**Authors :** Takele Bekele Bayu

**Abstract :** Though Ethiopia is an ancient country with ethnocultural and linguistic diversity, modern Ethiopia came into being in the second half of the 19th century under the military expansion of King Menelik II. Since then, the subsequent political system in the country failed to recognize and accommodate the country's ethnolinguistic diversity. However, in 1991 the new government led by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) adopted federal-state structuring whereby constitutionally recognized and institutionally accommodated the country's diversity. This investigation aimed to analyze drivers of ethnic conflict and its dynamism along the Eastern shared border of the Somali and Oromia regional administrations within the federal framework. The paper employed a comparative research design, adopted mixed research methods, and used survey questionnaires and focus group discussions (FGDs) for data collection. The study found that the Somali-Oromo conflict is complex and the dynamics and the sources of conflict in the study areas are similar.

**Keywords :** Ethiopia, Oromo, Somali, ethnic conflict, federalism

**Conference Title :** ICPCR 2024 : International Conference on Peace and Conflict Resolution

**Conference Location :** Montreal, Canada

**Conference Dates :** May 23-24, 2024