

Ethiopia Expresses Concern about Egypt's Weaponry Transfer to Somalia and the Tripartite Deal between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea: Evaluating the Fears, Obstacles and Opportunities

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Abstract: *This paper examines Ethiopia's concerns regarding Egypt's transfer of weaponry to Somalia and the implications of the tripartite deal among Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea. It evaluates the obstacles Ethiopia faces, including security risks from potential destabilization, historical geopolitical rivalries, and a lack of transparency in communications. These factors contribute to a climate of mistrust that complicates regional cooperation. Conversely, the analysis highlights opportunities for constructive engagement, such as fostering open dialogue, enhancing transparency regarding arms transfers, and promoting regional initiatives to address shared challenges. Ultimately, reframing the tripartite agreement to align with Ethiopia's security interests is essential for achieving lasting stability in the Region.*

Keyword: Ethiopia Concern, Egypt Weaponry transfer to Somalia, Tripartite deal Egypt, Somalia, Eritrea, Security concerns, Geopolitical rivalry, Regional cooperation, Obstacles, Opportunity

1. Introduction

The Horn of Africa, region of eastern Africa which is home to the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia is currently facing heightened tensions, mainly between Ethiopia and Egypt, due to Egypt's arms transfers to Somalia. The Author largely attempts to investigate the location this is because the situation links historical grievances, geopolitical competitions, and resource management issues, of which much more complicating regional stability. Amongst these challenges, a tripartite agreement involving Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea presents concern, relating to obstacles and opportunities for diplomatic movement and cooperation. Moreover, Ethiopia's concerns regarding Egypt's arms transfers to Somalia and the tripartite agreement between Egypt, Ethiopia, and Eritrea stem from a complex interaction of historic complaints, on this concern Ethiopia fears that enhanced military competences in Somalia influence be directed against its interests, mainly in the context of continuing tensions in the region. Whereas there is a significant lack of trust among the nations involved, primarily influenced by historical grievances and current geopolitical rivalries.

1.1 Background

Background information about Ethiopia raises concerns regarding the tripartite agreement between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea as well as Egypt's shipment of weapons to Somalia: these three points must be addressed. 1) How has Ethiopia previously reacted to the shipment of weapons to Somalia? 2) How do Egypt's activities affect regional stability in the Horn of Africa? 3) What is the background to the tripartite agreement between Egypt, Eritrea, and Somalia? The author will try to address these queries in relation to his dairy note. The first response states that Ethiopia has responded to Egypt's arms shipment to Somalia through a

combination of diplomatic protests, military readiness, and regional collaboration. Conversely, the possible destabilizing impact of these arms shipments on regional security has been emphasized by the Ethiopian government in a public statement to the international community. Ethiopia has stepped up military readiness along its borders in response to perceived threats, especially in regions where it believes it may be at risk of incursions or escalating hostilities with Somali armed groups of Al-Shabaab, (Omar, A. 2024). The author estimated around Neither parties is aware of the other's actions. Before making a choice, they are unable to communicate. The players will select the best result regardless of what the other player does because they are unaware of each other's actions. The author goes on to say that Ethiopia has sought to improve relations with its neighboring countries and regional organizations, promoting the negotiation efforts Ethiopia has pushing to in talks with Egypt and Somalia as unreliable source, demanding transparency in arms transfers, and promoting cooperative security frameworks to resolve shared issues. According to this the situation as a national security concern that demands the attention and cooperation of its people, the Ethiopian government has reportedly also increased public awareness of the implications of these developments. At the same time, the second question is what the implication of Egypt's actions to regional stability in the horn Africa. Inadditon to question, the author assumed that Egypt's transfer of weaponry to Somalia creates significant implications for regional stability in the regions. Firstly, it may escalate tensions with Ethiopia, which views this military support as a direct threat to its national security, potentially leading to a cycle of military posing and retaliatory actions. Furthermore, according to the author and other academics, the deployment of advanced weapons in Somalia will go in the hands of Unresponsible clan militia or insurgence groups possibly will strengthen militant organizations and non-state actors, escalating conflicts and undermining attempts at peace and stability. The author added the political Game of Egypt's actions possibly will also worry

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diplomatic relations not only with Ethiopia but with Eritrea and other neighboring countries, prompting them to reconsider their military strategies and alliances. The author emphasizes the popular narrative for this political game of the tripartite agreement aimed at raising cooperation among Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea possibly will be endangered, as distrust and perceived threats might hinder collaborative efforts on shared challenges such as terrorism and resource management. (Brookings Institution. (2021). The broader implications of Egypt's military actions contribute to an already unstable environment to the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia, where continuing conflicts complicate the establishment of lasting peace. Finally, these actions could attract the attention of external powers, leading to increased international involvement that may further complicate local dynamics and sovereignty issues (International Crisis Group, 2021). The third question what are the context on the tripartite deal between Ethiopia, Egypt, and Eritrea? The context of the Tripartite Deal between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea the signing pact was reportedly signed in early 2024, though the exact details are not fully public, and the main components as according to academic sources mainly military cooperation that Egypt agreed to provide military support and training to Somalia. Additionally, the local source strategic cooperation of which the three countries agreed to cooperate on issues of regional security and stability. Moreover, the tripartite deal presents Somalia which country will gain opportunities for improved security, economic growth, political stability, and enhanced diplomatic relationships, will be discussed on the last question Potential Winners and Losers? all of which are essential for the country's ongoing recovery and development.

2. Ethiopia-Northern Somalia MOU (January 2024), Tripartite Deal Between Egypt, Somalia, And Eritrea

2.1 A new regional development on the January 2024 Ethiopia MOU agreement with the Northern Region of Somalia that results in a new tripartite agreement

The author was under study the regionally new development on early January 2024 that was related to MOU between Ethiopia and the Northern Region of Somalia, the tripartite deal between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea, that was related to defense an between Egypt and Somalia that resulted transferring military equipment, the relationship between Somalia and Ethiopia has been strained due to Somalia's opposition to Ethiopia's agreement to the Northern region of Somalia, which seeks to grant Ethiopia access to the Red Sea, on these factors the author suggest to write this article for answering several burring question in his mind. this question includes 1) how has Ethiopia responded to the weaponry transfer to somalia in the past? 2) What the implication of Egypt's actions to regional stability in the horn Africa 3) what are the context on the tripartite deal between Somalia, Egypt and Eritrea? 4) What will Somalia benefit on this tripartite deal between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea? 5) What will Egypt benefit on this tripartite deal between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea? 6) What will Eritrea benefit on this tripartite deal between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea? 7) Why Ethiopia fears that enhanced military capabilities in Somalia might be directed against its interests, particularly in the context of

ongoing tensions in the region? 8) Is the increased pace of the Tripartite agreement between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea reflected in the MOU between Ethiopia and the Northern Region of Somalia to get access to red sea? 9) How the region's continuous conflicts, like Ethiopia's civil war and tensions with its neighbors, will affect and exacerbate the security situation in the region, and what will Ethiopia's consequences be? 10) In what ways does the tripartite agreement benefit Al-Shabaab by providing a platform that could help escalate tensions and cause problems, such as security threats from extremist groups to Somalia's new mission? 11) Ethiopia expresses concern about Egypt's weaponry transfer to Somalia and the tripartite deal between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea on this issues which countries will be Potential Winners and Losers? The author's study offers the following expectations for the questions' responses that will much more helpful to the academic contribution.

2.2 What will Somalia benefit on this tripartite deal between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea?

For this reason, some scholar including the author believes that the tripartite deal between Somalia, Egypt, and Eritrea offers several potential gains for Somalia, primarily power balance and through enhanced security cooperation aimed at combating terrorism and addressing threats from groups like Al-Shabaab and foreign interventions. The author continues that this agreement possible will lead to more effective security measures and intelligence sharing, which are fundamental for stabilizing the country. Additionally, the author advocated that this agreement will temporary economic relationship with Egypt and Eritrea and possibly attract investments, enhance trade, and promote infrastructure development, and it is important for Somalia's recovery after years of conflict. the author added that the deal also provides an opportunity for Somalia to stabilize its political landscape by strengthening relationships with neighboring countries, leading to a more unified method to governance and national security. Moreover, Likeable in this framework will enhance Somalia's visibility on the international stage, potentially attracting further support from external powers and organizations. Moreover, the writer added that the cooperation allows Somalia to strengthen its diplomatic ties, increasing its influence in regional matters and leverage in negotiations. Finally, cooperation with Egypt could provide valuable perceptions into managing water resources, benefiting Egypt in addressing its own challenges related to water scarcity and agricultural development.

2.3 What will Egypt benefit on this tripartite deal between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea?

Egypt's benefits from the tripartite deal include enhanced regional influence, improved security cooperation, geopolitical leverage, economic opportunities, access to resources, and stronger diplomatic support. Additionally, Egypt stands to gain several strategic benefits from the tripartite deal with Somalia and Eritrea. Firstly, it enhances Egypt's influence in the Horn of Africa, allowing regional power balance and it to counter the growing power of Ethiopia, particularly regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) dispute. In contrast, the agreement will also facilitate collaboration on security issues, especially

in combating terrorism and instability in Somalia, which will help prevent violence from spilling over into regions and enhance overall regional stability. According to this, the agreements made straight with Somalia and Eritrea provides Egypt with geopolitical leverage in negotiations with Ethiopia and other regional players, positioning it as a more prominent actor in Horn of Africa politics. To show sequence, the author added that the tripartite deal possibly also opens new positive chapters of up economic opportunities which much more facilitates trade agreements and investments in infrastructure projects that benefit Egypt's economy and provide access to new markets. Finally, it will be strengthening ties with Somalia possibly will offer Egypt greater access to the Red Sea and critical maritime routes, which are vital for trade and security. At the end, through this engagement, Egypt will substitute a coalition that supports its positions in regional and international forums, particularly concerning water rights and security issues.

2.4 What will Eritrea benefit on this tripartite deal between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea?

At the same time, Eritrea stands to gain several important benefits from the tripartite deal with Egypt and Somalia. Firstly, the agreement allows Eritrea to re-establish itself as a main player in regional politics after years of isolation, enhancing its diplomatic relations with both Egypt and Somalia. Moreover, the scholar including the author believes that this new commitment contributes to a sense of regional integration, fostering cooperation on various fronts.

Additionally, the author noted that the deal facilitates alliance on security issues, enabling Eritrea to strengthen its defenses against common threats such as terrorism and regional instability, which is vital for its national security. Furthermore, the tripartite agreement may open the door to profitable trade agreements and investments, providing Eritrea with access to new markets and development initiatives that possibly increase its struggling economy. Moreover, the author accepts as true that with strengthening ties with Egypt and Somalia enhances Eritrea's geopolitical leverage in regional negotiations, allowing it to play a more influential role in the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia affairs. For this reason, the relationship will also offer valuable opportunities into water resource management, particularly from Egypt, which has extensive experience in this area. Finally, the tripartite agreement may result in funding for infrastructure initiatives that enhance regional connectivity, trade, and transportation, so enhancing Eritrea's growth prospects.

2.5 Why Ethiopia fears that enhanced military capabilities in Somalia might be directed against its interests, particularly in the context of ongoing tensions in the region?

According to the author's social argument, Ethiopia is concerned that increased military might in Somalia may be used against its interests because of a number of interrelated factors. 1) The historical context of conflict and challenge to the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia at the Horn of Africa has raised deep-seated mistrust, leading Ethiopia to worry that a militarized Somalia will possibly

bring into line with antagonistic interests and undermine its security. 2) Additionally, the author believes that the fear of Ethiopia considering Somalia has been home to various militant groups, such as Al-Shabaab, which possibly creates a direct threat; greater military strength could empower these groups, potentially leading to cross-border attacks. 3) Moreover, the author added that the geopolitical opposition with Egypt further worsens Ethiopia's concerns, as increased military support from Egypt to Somalia could be used to counter Ethiopia's influence in the region. Equally important, author added with a long border shared with Somalia, Ethiopia is particularly mistrustful of the risks of incursions or conflicts that could threaten its territory. 4) Additionally the noted concern that the continuing tensions surrounding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is another factor that will add additional layer of difficulty, other scholar think that as Ethiopia fears are related to the empowered Somalia could be utilized as a proxy by Egypt to exercise pressure regarding water resource management. Last but not least, Somali local elders believe that the wider instability in the Horn of Africa, which is characterized by conflicts in neighboring countries and affects Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Eritrea, raises concerns that a militarized Somalia could add to regional chaos and make it more difficult for Ethiopia to maintain security civil war and stability within its own borders.

2.6 Is the increased pace of the Tripartite agreement between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea reflected in the MOU between Ethiopia and the Northern Region of Somalia to get access to red sea?

Many scholar including the author supposed, Yes, the increased pace of the tripartite agreement between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea is reflected in the MOU between Ethiopia and the Northern Region of Somalia, particularly concerning access to the Red Sea. This MOU highlights Ethiopia's strategic interest in enhancing its maritime access, which is important for its strategic at red route exercise and economic development and trade. Moreover, the author suggested that seeking this access, Ethiopia aims to strengthen its geopolitical position in the region, serving as a counterbalance to the growing influence of Egypt and Eritrea. **Equally important the author highlight that the MOU signifies a shift towards increased collaboration between Ethiopia and the Northern Region of Somalia, bring into line with the broader goals of the tripartite agreement and demonstrating a willingness to engage in cooperative frameworks that address mutual economic and security interests.** For this reason, the urgency of establishing this MOU reflects Ethiopia's need to adapt to the developing geopolitical landscape in the Horn of Africa, especially as Egypt and Eritrea strengthen their ties with Somalia. Access to the Red Sea is vital for Ethiopia, a landlocked country, because it promotes economic growth and trade, which further supports the goals of the tripartite agreement to strengthen economic cooperation among the participating countries. Generally, the author concluded that the MOU will be seen as a strategic response that underscores Ethiopia's efforts to secure its interests and adapt to the changing dynamics in the region. Additionally, the Somalia Northern Region MOU, according to the author and many other scholars, is a key symbol of the tripartite agreement's growing

momentum and reaffirms vows to regional integration and collaboration.

2.7 How the region's continuous conflicts, like Ethiopia's civil war and tensions with its neighbors, will affect and exacerbate the security situation in the region, and what will Ethiopia's consequences be?

Although it seems impossible to address the exact answer to this question, the author's hypothesis concerns the region's reaction that might possibly shadow contextual of complication. Moreover, the continuous conflicts in the region, particularly Ethiopia's civil war and ongoing tensions with its neighbors, significantly exacerbate the security situation in the region. Ethiopia's internal strife creates a volatile environment that possibly spill over into neighboring countries, leading to increased violence and unrest, while potentially fostering cross-border incursions and refugee flows that destabilize nations like Sudan, Eritrea, and Somalia. Additionally, continuing conflicts possibly will empower militant groups, such as Al-Shabaab, allowing them to exploit the chaos to expand their influence and position direct threats to Ethiopia and its neighbors. The Ethiopian Internal conflicts also strain Ethiopia's resources, diverting attention from external security challenges and leaving the country vulnerable. Tensions over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) with Egypt and Sudan possibly will escalate due to the civil conflict, increasing militarization and hostility in the region. Furthermore, the humanitarian crisis resulting from the civil war, including displacement and food insecurity, can lead to regional instability as neighboring countries are forced to cope with an influx of refugees. The prolonged conflict may attract external actors, complicating local dynamics and potentially leading to foreign intervention. To show sequence for Ethiopia include a deteriorating security landscape with rising risks of insurgency, political fragmentation that undermines national unity, economic challenges due to diverted resources, a loss of regional influence as its stabilizing role weakens, and a protracted period of instability that delays lasting peace and development efforts. Additionally, the According to this the consequences for Ethiopia amongst ongoing conflicts are substantial and complicated. In contrast, internal and external pressures mount, the country possibly will face a deteriorating security landscape marked by increased risks of insurgency and violence within its borders. Ethnic tensions will worsen as a result of ongoing wars, causing political fragmentation that threatens national unity and makes governance more difficult. Additionally, the author emphasis on dispute resolution diverts vital resources from economic growth, which may lead to a rise in poverty and social dissatisfaction. According to the author, Ethiopia may become less able to stabilize the region, which might result in a decline in regional influence and potential exclusion from important diplomatic endeavors. In the end, a prolonged period of instability could be caused by the continuation of the civil war and regional tensions, which would make it more challenging for Ethiopia to attain long-term peace and growth.

2.8 In what ways does the tripartite agreement benefit Al-Shabaab by providing a platform that could help escalate tensions and cause problems, such as security threats from extremist groups to Somalia's new mission?

As it is difficult to provide precise prediction, the author guesses several short implication of the concern of the tripartite agreement between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea this has possibly have unintentionally benefit Al-Shabaab by providing a platform that escalates tensions and creates security threats. The author continues his argument that as the agreement seeks to improve alliance among the three nations, any resulting instability possibly create an environment that Al-Shabaab possibly will exploit to assert its influence, recruit new members, and launch attacks, particularly against government forces and foreign interests. In contrast to the author considers that through a delicate military presence focused on security initiatives, Al-Shabaab may possibly perceive this as a direct threat, leading to increased assaults on Somali security forces and further destabilizing the region. Additionally, the agreement possibly will worsen existing competitions among the countries involved, particularly between Ethiopia and Somalia, allowing Al-Shabaab to position itself as a defender of Somali sovereignty and attract support. Furthermore, the author added to stress on military and security cooperation strength also divert attention and resources from pressing humanitarian issues, creating fertile ground for the Al-Shabaab and other interest groups to gain popular support among communities feeling marginalized by the government. Moreover, rising tensions and conflicts may perhaps provide Al-Shabaab with new recruitment opportunities by framing itself as a protector against external threats and influencing local frustrations. Lastly, the author believes that if the tripartite agreement leads to increased violence or instability, it may discourage international support for Somalia's government, creating a power vacuum that Al-Shabaab could exploit to expand its influence.

2.9 Ethiopia expresses concern about Egypt's weaponry transfer to Somalia and the tripartite deal between Egypt, Somalia, and Eretria on this issues which countries will be Potential Winners and Losers?

This difficult geopolitical location in the home to the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia on the Horn of Africa possibly will have regional consequences. As the author, will summarize the main points and potential outcomes, but bear in mind that geopolitical conditions can shift rapidly.

Ethiopia's Concerns: Ethiopia is likely worried about the strategic implications of Egypt transferring weapons to Somalia and the tripartite deal between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea, the author believes this concern stems from several factors:

- 1) **Historical tensions:** Ethiopia and Somalia have had territorial disputes mainly over Ethiopia's occupied Western region of Somalia of which Ethiopia called Zone five.
- 2) **Nile River issue:** The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile is the subject of a continuing dispute between Ethiopia and Egypt.

- 3) **Regional power:** Ethiopia might interpret this as an effort on Egypt's part to increase its power and influence in the Horn of Africa at Ethiopia's expense.
- c) Positive the tripartite agreement to address Ethiopia's security concerns while emphasizing mutual benefits possibly will lead to a more stable and cooperative regional framework, potentially transforming current tensions into opportunities for collaboration.

Potential Winners and Losers:

1) Potential Beneficiaries:

- a) **Egypt:** Through strengthening ties with Somalia and Eritrea, Egypt possibly will gain strategic allies in the region, potentially putting pressure on Ethiopia about the Nile water dispute.
- b) **Somalia:** Receiving weaponry may perhaps help Somalia in its fight against al-Shabaab and other internal security and foreign intervention challenges.
- c) **Eritrea:** This tripartite deal might possibly will help Eritrea break out of its international isolation and gain regional influence.

2) Potential Losers:

- a) **Ethiopia:** Ethiopia's bargaining position on the GERD problem may be impacted by this move, which could further isolate the country from the rest of the region.
- b) **Stability of the region:** Adding more weaponry to an already unstable area possibly will cause tensions to rise.
- c) **Djibouti:** Should Somalia become more powerful, Djibouti, another little state in the area, may lose some of its strategic significance. Moreover, according to the author's assumption, it is important to remember that the real results will rely on how things turn out and how other regional and global players react. Changes like this can have far-reaching effects since the Horn of Africa's power dynamics are precarious.

3) Obstacles

- a) Ethiopia faces significant challenges with the tripartite agreement involving Egypt, Eritrea, and Somalia, focusing on security and geopolitical rivalry.
- b) Concerns about weapon transfers to Somalia heighten fears of destabilization, especially amidst ongoing regional conflicts. Ethiopia's tense relations with Egypt, particularly over Nile water resources, complicate perceptions of the agreement as a strategic maneuver against it.
- c) Additionally, a lack of transparency fuels mistrust, exacerbated by internal political dynamics and the broader regional instability.
- d) As these tensions persist, the potential for conflict remains high, delaying prospects for cooperation and peace in the region. Ethiopia's government must navigate these complexities carefully to safeguard its national interests.

4) Opportunities

- a) Ethiopia has to improve relations with Egypt and engage positively with the tripartite agreement by fostering open communication, enhancing transparency regarding arms transfers, and focusing on regional cooperation initiatives that address shared challenges.
- b) Involving neutral third parties like the African Union or UN could facilitate dialogue and mediation, helping to find mutually acceptable solutions and build trust between Ethiopia, Egypt, and Somalia.

3. Conclusion

- 1) Ethiopia's concerns about Egypt's weaponry transfer to Somalia and the tripartite deal with Somalia and Eritrea are rooted in complex security issues, geopolitical rivalry, and historical tensions, particularly centered around the Nile River dispute.
- 2) The potential for destabilization due to arms transfers and the risk of weapons falling into the hands of non-state actors heighten Ethiopia's apprehensions, exacerbating existing mistrust between the nations.
- 3) Despite these challenges, opportunities for constructive engagement exist through open dialogue, enhanced transparency, regional cooperation on shared issues, and the potential involvement of neutral mediators to facilitate trust-building and conflict resolution.
- 4) Ethiopia is concerned about Egypt's shipment of weapons to Somalia, according to the results of the tripartite agreement between Egypt, Somalia, and Eritrea. Players' decisions determine rational behavior, which could have a variety of reciprocal effects. The players will select the best result regardless of what the other player does because they are unaware of each other's actions. Each will decide to accept the imploration deal as a result. The author calls this minimax behavior. Every player is taking steps to prevent the worst possible outcome from the other player's actions. "Let us wait and anticipate the outcome for upcoming weeks, months, and years."

4. Future Prospects

Ethiopia's future prospects amid the Egypt-Somalia-Eritrea tripartite agreement hinge on its ability to foster open dialogue and transparency, particularly with Somalia and Egypt. By addressing mutual challenges and potentially involving neutral mediators, Ethiopia could transform perceived threats into opportunities for regional cooperation and stability, thereby safeguarding its interests while contributing to a more peaceful Horn of Africa at region of eastern Africa which is home to the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia

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