The Somali Civil War began when a rebel group ousted the socialist government led by Major General Muhammad Siad Barre in 1991. When this government was overthrown Somalia became very chaotic and was plagued by factional fighting. Northern Somali ended up being run by The Somali National Movement, while the South and the capital Mogadishu were controlled by the United Somali Crisis. These governments eventually devolved into many poorly defined tribal territories, with growing terrorist threats taking over southern Somalia. Over 350,000 to 1,000,000 Somalis died because of this conflict.

Now, there are currently 982,524 registered Somali refugees, most of whom have relocated to refugee camps in Kenya, Yemen, or Uganda. These camps have become extremely overcrowded, which has led to a decrease in foreign aid and an increase in violence. This overpopulation has also led to a lack of space, forcing the Somalis to live in tents or other impermanent homes. The refugees are also unable to legally leave the camp without returning home, where they would have to face the terrorist group Al-Shabab, who have overrun the country. Since they are unable to legally leave, none of the refugees are able to find work and therefore unable to support themselves.

In 2011, tens of thousands more Somalis fled Somalia to escape the famine and Al-Shabaab, terrorist organization focused on establishing an Islamic state and currently has control over most of southern Somalia. The famine, which was caused by a conflux of drought, internal violence, and response failure, is the most dangerous food insecurity the world has experienced this century. 250,000 Somalis, mostly children under the age of six, have died due to the lack of available supplies during the famine. Al-Shabaab is a terrorist organization focused on establishing an Islamic state and currently has control over most of southern Somalia.

Geography
Somalia is usually referred to as the Horn of Africa, as the country is shaped like a horn. Kenya borders the south west region of Somalia, Ethiopia borders most of the west and Djibouti, a smaller country, borders the north west border.

All of the east side is bordered by water, as Somalia has the longest coastline in Africa and the Middle East, with a length of 3,300 kilometers. Its large coastline gives it an obvious advantage as it has more accessibility to the Arabian sea which allows for the greater sea travel and trade.

Government
The Transitional Federal Government replaced the Somali Democratic Republic officially in 2004. The president was Major General Mohamed Siad Barre who ruled the country until he fled in 1991. He promoted a scientific socialist society and had volunteers construct roads and hospitals and had them plant crops. Banks were nationalized and a new writing system was adopted. After 21 years they were forced out of power by an armed militia.

The Somali Democratic Republic Transitional Federal Government was replaced by the Federal Government of Somalia. The Federal Government of Somalia is separated into three lines: Civil Law, Religious Law and Traditional Law. The current President of Somalia is Hassan Sheikh Mohamud who controls the executive branch, while the Parliament who elects the President works as the legislative branch. Finally the Prime Minister serves as a liaison between the Cabinet and the President. The Parliament consists of 275 lower house seats and 54 upper house seats. They have the authority to veto and pass laws.