



CRISIS IN SOMALIA, 1990s

WHEN DOES **EVIL WIN?**



Crisis briefing

- **Overthrow of president in 1969**
 - Military coup
 - Major General Muhammad Barre
 - Dictatorship (authoritarianism, totalitarianism)
- **Overthrow of Barre in 1991**
 - Decentralization of power
 - Anarchy, clan rivalry and civil war
 - Famine

Crisis briefing

- International humanitarianism, 1991-1992
 - United Nations
 - Boutros Boutros-Ghali (Secretary-General)
 - United States
 - George H.W. Bush (President)
 - *Operation Provide Relief*
 - *Operation Restore Hope*

Crisis briefing

- **Mission changes course, 1993**
 - From food provision to politics
 - UN seeks to promote democratic elections
- **Resistance in Somalia**
 - General Muhammad Farrah Aidid
- **Escalation**
 - Aidid attacks UN force from Pakistan



FOREIGN POLICY

What should the US do?

ISOLATIONISM?

LIMITED INTERVENTIONISM?

AGGRESSIVE INTERVENTIONISM?

Policy Proposals: 20 minutes

- Within your groups, devise three possible courses of action that you would offer to President Clinton in 1993 concerning the crisis in Somalia.
- Each course of action must be accompanied by a list of PROs (merits) and CONs (risk-factors).
- With three foreign policy options on the table, decide which of the three you think should be recommended. Then complete the claim-counterclaim organizer. Write in complete sentences. Express all ideas clearly.

ACTUAL COURSE OF ACTION

After unsuccessful efforts to locate Aidid resulted in the deaths of several American troops, President Clinton decided to put together a more aggressive force.

He deployed *Task Force Ranger*, a coalition of 400 US troops (including 160 elite soldiers) along with 16 military helicopters. On October 3, 1993, Task Force Ranger initiated a mission to capture some of Aidid's most trusted officials in a target building in downtown Mogadishu, the capitol.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

US forces successfully extracted 10-12 of Aidid's chief executives. And then disaster struck...

As the raid was concluding, one of the American Black Hawk helicopters was shot down by an RPG [rocket-propelled grenade]. Assault and rescue teams experienced road-block delays as they tried to reach the target building and the crash site. Once on site, US forces came under heavy fire, which prolonged completion of the rescue until the following day.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Meanwhile, a number of blocks away, a second Black Hawk chopper also went down after being hit by an RPG. Without a backup team nearby – all teams were busy at the first crash site – the crew of the second helicopter found itself surrounded by a mob of angry Somalis. The only other Americans on the scene were above-ground in a small support-helicopter.



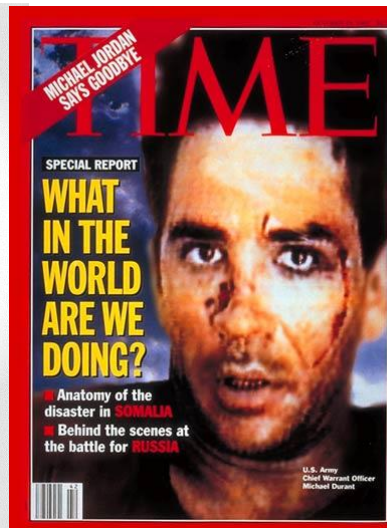
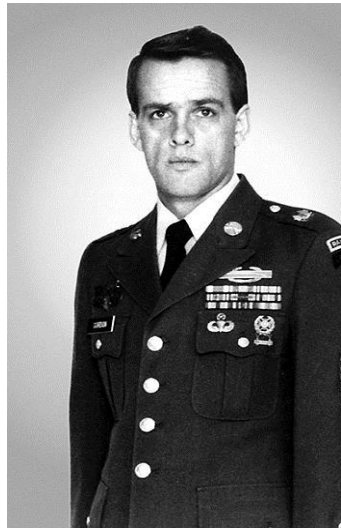
SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Gary Gordon and Randy Shughart were two snipers whose mission was to protect the Black Hawk rangers with cover-fire from the air. When the Black Hawk went down Gordon and Shughart volunteered to be dropped at the crash site in order to assist the wounded Black Hawk crew and defend them from the mob until reinforcements could arrive. Gordon and Shughart's first two requests were denied, but Command finally gave them permission to intervene.

Both men knew their chances of survival were slim.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

On the ground Gordon and Shughart took heavy gunfire. They managed to hold off the mob for awhile, but ultimately both men were killed. Most crewmembers of the Black Hawk were also killed or had died in the crash. The only survivor on site was pilot Michael Durant. He was beaten and taken prisoner.



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Hours after the second Black Hawk went down, a large armored UN convoy rescued the soldiers from both crash sites. Dawn, October 4: the Battle of Mogadishu was done.

Two days later President Clinton ordered the cessation of all military action in Somalia except for purposes of defense, and he mandated that all US troops be pulled out of the country by the end of March 1994.

In April 1994 Boutros-Ghali admitted the UN mission in Somalia to capture Aidid and establish democracy was over.

RESULTS

Proximate Results:

- 18 US soldiers dead; more than 70 wounded
- 1 US pilot captured as a Prisoner of War (released from captivity after 11 days)
- At least 1 dead American dragged through the streets of Somalia; bodies mutilated; 1 beheaded

Ultimate Results:

- **INFER:** *How would this experience affect the future of US foreign policy, especially in Africa?*



The American public's image of US intervention in Somalia went from **THIS** to **THIS**.



CRITICAL THINKING

1. What was the tragic flaw of the US military operation in Somalia on 10.3.93?
 - Was the mission doomed to failure from the start? If so, why? If not, then what was the turning point?
 - What hurt the US government more – the casualties sustained in the Battle of Mogadishu or the pictures that went public after the battle?
2. Predict: What impact might the Somali mission have on future US foreign policy in Africa?
 - If the crisis in Somalia were happening *today*, do you think the majority of Americans would want the US government to intervene? Why or why not?