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Autore	Harper Mary <1965->
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Somalia; Resources; Nomads; Poetry; Qat; Greater Somalia; Map 1.2 'Greater Somalia' and geographical distribution of major clans; Map 1.3 Main sub-divisions of Somali territory; The clan; Figure 1.1 Somali clan families; -- 2. History; Pre-colonial; Colonial; Independence. Dictatorship; State collapse; Intervention; 'Virtual' government; Alternative authority; -- 3. Islamism; Origins; Al-Itihaad; Union of Islamic Courts; Al-Shabaab; Importing and exporting jihad; 4 .A Failed State?; Mini-states; The economy; Livestock; Money transfer and telecommunications; Somaliland; -- 5. Piracy; Map 4.1 Reach of Somali pirate attacks, 2005-10; The Sirius Star; Myths and misconceptions; Pirate economy; Lifestyle; Structure; Links with radical Islamists; The best option?; What do you do with a pirate when you catch one?; The longer it goes on ... ; -- 6. Somalia and the Outside World. Somalia and the 'War on Terror' The Ethiopian invasion; The mission backfires; The Islamists take hold; The challenge of aid; Regional implications; Ethiopia and Eritrea; Yemen; Kenya; Conclusion; Notes; Introduction; 1 Clan and country; 2 History; 3 Islamism; 4 A failed state?; 5 Piracy; 6 Somalia and the outsideworld; Conclusion; Bibliography; Index; About Zed Books.

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Sommario/riassunto

Somalia is a failed state, notorious for piracy and the rise of Islamist extremism. At least that is how it is usually portrayed. Getting Somalia Wrong?, the first comprehensive account of the chaos engulfing much of the country, shows that this 'failed state' is far from being a failed society, as alternative forms of business, justice and local politics still flourish. As Mary Harper argues, until the international community starts to 'get it right', the consequences will be devastating.

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