

10. Tanzania's Conflict Management within the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa  
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(Abstract by the author)

Although many people argue that Tanzania is a peaceful country, this outlook is not based on fact. In reality, the country faces actual and potential conflicts. This study reviews conflict management and resolution in Tanzania compared with its neighbours. Actual conflicts are linked to multiparty politics in Zanzibar, pastoralist versus agricultural conflicts over grazing land, natural resources conflicts and local community versus investors' conflicts. Potentially, it faces simmering tensions such as the increasing gap between the haves and the have nots, a high unemployment rate, hunger, poverty, injustice, a shortage of politics based know-how, and limited access to resources. Notably, the same simmering tensions that led to conflict in other neighbouring countries, such as Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan, also exist in Tanzania. Compared to neighboring countries, the country is relatively peaceful because it has been able to manage and resolve actual and simmering tensions at early stages. Management and resolution emanates from a unique combination of historical and cultural factors. These factors include the role of leadership immediately after independence, which introduced socialism *Ujamaa* ideology; social organization, particularly communal life based on equality relationships; Kiswahili as a unifying factor in Tanzanian identity; ethnicity as a sense of belonging and not as hegemony; and a joking relationship (*utani*) based on social relationships that support cohesion between and among different ethnic groups. Unfortunately these factors no longer exist in Tanzania except for *kiswahili*. The implication of this absence, in terms of potential conflict, is increased risk of conflict for the country. This suggests that peace in Tanzania will last. Studies should be conducted on the underlying root causes of conflicts, and simmering tensions should be addressed seriously, to prevent the country relapsing into violent bloodshed in the near future."