

Brief Descriptions of State Collapse Cases

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In *Afghanistan*, state authority had never been institutionalized to a significant extent, reaching hardly beyond Kabul. Instead, political order rested on a power arrangement between the central government and micro-societies. The state interventionist policy of the communist regime threatened the social elites supporting this arrangement and triggered a widespread revolt. The Soviet Union intervention in December 1979 propelled the insurgency further, leading to an effective loss of state control that was extreme even for the Afghan case.

State collapse in *Angola* occurred after UNITA resumed their armed struggle against the MPLA government after losing the first multi-party elections in September 1992. UNITA, by preventing their forces being demobilized during the peace process, was able to control vast parts of the country and divesting them from government control.

State-formation in *Bosnia-Herzegovina* took place during the dismemberment of Yugoslavia where rival nationalist projects contended with each other. The creation of the “Serbian Autonomous Republic of Krajina” and the integration of areas in Western Herzegovina into the Croatian state infringed upon the territorial integrity of the emergent state. Whereas this challenge of state authority already prevailed in late 1991, it can only be regarded as state collapse with the international recognition of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in April 1992.

In *Chad*, the rebel group FROLINAT had been challenging the central government since the late 1960s. President Félix Malloum, seeking to pacify the country, entered into an agreement with the influential rebel leader, Hisssein Habré, making him prime minister. However, in February 1979 the gulf between the two led to the total collapse of central authority, and the upsurge of other FROLINAT factions fragmented the country into three different parts.

Congo-Kinshasa, the former Belgian Congo, became “the world’s first ‘failed state’” (Reno 2006: 43) as public order broke down immediately after independence in 1960. The country was confronted with rebellion of the Force Publique, the secession of the provinces of Katanga and South Kasai and two rival governments of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba and President Joseph Kasavubu each claiming exclusive legitimacy.

The *Georgian* state was threatened by secessionist movements in South Ossetia and Abkhazia immediately after independence from the disintegration Soviet Union in April 1991. In December opponents of the elected president Zviad Gamsakhurdia inside the Georgian nationalist movement attacked official buildings in Tbilisi and ousted the government. The ensuing fighting forestalled the further institutionalization of state authority at least until 1994.

In *Guinea-Bissau*, the rebellion of former Commander-in-Chief, Brigadier-General Ansumane Mané and large parts of the military against President João Bernardo Vieira triggered an 11-month civil war. The intervention of Senegal and Guinea in favor of Vieira created a military stalemate, preventing both sides from effectively controlling the capital.

The *Laotian* state collapsed in December 1960 after the American-backed anti-communist General Phoumi Nosavan established an alternative government and launched an attack against the capital of Vientiane and the neutralist troops of Captain Kong Le. In the wake of these events Nosavan’s troops controlled the south of the country, Kong Le’s neutralists the Plain of Jars and the communist Pathet Lao a vast area in the north-east.

In *Lebanon*, the Cairo Agreement of 1969 had made the armed presence of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) the most divisive issue of domestic Lebanese politics. Armed

clashes involved – beyond the Lebanese army – primarily the Kataeb militia and the PLO; this also applied to an incident in Beirut’s Ayn ar-Rummanah district in April 1975. However, this one triggered a full-scale civil war throughout Lebanon that paralyzed the otherwise comparatively well-functioning state institutions.

The state of *Liberia* collapsed in June 1990 when the rebel forces of Charles Taylor’s National Patriotic Front of Liberia advanced on the capital of Monrovia, thereby controlling large parts of the country. After President Doe’s death in September 1990, civil war further escalated. Central state authority could not be reestablished till the end of civil war in 1997.

State collapse took place in *Sierra Leone* in February 1998 when ECOMOG troops seized control of Freetown and installed Ahmad Tejan Kabbah as President who had been toppled by Paul Koroma and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council in 1997. However, ECOMOG was not able to implement state authority outside of Freetown against the united forces of the AFRC and the Revolutionary United Front.

The state in *Somalia* collapsed in January 1991 with the overthrow of Siad Barre regime. The anti-Barre coalition fell apart rapidly and power struggles between the different groups prevented a monopolization of state authority.

In *Tajikistan*, the profound political transformations during the secession process from the Soviet Union in 1991 ignited conflicts between the “old guard” and an opposition alliance of Islamic and democratic forces. The Government of National Reconciliation, formed in May 1992, failed to fulfil its purpose, but the agreement between president Nabiev and the opposition led to open revolt in two provinces. The state collapsed because regional power-holders started to wield authority in its place.

The collapse of the *Ugandan* state has its roots in 1979/1980 when the Uganda National Liberation Front quickly disintegrated into rival factions after deposing the dictator, Idi Amin. One faction, the National Resistance Movement led by Yoweri Museveni, occupied vast areas in the north, using these as a base from which to lead an offensive against the weak central government in 1985-1986.

Zaire witnessed a second incidence of state collapse in 1996 when President Mobutu’s rule finally fell apart. The armed rebellion of the ADFL (Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire) represented a threat which the already bankrupt Mobutu-state was not able to counter. Vast parts of the eastern territory fell under the control of diverse national and foreign armed groups like the ADFL, the former Rwandan army and Interahamwe militia or local self-defense units.