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Book Review: "Hussein Mohamed Adam 'Tanzania': In Honour of an Extraordinary Scholarship,"
edited by Jama Musse Jama (2024)

Rooble Mohamed

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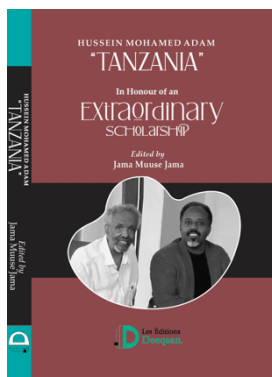
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Book Review: “Hussein Mohamed Adam ‘Tanzania’: In Honour of an Extraordinary Scholarship,” edited by Jama Musse Jama (2024). <http://www.redsea-online.org/HusseinTanzania>
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This edited volume is a collection of scholarly works in Somali Studies compiled in honour of Professor Hussein Mohamed Adam’s work and personality. Professor Hussein Mohamed Adam, also known as ‘Hussein Tanzania,’ was the first President of the Somali Studies International Association (SSIA) and is widely considered one of its founding fathers. As noted by Professor Lee Cassanelli, “While many individuals and host-country organizers deserve credit for maintaining this SSIA tradition of lively, open, and nonpartisan debate, perhaps no one is more responsible for the Association’s success than Professor Hussein Adam, one of its ‘founding fathers’ and its first president (Cassanelli, 2008).” On August 17th, 2007, a special event in Boston honoured the esteemed scholar. The SSIA respectfully acknowledged and expressed gratitude for his patriotism and contributions to the Somali community. He was also recognized at the 40th anniversary celebration of the SSIA in Hargeysa, Somaliland, where the organizing committee of the 13th Somali Studies International Association Congress (SSIAC) formally acknowledged his enduring dedication and paid tribute to his achievements. This tribute included speeches from distinguished scholars, friends, and family members. Professor Ahmed Ismail Samatar,



representing the academic community, delivered a passionate speech reflecting on his legacy, while professor Hussein M. Adam was within the audience.

According to the editor, the concept for this book emerged in 2015, shortly after the 12th International Congress of Somali Studies in Helsinki, alongside the proposal to host the 13th Congress in Hargeysa. Dr. Hussein Adam provided the editor with a list of individuals who had worked on Somali Studies, suggesting topics for some contributors. Sadly, Dr. Hussein M. Adam passed away on January 14th, 2017. The origins of this publication can be traced back to that conversation, which owes much to Dr. Hussein Mohamed Adam.

With 333 pages, 15 chapters, 1 appendix and annotated bibliography of Somali Studies, the book reflects Dr. Hussein's broad contributions to Somali Studies across disciplines within Somali Studies. In this introductory chapter, a short biography of Hussein Mohamed Adam is provided, followed by previously unpublished remarks delivered by the late Professor Said S. Samatar in 2007 at an event organized in honour of Dr. Hussein in Columbus, United States. The chapter concludes with a poem composed by Professor Ali Jimale Ahmed in 2012 in honour of Dr Hussein and published in his book *"When Donkeys Give Birth to Calves: Totems, Wars, Horizons, Diasporas"* (2012).

Chapter two is authored by Dr. Hussein A. Bulhan, who pays tribute to Hussein M. Adam by recalling their initial encounter in the United States during the mid-1970s. Their shared scholarly interest in the works of Frantz Fanon laid the foundation for their intellectual connection. In this chapter, Dr. Bulhan presents a revised version of his well-known work, *"Master and Slave Paradigms,"* originally featured in his seminal 1985 book *Frantz Fanon and the Psychology of Oppression*.

In the third chapter, Professor Lee Cassanelli offers a comprehensive overview of Hussein M. Adam's enduring impact on Somali Studies, drawing on his personal friendship with the scholar. He sheds light on Adam's underappreciated yet significant roles in promoting intellectual and civic development within Somali communities—particularly insights that deserve

greater recognition among younger Somalis. Chapter four, by Professor Charles Gesheker, analyzes the influence of missionary activity during the Somali Dervish movement between 1890 and 1910. Chapter five features Professor Giorgio Banti's discussion on the evolution of the Somali language in its standard, literary, and written forms. In chapter six, Professor Martin Orwin revisits the cultural and poetic significance of the song "Beledweyn," famously penned by the late Mohamed Ibrahim Warsame "Hadraawi." Chapter seven, contributed by Professor Cabdalla Cumar Mansuur, examines the relationship between Somali personal names and individual identity. Professor Michael Walls, in chapter eight, assesses the political dynamics of Somaliland, particularly in relation to its unrecognized international status, democratic elections, and human rights record. Chapter nine, written by Dr. Abdirachid Mohamed Ismail, delves into the structural and systemic barriers that hinder scientific research in Africa, both at national and continental levels.

Chapter ten features Dr. Nasir M. Ali's exploration of how education can serve as a foundation for sustainable peace in Somaliland. In chapter eleven, Dr. Abdulkadir Osman examines the evolution of themes and sociopolitical commentary in the literary works of Ali Jimale Ahmed. Chapter twelve, authored by Professor Ali Jimale Ahmed himself, investigates the influence of Arab culture on Somali society through a literary lens, particularly focusing on novels from Somalia and Djibouti. Chapter thirteen, a joint contribution by Tirsit Yetbarek and editor Jama Musse Jama, explores how traditional Somali livestock branding practices are adapting in the age of digital technology. In chapter fourteen, Ahmed Ibrahim Awale presents a Somali-language translation of Oscar Wilde's classic short story, *"The Nightingale and the Rose."* The fifteenth and final chapter is written by Jama Musse Jama, who reflects on international academic partnerships between institutions in the Global South and Global North, advocating for a collaborative and inclusive research environment that empowers scholars based in the Global South. The book concludes with a heartfelt remembrance by Abdi Goud,

who offers a personal tribute to his lifelong friend, the late Dr. Hussein M. Adam.

The volume includes an extensive annotated bibliography of scholarly and non-scholarly works by the late Professor Hussein Mohamed Adam "Tanzania," as well as a selection of additional references for the topics covered in the 15 chapters that comprise the book, thus providing a rich bibliography in Somali studies for the wide variety of topics covered in these chapters.

This edited volume is a timely and invaluable contribution to Somali Studies and a heartfelt tribute to one of its pioneers. While the work excels in breadth and diversity of contributors, future editions or companion volumes could benefit from deeper thematic cohesion or critical engagement with Hussein Adam's contested legacies. Nevertheless, scholars, students, and policymakers interested in the Horn of Africa will find this volume indispensable. A dedicated web page with ordering information and free reading sections is also available: see at <http://www.redsea-online.org/HusseinTanzania>.

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