

## ITALIAN SOMALILAND

In April 1905, the Italian government acquired control (from a private Italian company called SACI, *Società Agricola Italo-Somala*) of this coastal area around Mogadishu, and created the colony of Italian Somaliland.

By 1935, there were over 50,000 Italian settlers living in Italian Somaliland, constituting 5% of the territory's population. Of those, 20,000 resided in Mogadishu (Mogadiscio), 40% of the city's 50,000 residents. At this point, most Italians considered Somaliland their permanent home.

During the Second World War, Britain occupied Italian Somaliland and militarily administered the territory as well as British Somaliland. On 25 November 1949, when the British military administration ended, Italian Somaliland became a United Nations trusteeship, the Trust Territory of Somaliland. Under Italian administration, this trust territory lasted ten years, from 1950 to 1960.

On 1 July 1960, the Trust Territory of Somaliland and the former British Somaliland united to form the Somali Republic (Somalia), with Mogadishu as the nation's capital.

