

Let us vow to reunite Abyssinia in 100 years from now

ንግበር መብጽዓ ናይ ሪኩባሪት እታ ኣቢሰሲንያ ኣብ 100 ዓመታት ካብ ሎሚ

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1 ▶ In response to Haile Tessemas' article of Dec. 29, 2015

<<Indeed, as the end justifies the means, Ethiopia has to use everything at its disposal to take a swift military action against Eritrea; get rid of its hostile government; annex Assab and declare any deal with a foreign country as null and void, based not only on history, geo-politics and demography, but also the clear and present danger the country is subjected to, and the lives of 90 million people that is put at risk.
>> (1)

Existing eyewitness or contemporary (=መስትታ/ማሕዛ/መዘንና) accounts of Abyssinian history puts in evidence that coffee is bought and sold in Eritrea but politics of annexation no. On 12 November 1962, Haile Selassie unilaterally **abolished the federation** between Ethiopia and Eritrea. After that Eritrea with its people was **annexed** (added) to become the "fourteenth province" of his empire. Eritrea fought for thirty years to undo (ፈንጥሐ) what has been done. The fight stopped after her success in 1991. In time of curving illegal annexation there was uncountable loss of lives, properties, growth, development, civilization... not only in Eritrea but also in modern Ethiopia (or Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia) (Learn more from chapters 5).

So what does the war against annexation that took thirty years to undo teach? It teaches that annexation policy has no feasibility in the Abyssinian land because it brings only a long and bloody conflict. Does Haile Tessema know this? Beyond any shadow of doubt he knows because history of annexation is well documented and accessible to the public. So he is just inciting (አልሎ አድደራርዕ) government of Ethiopia to make a war of aggression or war of conquest for territorial gain. But incitement to war of aggression is a crime against peace. This suggests that Haile is a criminal in front of international law. And I hope it is so in the eyes of law in Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

So Haile must teach himself a law. In addition to this he must know that any war between north and south of the Mereb River is not a war between Kenyan lions and Russian polar bears but between Abyssinian brothers and sisters. For this any Abyssinian guy has not only right to write but also taking responsibility for one writes. If someone is outside of this it means that he/she is not obeying the law. But I wonder why people produce articles that threat us instead of allure us. I believe that we are not taught to never underestimate the Eritrean and Ethiopian brotherhood. This can serve as an occasion to remember the positive role of the religious communities who up hold the brotherhood of this two people without wavering by their prayers for peace and unity.

Haile Selassie and Haile Tessema have not only an exact namesake (መኾሲ) but also the same ideas that favor an action of annexing (or adding) other people's territory into their domain. With this

idea Haile Selassie met his doom (ዕንወት). But Haile Tessema can change course because he has some time on his hands that allows him to study the importance of Abyssinian history very carefully.

“ The study of **history** is also **important** because we learn from the mistakes of the past and hopefully learn to avoid those same mistakes made in the past. By studying our ancestors, we see the mistakes that were made and learn how to avoid those mistakes.”

It is true that Haile Tessma turned a deaf ear to his own real history. It seems that history for him is a stuff to throw away. But this is of concern to all of us. Because it is one of Abyssinian common errors especially of those who come to a throne (or command) are always devoid of natural history listening device. For me this is the main cause for the birth of Abyssinian civil wars. So Abyssinians must learn to listen very carefully to their history. "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" (**George Santayana**) = እዞም ዝ ኣይ-ይዝከኩ ኣቲ ሕሉፍ እዮም ኮንኩናት ናብ ደገሞ.

Here is my conclusion. The 127 years old division made by offenders, Italians and Menelik II, has only negative growth. Abyssinia the land of milk and honey became land of trouble and agony. Gradually it is becoming desert of peace and tranquility. Of this fact the daily growing rift between Eritrea and modern Ethiopia in general and an article of Haile Tessema in particular make clear more than before. There are other bloody wars that we see. The twenty-first will be another bloody century. It seems that Abyssinia is doomed to remain so forever (ከምዚ ምእንቲ ወትሩ).

So what is to be done? Are we to let great wrongs occur as first? I hope not because we are still suffering from the heavy price that we have already paid. But I hope that we would be able to avoid war and build unity so Abyssinia becomes hotel of an oasis of peace, tranquility and gracious hospitality. How? The answer is simple and clear. The 127 years old division made by wrongdoers must be abrogated from the maps of mind and ground. The right of Abyssinia to return from **status quo** (the state in which ኣቲ ሀለዋ ኣብ እታ ኣየን) to **the status quo ante** (the state in which before ኣቲ ሀለዋ ኣብ እታ ኣየን ቀደም) with **vanguard of her scholars** must be encouraged, blessed and respected.

To achieve our goal or to make the journey from **status quo** to **the status quo ante** happen we need time, effort, skill, courage, etc. We already know that the time that we have at our disposal is 100 years. Why this much? We know that Abyssinian morning prayer for institutions that can guarantee freedom of speech and expression, the right to fair trial, equal citizenship, all the rights of all national minorities, participation, justice ... is not yet answered. Without these we can't lay true and strong unity foundation that we are looking for. And we must not forget that institutions, like Abyssinian big tress (ዳዕሮsycamore, ሰግላ ficus sycomorus ...), take time to develop long roots.

To return from **status quo** to **the status quo ante** mass education, **unity in diversity(2)** as new Abyssinian approach, via understandable, transparent and a hugely popular way, can serve as motor vehicle. In other words mass education (ጂምላ ኣዳ-ካዝዮ/ ስነሰርዓት) can make win the long-plan for success.

Lessons in Abyssinian history can serve as a main fuel for the motor vehicle. Here anyone can contribute a scholar historical article for people in general and for elementary, middle and secondary school in particular that serves as a block building of strategy. When any article concerns ‘**Let us vow to reunite Abyssinia in 100 years from now**’ is ready, communication can take place through broad cast, internet, and print media. After that the author of the article waits to hear readers’ comments. Here the author’s intention and the reader’s interpretation may not be on the same page. But we know that for our development we need only constructive dialogue. Above all any genuine comment will be a tip to the author of an article. So readers are recommended to give right amount money.

We will use English language as a tool for our communication. In Abyssinian world there are many local languages but of many good reasons English has the greatest demand.

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Below are small chapters of our past history. They are short lesson that help how to stop mistake recycling. They are the first steps to starting a return from **status quo** to **the status quo ante**. Enjoy the reading.

** * *

2 ▶ Eritrea and modern Ethiopia are political legacies left by Italian colonialists and Menelik II to us

አርቲራ እውን ሞደርኖ ኢትዮጵያ ኢየን ፖሊቲካዊ ርስቲ ግድፋት ብ ኢጣልያውያን ኮሎኖሊስቲ እውን መንገድ ሂደት ናባና

To make Eritrea her first colony, Italy took twenty years from 1869-89. The colonization process extended from Bay of Assab northwards to Ras Casar. The first goal was to occupy Eritrean lowlands, coastal areas and islands and after that the Eritrean highlands. All in all the strategy has left very important date to remember. The following are part of them. But what I would like to warn you dear reader, here we will try to learn the other side less known of Menelik's II history.

- a) November 15, 1869, first purchase of Bay of Assab. The seller was native minor (ጎኡስ) sultan.
- b) July 5, 1882, Assab and the surrounding area were declared to Italian law Colony.
- c) May 21, 1883, Italians signed a treaty of friendship and commerce with Menelik, King of Shoa.
- d) November, 1884, Statement of the British Foreign Office that he had no objection to that Italy occupy Massawa, Beilul and Zela
- e) In 1885, occupation of Massawa in February, Bailul and Arafali in March, Bogos in 30 July ...
- f) August, 1886, occupation of Uaà ዊዓ (round 40 km to south of Massawa) and Saati ሱላቲ (round 30 km. to west of Massawa).
- g) January 25, 1887, battle of Saati, and January 26, 1887, of Dogali ... the Abyssinian 10,000 army led by Ras Alula killed 418 Italian soldiers out of 500. Here is history of a war hero in that battle; that is to say history of Belai. This hero of SD battle was **killed** after being **shot** in the **back** by a bad boy while he was defending his fatherland. The poem was composed for the memory of his unacceptable death.

<< Bleai, young soldier of Ras Alula, who died in Dogali; it is said that he killed two Italian soldiers, struggling hand to hand with a lieutenant when treachery (ከድዓት/ጥልመት), for old grudges (ቁማት/ቅርጽንቲታት), was shot by his buddy (እቲ ናቲ ዓርኪ *il suo amico*) and fellow countryman of Corbaria ኮርባሪያ (4-5 km west of Decamare town), village terribly torn by faction (ሻራ).

በላይ ወድዲ ወልዱ በዓል አምበላይ
 ቢይንኻ ዶ አልሎካ ካልአይ
 ወድዲ ወልዱ እዝጊእ ላዕላይ
 በላይ ስንኒ ጸባ
 ምሳኻ ዶ አይወወለን ልጅ ሰለባ
 በላይ ስንኒ ዓውሶ (ማይጸባ)
 ምሳኻ ዶ አይወወለን ልጅ መዓሾ

እረራይ ቀሰም
 ወድዲ ወልዱ ወድዲ አብባ ጠልሰም
 ቀታሊኻ ብርኩ ይቀርሰም
 አድደ በላይ አልላ ዶ አይትሀልሉ
 በላይ መዊቱ ምስ ጨበረይቲ በቕሉ
 ጣልያን ኃጢአቱ
 ኮርባሪያ ከልለዉ ቀተልቱ >> (3)

- h) October 30, 1887, Menelik agreed with Count Antonelli, through pact of friendship and alliance, to preserve absolute neutrality in case of war between Italy and the Negus John.
- i) End of March 1888, arrival of the Negus John with his 80,000 fighting force in the plain of Sabarguma (on the road from Massawa to Asmara, round 15 km. to south-west of Saati) to launch an attack against the Italian colony. But he didn't find it easy to storm the fortress of the enemy. In addition to this the heat of the desert played against him. For this he was forced to leave. His army started to retreat April 2, 1888. The loss was heavy because Asmara-Massawa was full of dead horses, mules ... for lack of food and water.
- j) March 10, 1889, Battle of Metemma between Abyssinians and Dervishes, and the death of the Negus John. **His death made former Ethiopia to be divided into two.**
- k) March 1889 occupation of Asmara
- l) May 2, 1889, **Treaty of Wuchchale** ውሳሊ ናይ ውጭጮጌሊ (in Wollo) was born. The treaty was



<< signed by King [Menelik II](#) of [Shewa](#), later the Emperor of [Ethiopia](#) with Count [Pietro Antonelli](#) of [Italy](#) in the town of [Wuchale](#), Ethiopia, on 2 May 1889. The treaty ceded territories that had previously been a part of Ethiopia, namely the provinces

of [Bogos](#), [Hamasien](#), [Akkele Guzay](#), and [Serai](#) and is the origin of the Italian colony and modern state of [Eritrea](#).^[citation needed] In return, Italy **promised financial assistance and military.** >> (4) In addition, Menelik is believed to have said: "leave the Italians to rule North Eritrea beyond Merab River"^[13] (5). Plus <<Menelik II and [Queen Taitu](#) personally owned 70,000 slaves.^[14]>> (6).

Article 13 of the treaty of **Wuchchale** was governing the movement of any rebellion or a refusal of obedience across Belesa-Mereb-Muna River border was known to be rebellion strongholds.

<< **Article 13:** His Majesty the King of Italy and His Majesty the King of Kings of Ethiopia is obliged to deliver **criminals** who may have become refugees, to escape punishment by the rulers of one on the other domains.>> Or

His Majesty the King of Italy and His Majesty the King of Kings of Ethiopia undertake to surrender to each other **offenders** who may have become refugees, to escape punishment, from the domains of one on the domain of the other.

<<የኢትዮጵያ ንጉሥ ነገስትና የኢጣልያ ንጉሥ ብርቱ **ጳጤስት** የሰራ ሰው ካንዱ ግዛት ወደ 2 ሺሽቶ የሄደ እንደሆነ 2ተም እያሰሩ ይልካሉ።>>

This deadly Article 13 treaty was more or less like condition Eritrea today a long-standing **shoot-to-kill policy in border areas**. It was hitting and paralyzing anything that was casting shadow over the interests of Menelik and Italian colony. Here is a story of one of its victims. As we know the Eritrean prisoners escaped from Nocra prison. After days they crossed the Eri-Ethi border. Then Menelik II hunted and put them into prison of Harar secretly. The only survivor of this prison was "Degiat Mahrai Mogos from the village of Wegera not far from Addi Chaiyh" (7). In consequence of Treaty W. in general, and Article 13 in particular, perhaps what E. A. Wallis **Budge says can help us to understand more**. "During the next few years (1891-5) the Italian gained more power in Abyssinia, and established their colony of Eritrea once for all." (8).

Italians worked hard in the aftermath (ቀሪም) of battle of Aduwa (March 1, 1896) for their survival by milking well treaty of Wuchchale. After that victorious day Gen. Oreste Baratieri escaped to save his own life. He was in Addi-Qeyyh on 3 March and on 4 in Massawa. But of his flight there was no problem because the action that finishes the Italian colony was almost taken. What remained was a small portion, to go to Massawa to capture not only the port but also the timid Gen. Baratieri. But Baratieri who was experiencing things go from bad to worse in front his eyes immediately sent a delegation of peace led by major Salsa to Menelik's camp that was still at Adwa.

Salsa led delegation met with Menelik II and Ras Mekuenen (father of Haile Selassie). At first Menelik humiliated the delegation for less knows reason. But finally they were agreed on three things. The first two were to confirm the River Belesa-Mereb-Muna border Treaty or agreement. And the third they agreed to choose one man that governs Tigray for their **mutual interests**. Then Menelik who was more satisfied ordered withdrawal and turned his face towards Showa. With this news Salsa led delegation returned to Massawa. Here we are learning how the woven interests of Menelik and Italians were going hand in glove.

Northerners were completely against the decision of withdrawal. They told Menelik that they will stop only after the capture of Massawa. But Menelik was not for this. His bad intention not allowed him to listen to the guide of that region that says 'ናይ ምድሪ ኣይ-ይሕደግን ናይ ስድሪ of land not to yield an iota!!' Of this the Northerners were exploded with anger and full in dismay (አብ ድንጋጃ). From here, after forty years of preparation, Italy launched her attach and after five years of bloody war of 1935-41 occupied Ethiopia. This shows that those who were against the withdrawal, those who were according to their custom, Northerners or Eritreans and Tigrawyan of today, were right and they deserve praise. But their common goal of putting an end to colonialism was very weak, disorganized and without a good vision.

So it is treaty of **Wuchchale** that divided **former Ethiopia** (in Tigriyna ጥንቲ/ጥንታዊት ኢትዮጵያ) into two zones, Eritrea and (modern) Ethiopia. The Mereb River, from antiquity symbol of unity and border of two or more Aksumite kingdoms, forms part of border of these two nations. This shame denies

accepting Adulis as birthplace of Aksumite Empire. This means Menelik II introduced shame (ነውውራ, ኤፍረት) to the Abyssinian land and its people who have no sense of shame. He taught Abyssinians **to cut, sell and forget their root**. He really shook the whole history of Abyssinia. Here is the reason why we now say that Eritrea and modern Ethiopia are political legacies left by Italian colonists and Menelik II to the Abyssinian people.

After division these two nations the wrongdoers took no time to show their different flags, governance, military power, currency, politics ... in order to strengthen the division of old Ethiopia. This made Treaty of W. a strong gapping hook. In consequence of this Mereb River turned to be Cines wall that divides Abyssinian brothers and sisters. It became a place not of pacification and cooperation but confrontation.

From historical point of view it is accurate to say that King Haile Selassie tried to tear down the wall. But not turned up anything because something done by an authoritarian can be eradicated only by democratic not by another authoritarian (see the 5th chapter). When we march towards unity we must not allow to be led by those are not ready **to political power sharing, democracies to choose the government, allocation of the economic ... because we know that King Haile Selassie used unity of the divided people as mechanism to expand his empire. This undemocratic approach or a system that does bring first the interest of the people does not foster unity.**

It is not secret that the condition of Mereb River, as Chins wall, is always embraced by those who want power. For this someone can say that Treaty of W. has a plenty staying power. But new and fresh wind is blowing that creates opportunity for true unity. The people's low level of literacy is decreasing. Step by step people are learning how to live together by changing their old beliefs and ideas. So we are marching towards great hope. Mereb River will stop producing shotgun and smoke bomb and will start to grow chewing gum and honey-comb. Abyssinians really deserve this. So Mereb River Internet, Clinic, Library, College, Club ... are ahead of us.

3 ▶ Why the Division of a former Ethiopia not called North Ethiopia and South Ethiopia?

ንምንታይ እታ ክፍሊ ናይ እታ ጥንቲ ኢትዮጵያ ኣይነበረን ስሙይ ሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ እውን ደቡብ ኢትዮጵያ?

Menelik II and Italians divided old Ethiopia into two. The division was not named North Ethiopia-South Ethiopia like North Korea and South Korea or North Vietnam-South Vietnam ... but instead of this they agreed to call them **Eritrea** and **Ethiopia**. Why? Perhaps the following can shed some light on this scandal.



The Italian politic was very careful in choosing name for its first colony. Francesco **Crispi**, (see his portrait) prime minster in that time ordered to see an **incomprehensible word** on his table that doesn't illuminate history of natives and at the same time that confuses Menelik II. This was what was done. So the name of Eritrea that has Greek root word was chosen for confusion. This was done because Menelik was not able to know (ኣይነበረን ኣብ መዓርግ ናይ ፈለጠ) verbs, grammar rules ... of his mother languages let alone of others. In the next chapter we will learn how he had addressed the following two abstract terms: "sin ኃጢአት " and "crime ገበዓ".

But when we talk about greater picture the Italians knew that the Abyssinians have great problems with their local (Tigriyna and Amharic) languages incomprehensible to anyone (e.g. their infinitive verbs). Not only this, they also knew that the Abyssinians confuse tradition with history. For this and other the Italians were very careful not to go against a stagnant **status quo**. Of the issues that we are talking, language problem is still alive; people as usual are swimming in their stagnant water. And it will continue until the birth of language institute that teaches people grammar rules. The following the way in which Tigriyna verb changes to *pp* and *s.f.* will be part of the lesson.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| ተቐበለ! <i>v.t.</i> to accept | ሰርዕ! <i>v.t.</i> <i>constituire</i> : 1 to found | ስርዓት <i>s.f.</i> constitution |
| ቅብቡል <i>p.p.</i> accepted | ስሩዕ <i>p.p.</i> established | ኣስተውዕለ <i>v.t.</i> to consider |
| ኣቅቀባብለ <i>s.f.</i> acceptance | | ኣስተውዕሎ <i>s.f.</i> consideration |

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | አረግጸ v.t. ... 4 to secure | ርግጽንነት s.f. 2 security |
| እስትውዕል p.p. considered | ርጉጽ/ግግጽ p.p. 1 insured | |

Security Council **ርግጽንነት ምክሪ**, food security **ርግጽንነት ምግብ**, the written constitution **እታ ጽሕፍቲ ስርዓት**

Documents show that the name Adulis was one of those names that were in the list that had high probability to be a name of the colony. But Crispi was against any element that shines past or present glories of his subjects. I guess Crispi was aware of native proverb that says: **ሐደ ስም ይመርሕ እውን ሐንቲ ጥዋፍ ትበርህ** /a name guides and a candle illuminates.

So founding and naming the Italian colony was full of confusion to Menelik not to mention his subjects. But what mattered a lot to him was the Italians policy that supported him to build his authoritarian muscle. Here there was no confusion except full of security.

The victim of this scandal was the people. Owing to this the natives stayed in a constant state of confusion for a very long time. In consequence of this the loss of the old Ethiopia was not heard or understood by all its members as it should be. Because of this there was no big popular rise and fight in defence of her.

During that time traders were serving as main news-agency. Their stopping-places were the most breaking news center. Like this a piece of information from Massawa to Kefa or vice versa was arriving after months. But during rainy season was changing all these because the news-agencies, the traders, were going into hibernation.

So information as source of social power was highly controlled by Italians, Menelik II and slow progress. As we know Abyssinians by nature are quick to react in the way that is needed. But when time passes without information they lose the desire to react. Italians were very clever at learning such and other Abyssinians strength and weakness.

Menelik II died on 12 December, 1913 but his political legacy, divided old Ethiopia, is still alive. Because of this not only the people of Eritrea but also the people of modern Ethiopia are still paying heavy prices. This condition is sure not last long (**ጸንሐ ናብ ነዊሕ**). Eritrean and modern Ethiopian people have the right to refuse to buy or use the old and disasterous political legacy left. They have the right to return and reignite their past history of unity, glory, prestige and civilization. And from this they can launch another their own new civilization.

4 ▶ Menelike II was without the Power of Language, what about current dictator in Eritrea?

Language is a power or a powerful tool. According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, Language Power consists of two key components:

- 1) an ability to speak and be understood, and **እታ ክእለት ናይ ተዛረብ እውን ናይ ነበረ ርቐቕ (ተራቐቐ) እውን**
- 2) an ability to listen and understand. **እታ ክእለት ናይ ሰምዕ እውን ተራቐቐ.**

We can consider the first, to speak and be understood, as output **አውጥቶት/ ፍርርያት** and the second, to listen and understood as input **ኢንፎት/አቅቀብብላ**. This shows that the power of language is built not only by one but by two opposite ways. This means it is not one-way but two-way street. With this in mind let us scrutinize (examine) the languages power of Menelik II and the current dictator in Eritrea.

We start with Menelik. To do this we bring Article 13 of Treaty of Wuchchale.

<< His Majesty the King of Italy and His Majesty the King of Kings of Ethiopia is obliged to deliver **criminals** who may have become refugees, to escape punishment by the rulers of one on the other domains.>> or

His Majesty the King of Italy and His Majesty the King of Kings of Ethiopia undertake to surrender to each other **offenders** who may have become refugees, to escape punishment, from the domains of one on the domain of the other.

<<የኢትዮጵያ ንጉስ ነገስትና የኢጣልያ ንጉስ ብርቱ **ኃጢአት** የሰራ ሰው ካንዱ ግዛት ወደ 2 ሸሽቶ የሄደ እንደሆነ 2ቱም እያሰሩ ይልካሉ።>>

Above we have Art.13 of Treaty of W. in English and Amharic version. Now it is time to shed some light on the error of translation from English into Amharic and vice versa. Words to be examined are in red: namely **criminals** (or offenders) and **ኃጢአት**. According to W. treaty translation of ‘criminals’, is ‘ኃጢአት’ or vice versa. Now let us prove if this is right or wrong.

Criminal (pl. **criminals**) n. ክሪሚናል/ገበነይና (pl. ክሪሚናሊ/ገበነይናታት)
e.g. Criminals have divided Abyssinia into two. እቶም ገበነይናታት/ክሪሚናሊ አልለዎም ክፉል አቢሰሲንያ ኣብ ክልትተ.

Criminal adj ክሪሚናል/ገበነይና → e.g. Criminal act ክሪሚናል/ገበነይና መዓልላ/ግብሪ/ስራሕ

ኅጥአ (Geez) to sin e.g. ኅጥአ ኮንትሮ/አንጻር እዝጊ to sin against God

ኅጢአት n. sin e.g. ወደቐ ኣብ ኃጢአት to fall into sin.

ኅጠኣ pp. sinned e.g. ኣብ ነገር ኣነ አልሎኒ ኅጠኣ wherein have I sinned.

So, **sin** is the act of violating God's will. It has nothing to do with the term criminal.

Now let us translate article 13 of Treaty of Wuchchale into Tigriyna for our wisdom and knowledge.

<<His Majesty the King of Italy and His Majesty the King of Kings of Ethiopia is obliged to deliver **criminals** who may have become refugees, to escape punishment by the rulers of one on the other domains.>>

<< ናቶም ጃንሆይ ኣቲ ንጉስ ናይ ኢታልያ ኣውን ናቶም ጃንሆይ ንጉስ ናይ እቶም ንጉስ ናይ ኢትዮጵያ አለለዎ ኣቲ ግድዲ ናይ አሕሊፉሀብ እቶም ክሪሚናሊ (ገበነይናታት) ዝ እዮም ከኣል ነበረ ጽግጉዓት, ምእንቲ መ/ጸለቐ እታ ቅጽዓት ካብ ወገን ናይ እቶም መንግስቲታት ናይ ሓደ ልዕሊ እቶም ካልኣት ግዝኣት. >>

Translating a text from one language to another one **word** at a time with or without conveying the sense of the original whole is called **Literal translation**, direct **translation**, or **word-for-word translation**.
Here English and Tigriyna texts **have the same** word order that is **subject + verb +object**.
When we use word-for-word translation it doesn't mean that it is free of negative sides. It has but weighs less when it is compared to positive side.



Now let us talk about the power of language of current dictator in Eritrea. When we talk about local Tigriyna tongue that doesn't know rule of grammar is not smooth as mirror. Especially things went from bad to worse after the dictator that '**rules through fear**' used it to achieve his overall purpose.

He **head of state** and **head of government** is also **head of Tigriyna tongue**. So he is not only a president but also the **only Tigriyna language teacher**. How he works his linguistic activity without border and how we learn where ever we are, we take as an example **his misleading interviews** (in Tigriyna: ጽይይቕቲ/ፋልሳ ኢንተርቪስታ *intervista*) of **Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki Interview 2016**.

But if he has misleading interviews, he also has the opposite: true interviews (in Tigriyna: ሐቕቂ ኢንተርቪስታ *intervista*). And we begin with his past true interviews for chronological order. They are those he had with free press (ነጻ ማእተም) like Aljazeera, Swedish journalist ... things still available on the internet. Here the professional journalists have both rights and **responsibilities**. They know that "the first duty of a journalist is to have respect for the truth and for the right of the public to truth". With these moral principles they shine everyday like Eritrean sun. Thanks to this they never hesitate to ask questions that matter most such as:

- a) In order to escape the very important issues that the nation faces your misleading interviews left no stone unturned in Eritrea to make an issue of irrelevant number. But this doesn't work anymore. Please what is your next step?
- b) Half of Eritreans are given to the speculation (speculazione/ስፕኩላሽን/ሐሳብ) that says "tortoise and their culture must leave Eritrea to live in the sea forever." But the other half wants only the culture. Can you give an opinion on this?
- c) You spell your first name ኣፈወርቂ instead of ኣፈወርቂ, the translation of PF in Tigriyna ህዝባዊ ግንባር instead of ህዝባዊ ገ/ግምብር and your journal ሓዳስ instead of ሓድዳስ . We need not to speak about your Tigriyna sentence because we know that there is no healthy sentence without healthy word. But what I want to ask you is that: Will Eritrea see after you a president who writes correct sentence in his mother tongue? If the answer is yes after how many years please.
- d) Your government invests nothing in Eritrean languages. And you always speak and write nonstandard Tigriyna. Why is this?
- e) Nature and manmade flood of rivers and refugees leave Eritrea ... this must stop but it is not the duty of failed state ... tell me why?
- f) Eritrean parties are on the verge of arrival. How much this worries you?
- g) Bar and prison numbers are rising dramatically in Eritrea. Why?
- h) We must blame not you but CIA of the low-quality education in Eritrea. Do you agree?
- i) Your government will not see fixed the Massawa-Asmara-Aquèrdet railroad and Eri-Ethi relation. Why?

Why free press journalists are not afraid to ask such questions? Simply their right of journalistic freedom is protected by constitution. In other words **freedoms** of expression are protected by the **constitution**. But in Eritrea there is no constitution not to mention journalistic freedom.

The true television interviews of the Eritrean dictator are still fresh in our memories. The purpose of the interview requests by the free press to dig in and get information from the mind of the dictator by shooting democratic questions was really extraordinary (መስደመም). Of this Aljazeera is highly commended on 23 May 2008. In this successful political interview, Eritrea learned that it will not see any election before 30-40 years. It was the **first Eritrea's political earthquake** maybe after 12 November 1962. The digression (እታ ህውታተ) of the dictator was not only the witness of his insane but also Eritrean broken hope and politics.

And those **misleading interviews**, like [Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki Interview 2016](#), are all those manufactured **by him, for him, to his grip on power**. To manufacture them, what he does is prior to the misleading interview he writes and prepares interview questions that he likes to be asked. Then before he goes on the stage he divides the activity between him and his subjects. After this the misleading interview finds a place to be born in front of the best orchestrated camera. Iseyas Efewerqi is with this deceit since the day EPLF owned media.

The following are words, phrases ...from [Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki Interview 2016](#). With these we can know not only the not upgraded language power of the dictator but also how he is fighting to change our Tigriyna tongue, values, identities, etc. without being noticed. When he does this he is well protected by our low level of literacy in general and the power he exercises in particular. An Eritrean language professor who lives and works in foreign countries says nothing about the loss of Tigriyan tongue, values... But it is clear that he too like Iseyas Efewerqi doesn't know Tigriyna infinitive verbs. This shows that not only the Eritrean peasants but there are also others who swim in that stagnant **status quo** despite the distance.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ▶ ባጠራ , ሸርፊ, ናቕፋ, መጠነ ሸርፊ, ሸርፊመጠን? | ▶ :: ናይ ሃገራዊ ድሕነት ስግኣት (national security threat) |
| ▶ ጽልዋ X | ዝበሃል ኣሎ:: X |
| ▶ ትካላት governmental institutions X | ▶ ምውቕቓቓ speculation X |
| ▶ እዩ:: ኣብ ዘንቢል ኣእቲቲ እንተርኢኻዮ: X | ▶ :: መደባት ይወጹ: X |
| ▶ ንሕብረተሰባት እናተፋነንካ (polarize እናገብርካ) ንብልሸውና | ▶ ሰብ ኣዊ ጽግጋት ክንደልይ ጸኒንሕና X |
| ትካላዊ መልክዕ ምስእት-ሓዘካዮ (institutionalize ምስ ገበርካዮ): X | ▶ ጸግጋ ጸግጋታት resource(s) X |
| | ▶ ጸግጋ ሰብ X |

Of these key words we will talk only about three words: ጽልዋ, ትካላት, መደባት and ጸግጋ .

For the dictator the term's ጽልዋ translation into English is "influence". But it is incorrect.

a) ጸለወ (አእኻል), ለለወ (አዕጻው), ሐምመሰ (አእኻል), ረምመሰ, አምወቐ or አሞቐ , አውዐየ v.t. to heat.

ጸለወ /አሞቐ ሐንቲ ቤት to heat a house

ጸሎው, ውዑይ, ልሎው, ሕምሙሰ, ርምሙሰ, ምወቐ p.p. heated.

— ዲባት-ቲቶ (dibattito) heated debate

ጽልዋ s.m. riscaldamento: 1 heating.

ጽልዋ ናይ ማእከል central heating, ቅጥዲ ናይ ጽልዋ ወይ ጽልዋ ቅጥዲ heating system.

Also here for the dictator the term's ትካል (p.l. ትካላት) translation into English is "institution(s)". But it is incorrect. First all the word is one of his false words.

b) ተኸለ', ሸኸለ, መትረበ (of border stone) v.t. 1 to plant. 2 to sow. 3 to drive

ተኸለ/ሸኸለ/ መረበ ሐደ መስማር ናብ ኦት መንደቕ to drive a nail into the wall

ትኹል /ሸኹል p.p. planted.

ሕሩስ አውን ትኹል ግራት ploughed and planted field.

ተኸለ', ፈልሲ s.f. 1 BOT plant. 2 plan ...

ሐንቲ ተኸለ/ፈልሲ ናይ ቢሺክለትታ bicycle plant, ሐደ ኪሚካዊ ተኸለ/ፈልሲ a chemical plant,

አዕዋፍ አውን አታኸልቲ ናይ ሀገሪይ birds and plants of my land

c) መደብ. Not only for the Dictator but for many, መደብ means program. First of all መደብ is concrete word and it means ገእዲ while program is English abstract word. So in Tigriyna መደብ አውን ገእዲ are synonyms. Program = ፕሮግራም

Even here for the dictator the term's ጸግጋ (-ታት) translation into English is "resource (s)". But it is incorrect.

d) ጸግግ, ሀብተመ, ረሐሰ, ባዕለየ, ባዕኩረ, አጥረየ, ዳበረ v.t. 1 to enrich. 2 to supply. // v.i. to enrich oneself.

አንግሊሽ ኢያ ጸግግውቲ ሀብትምቲ ... ናይ ብዙሓት ጓኖት ቃላት English has adopted a lot of foreign words.

ጸግጋ (-ታት) s.f. grazia: 1 grace ... 6 thanks

ንስሳ ነበረት ውዝውዝቲ ምስ ጸግጋ She moved with grace, ብ ጸግጋ እግዚ. by God grace ...

ወይዘሮ ጸግጋይ ኢያ ናብ ቤት Weyzero Grace is at home.

ጸግግው ሀብተም ... adj and p.p. arricchiato: 1 enriched. 2 supplied.

ጸግግው/ሀብተም/ድቡር ... ናይ ውግግኦ a war profiteer

The rest, the meaning of influence, resources I recommend you to see the modern Tigriyna dictionaries by Eyob Ghebreziabhier Bein of 2015.

In his misleading interview the Eritrean dictator says << ኣብ ዘንቢል ኣኣቲኻ እንተርኢኻኦ? >>. But as a man who has read several Menelik's letters ... I believe that the king was putting an issue or set of his problems on the table and throwing a crumpled paper into a waste-paper basket. But to some extent the dictator is right when he says <<ኣብ ዘንቢል ...>> because he never brings an issue that deserves a table.

Menelik II and the Eritrean dictator are all pretenders. The king was tending to be a more religious man while he owed thousands of slaves. Slaves were freed from bondage only after they died. And the Eritrean dictator always behaves as if he were a language super expert but we have proved above that he is the man who lost his head. He is just cleaver at producing empty words and misleading interviews. Owing to this a woman with the name ጸግጋ and who was saying "in English my name means grace" now she is constrained to say resource(s). This affects Christian religion, literature and tradition. But the man who lost his head is free of responsibility.

The Eritrean dictator didn't learn what needs to be Tigriyna. His speeches do not know standard Tigriyna, Tigryna saying, Tigriyna proverbs.... The worst is his Tigriyna sentence. He doesn't know where to put the subject or verb in a sentence. For him a sentence begins with # and ends # or ? I doubt if the early tyrants who have ruled with an iron fist were building a sentence like these: <<:: ከንደይ ይሸጡልካ ንሓንቲ ፊሰቶ ማይ? ብሸመይ መገዳ: በየናይ አገባብ ይሸጡልካ? ሓርጭ መሸላ ንገዓት ክትገዝእ ደሊኻ: ከንደይ ትገዝእ? ኬድካ ኬድካ: ሓደ በዓል- ስድራ ኣብ ህይወቱ ዘድልይዎ ነገራት ክሸምት እንተደልዩ: እተን ዝረኽበን ዘሎ ኣታዊታት ብናቕፋ ከም ድላይካ ቀምረን?>> (10).

Of these let us analyze the sentence structure of << ሓርጭ መሸላ ንገዳት ከትገዝእ ደሊኹ፣ ከንደይ ትገዝእ? >>. Does this question mean: "If you want to buy a flour of sorghum for a polenta, how much do you pay? If this is the case in Tigriyna is written "እንተ ንሕና ንደልይ ዐድደገ ሐንቲ ሐሪጽ ናይ መሸላ ምእንቲ እታ ገዐት፣ ከንደይ ይዕደይ/ይክ/ኸፈል?"

We have seen Tigriyna word, sentences ... errors. Here we are not only to find the errors but also to find **way out**. In fact all the examples that we have seen and that we are going to see ask us to arrive at this conclusion. So a stagnant **status quo** is issuing a challenge. The best way to win this challenge is to do Great Abyssinian Cultural Revolution. The revolution will make us think, speak and write like Geez society. Here is an example of ክለት can, ግብቡእ must + infinitive. We take **በልዐ** = to eat as infinitive verb.

ክለት can + infinitive

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| እነ እክእል በልዐ | I can eat. |
| ንስሰኻ/ኸ ትክእል/ሊ በልዐ | You can eat. |
| ንስሱ/ሳ ይክእል/ትክእል በልዐ | He/she can eat. |
| ንሕና ንክእል በልዐ | We can eat. |
| ንስሰኻትኩም/ከን ትክእሉ/ላ በልዐ | You can eat. |
| ንስሳቶም/ተን ይክእሉ/ላ በልዐ | They can eat. |

ግብቡእ must + infinitive

በልዐ = to eat and its three tenses (tense *ጊዜ*, *ፆ*l. tenses ግዝያት)

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| እነ ይግብቡእ(ን)ኒ በልዐ | I must eat. |
| ንስሰኻ/ኸ ይግብቡእካ/ኪ በልዐ | You must eat. |
| ንስሱ/ሳ ይግብቡእክ በልዐ | He/she must eat. |
| ንሕና ይግብቡእና በልዐ | We must eat. |
| ንስሰኻትኩም/ከን ይግብቡእኩም/ከን በልዐ | You must eat. |
| ንስሳቶም/ተን ይግብቡእም/አን በልዐ | They must eat. |

ሕሉፍ Past

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| ንስሱ በሊዐ/በልዐ | He ate. |
| ንስሳ በሊዐ/በልዐት | She ate. |

ፕረሰንት Present

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ንስሱ አልሎ ይበልዕ | He is eating |
|--------------|--------------|

ንስሳ አልላ ትበልዕ She is eating

መጻኢ/ፋቲር Future

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ንስሱ ይበልዕ | He will eat |
| ንስሳ ትበልዕ | She will eat |

To come to a conclusion we have seen that word matters. For this we must choose our words very carefully in order to speak with greater clarity. Tigriyna, Amharic ... writers, speakers have not only the right to speak and write but also the responsibility. This means we must know the letters that form a word correctly (e.g. not ህዝቢ but ሕዝቢ, In Amharic ትግርኛ but in Tigriyna ትግርይኛ). And we must know how to use it in sentence (ወዲ ሕዝቢ, son people but ወድዲ ናይ እቲ ሕዝቢ, son of the people). It is high time that we develop scientific approach in order to carry out an improvement (ብልጺ/ጥቅቃወ/ራህዋ).

5 ▶ Important Years in History Eritrea-modern Ethiopia since 1941

▶ In 1941 the birth of **Unionist Party**: This "political party that favored Eritrea's reunification with Ethiopia and dominated the ensuring Federation (1952-62). [...] From 1941, the unionist wing of the original MFH (Mahber Feqheri Hager) was funded and guided by **Haile Selassie I's** Ethiopian government, who strategy was to gain the support of the Tigriyna-speaking **Christian** population of **Kebessa**"(9).

But we must know that the true founders of the '**Unionist party**' were Americans who were working for common good of Ethiopia and USA in Addis Ababa. The name '**Unionist party**' in Italian *partito unionista*, has no translation in both languages Tigriyna and Amharic. In Tigriyna it is translated as ማሕበር ፍቅር ሀገር Association for the nation's love). The correct way to do is to adapt it from English or Italian and incorporated into a Tigriyna. With this we can say **Unionist**-a supporter of the Union- **party** = **ዩንዮኒስታ/ት ፓርቲ**.

We are taught to say **party** = ሰልፊ. But ሰልፊ (*from v. ሰለለፊ.*) synonyms of ረመጥፍ. (*from v. አርመመ -ረመመ-*) means formation. E.g. አገገ ሰልፊ/ረመጥፍ in formation.

- ▶ On 15 September 1952 the British leave Eritrea. The British administration of Eritrea ended. And the new constitution entered into force. It was officially proclaimed the **federation** between Ethiopia and Eritrea "under the sovereignty of the Ethiopian crown". Asmara is the capital of the State of Eritrea federated to Ethiopia. Speaking at the United Nations Security Council, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles said: "From the point of view of justice, the opinions of the Eritreans have to be taken into account. However, the strategic interests of the United States in the Red Sea Basin and considerations on security and world peace require that the country is linked to Ethiopia ", this situation will never be accepted by the Eritreans.



Eritrean - Ethiopian Federation 1952 –1962



Flag of Eritrea



Flag of Ethiopia

▶ In 1961 some Eritrean refugees, including former President of the Eritrean parliament, Idris Mohammed Adem, founded the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) and decide to start the armed struggle. On September 1, a group of guerrillas led by Hamed Idris Awate, attacked a police station in the western province of Eritrea Barka.

▶ On 12 November 1962, Haile Selassie unilaterally **abolishes the federation** between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and it becomes the "fourteenth province" of his empire. In this same year dies Hamed Idris Awate, one of the founders of Eritrea's liberation struggle.

▶ **Prior to the annexation of Eritrea**, the Chief Justice of Eritrea was removed and the official [Eritrean languages](#) were eliminated in favor of Ethiopia's national language [Amharic](#).^[4] During the Federation, the encroachment of the Ethiopian Crown was felt on the Chief Executive of Eritrea. This was in direct contravention of the [UN Resolution](#) 390-A (V) which had established the Federation.^[5] The federal structure, or some semblance of it, existed between 15 September 1952 and 15 November 1962.^[3] On 15 November 1962, following pressure from [Haile Selassie I](#) on the Eritrean Assembly,^[6] the **Federation was officially dissolved** and Eritrea was [annexed](#) by Ethiopia.

▶ After thirty years of struggle Eritrea wiped out the enemy in 1991 and declared its independence without freedom in 1993.

▶ After May 1998 to June 2000 - border war between Eritrea and modern Ethiopia killed more than 100,000 people.

▶ Jan 18, 2012 - Five tourists have been shot dead in Ethiopia's northern Afar region, on Monday by gunmen... The attack occurred near the active volcano Erta Ale. This was followed by Ethiopian air strike inside the Eritrean territory.

▶ Mar 21, 2015 - Ethiopian fighter planes bombed the site of Eritrea's Bisha goldmine, and Mai-èdaga military depot.

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A Lesson for Ethiopia to Learn from Russia–Ukraine Relations to Deter the Looming Threat from Eritrea

By Haile Tessema
Dec 29, 2015

Introduction

It's not new for a country that has achieved its independence to have a hostile relation with the country it separated from. A good and most recent example of this is Ukraine, which became independent after the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991. However, no sooner than Ukraine left the Union did disputes began to emerge with Russia over natural gas supplies, prices and debts.

Russia and Ukraine went through “periods of ties, tensions, and outright hostility” for over 20 years. Following the Feb. 2014 Ukrainian “Orange Revolution”, which resulted in the ousting of pro-Russia Victor Yanukovich, Russia annexed Crimea (“a major land mass on the northern coast of the Black Sea that is surrounded by water”) triggering border dispute, ethnic conflict and the subsequent formation of the Republic of Crimea.

Indeed, while there have been historic and contemporary political and economic causes of dispute, analysts believe that Ukraine's flirtation with EU and NATO came as the final blow to a peaceful coexistence between the two countries and the ultimate showdown. John Mearsheimer, a professor at University of Chicago, points out:

"It was EU expansion, the central element of a larger strategy to move Ukraine out of Russia's orbit and integrate it into the West coupled with the February 22, 2014, coup that ignited the fire ... [and] fear is at the root of Russia's opposition to the prospect of Ukraine becoming a Western bastion on its border. Great powers always worry about the balance of power in their neighborhoods and push back when other great powers march up to their doorsteps."

The Relevance to Ethio-Eritrea Relations

Since Eritrea's separation from Ethiopia, the relation between the two countries has seen more of turbulences and hostility than cooperation. A war purportedly over a border took place resulting in high human and material loss on both sides. Some analysts assert that – similar to that of Russia and Ukraine relations – economic factors (trade and currency related) were behind the Ethio-Eritrea conflict.

Following the end of the war in 2000, a no war, no peace relation has reigned over Ethiopia and Eritrea. However, a new development is likely to change things even from bad to worse. The UN Tribune in an article titled, "*UAE, Saudi Using Eritrean Land, Sea, Airspace and, Possibly, Eritrean Troops in Yemen Battle*" has reported that "The United Arab Emirates has leased a key Eritrean port for 30 years and along with its Gulf ally, Saudi Arabia, has established a military presence in Eritrea in return for monetary compensation and fuel supplies".

On that note, only those with shared ideology/vested interest or the politically naïve would believe that the military expansion of the Gulf States to the Horn of Africa has all to do with the proxy war in Yemen.

In an article titled, "*Saudi Arabia and the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] are Expanding to Eritrea. Geopolitical Implications for Ethiopia*", Andrew Korybko of Global Research rightly observed:

"... an argument can be made that it's also just as much about Ethiopia as well. Unbeknownst to many, Qatar is the "ox driving the cart" in this case, and whether they like it or not, the rest of the GCC states will be reluctantly forced to follow its destabilizing lead if Doha decides to throw Ethiopia into chaos".

Indeed, the move is about making Eritrea the Arab "bastion", which has serious implications for Ethiopian national security and survival of the Ethiopian state.

Eritrea's Flirtation with Arab Countries and Its Geopolitical Implications for Ethiopia

1. Eritrea's backroom deal to financial and material gain: To begin with, this is in breach of the UN Security Council resolution 1907 of Dec. 23, 2009, which imposes "arms embargo on Eritrea, travel bans on its leaders, and froze the assets of some of the country's political and military officials". Sure enough, Eritrea's unholy contractual marriage with Arab countries allows the country to obtain the financial and material supply, and use it on what the Eritrean regime knows best: destabilizing the region, particularly its archenemy Ethiopia.

2. Eritrea's fascination with the Arab League: Adopting Arabic as one of its national languages, Eritrea has been dying to join the Arab League, in which it currently has an "Observer" status. Thus, by providing its "land, sea, airspace and, possibly, Eritrean Troops" to the Gulf States, Eritrea could be on its way to securing Arab League membership.

Although the purpose of the Arab League is said to be "to strengthen ties among member states ... and promote their common interests", the League is expanding its mandate by creating a joint military force in apparent reaction to the crisis in Yemen. Likewise, if Eritrea becomes a member, it means that the League will feel entitled to get involved in the Horn of Africa country's affairs and in its disputes with neighbours.

3. The role of Wahhabism: Saudi Arabia's obsession with exporting Wahhabism to all corners of the globe has been long known, although it's only now that politicians are beginning to openly speak about it. Just recently, German Vice Chancellor Sigmar publicly accused Saudi Arabia of financing Islamic extremism in the West, and warned that "the time of looking the other way is over". And it's an open secret that Ethiopia has been on Saudi Arabia's target list for Wahhabi conquest.

When it comes to Qatar – "the ultra-rich Gulf state that tries to lift above its weight in international relations acting like miniature superpower" – it's to be recalled that Ethiopia severed ties with the country in 2008 accusing it of "destabilizing the sub-region and its hostility towards Ethiopia". And, although the two countries have reportedly mended fences since, there is no sign that Qatar has stopped nurturing the rogue regime in Eritrea. So, how convenient for these Persian Gulf states to be at the doorsteps of Ethiopia to carry out their separate as well as collective overt and covert operations.

4. The Egypt factor: Egypt's misguided sense of exclusive entitlement to Nile water, and its long destabilizing policy towards Ethiopia would be made a whole lot easier with Arab League member countries flexing their muscles in the region.

5. Lack of Access to Sea: Ethiopia's landlocked status, and its current dependency on Arab League member countries for access to sea – currently the Djibouti port as well as Port of Sudan and Port of Berbera, Somalia, as second and third choices – could easily be manipulated to Ethiopia's disadvantage if or when the Arab countries unleash their destabilizing plan with the ultimate objective of "throwing Ethiopia into chaos".

Internal Contributing / Exacerbating Factors

a) Economic determinism: Every time the issue of access to sea is raised, the ruling party and its supporters tend to see the value of a port from a narrow economic perspective only, hence they argue that Ethiopia has no shortage of choices when it comes to ports.

However, not only does this fallacy fail to see the high economic cost associated with lack of a port (in the form of hard currency, tax revenue as well as port related business activities and employment opportunities lost), but the security aspect of it is grossly overlooked. Now, the time has come to re-evaluate the policy of downplaying the value of a port and access to sea.

b) A political leadership and diplomatic impotence: The Ethiopian Government has been reluctant to play a proactive role in the international stage choosing, instead, to downplay the threat posed. For instance, PM Hailamriam Desalegn was quoted recently as saying, "Saudi Arabia and the UAE will bear the consequences of Ethiopia's response if their operation in and around Eritrea's Port of Assab supports the Eritrean regime's destabilization agenda against Ethiopia".

This leaves the impression that the PM is giving the deal the benefit of the doubt as supposed to outright and strongly denouncing it as breach of the UN resolution; condemning the Gulf Countries' military occupation in the Horn as a grave national security threat and a recipe for regional disaster, hence unacceptable.

c) A political gap left unbridged: Ethiopia is at a disadvantage by a party that outrageously controls 100% of the House of Federation as well as the House of People's Representatives, and a government that thinks it can go it alone. This denies the country a forum for a bi-partisan consensus building on issues of common national interest, and vital support from citizens of all backgrounds and political stripes.

Conversely, opposition parties – some that suffered from political exclusion and others with a strong "the enemy of my enemy" mindset that fails to see the bigger picture of Ethiopia's long-term interests in national security and the country's very survival – are directly or indirectly allowing themselves to serve Arab countries' interests.

To this end, the very presence of a coalition of hostile forces at the country's doorsteps makes it a whole lot easier to manipulate the gap to the enemies' political, diplomatic as well as military advantage.

d) The lack or scarcity of policy studies: For a country located in conflict ridden region and embroiled in territorial and water disputes, it's far from endowed with adequate think-tanks/policy institutions that carry out research on issues of relevance, particularly on national security. And the websites of the two primary such institutions – Ethiopian International Institute For Peace & Development (EIIPD) and the Addis Ababa University's Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) – do not address Ethiopia's security interests as boldly and as effectively as they should.

After all, in the form of research, such institutions are supposed to serve as opinion leaders and advocates for the country's national interests in the international arena. However, the way things are now, relevant information is likely to be obtained from foreign sources, instead.

e) Intellectual slackness: Ethiopia has no shortage of intellectuals in the field of political/social science, international relations, international law and other pertinent field of studies. However, while many are active in writing opinion pieces and producing papers on domestic matters, there is silence when it comes to Ethiopia's geopolitical interests and external threats facing the country.

What needs to be done?

1. Ethiopia has to firmly and incessantly protest to the UN that Eritrea is breaching the UN resolution, and that member countries are illegally and unethically accommodating Eritrea's financial and material needs the UN has denied it, and thereby seek action.
2. As this is not the time for diplomatic niceties, Ethiopia has to speak up openly and clearly of its concerns about Saudi Arabia, Qatar and their allies' sinister motives under the guise of security concerns.
3. Ethiopia has to seek and rally support from IGAD and AU and the international community by amplifying its concerns related to militarism and neo form of colonialism in the Horn of Africa.
4. The Prime Minister should surround himself with national security advisors with profound knowledge in the international relations, laws and regulations. (On that note, the role of "advisor to PM" should not be a kind of retirement job or a position to accommodate demoted ministers or other high ranking officials, but rather a vital medium to keep the PM abreast of issues of concern, and equip the Office of the PM with information on policy alternatives.)
5. The Ethiopian Govt. has to start bridge building with broadminded opposition parties, groups and individuals to seek their advice and rally support. Similarly, opposition parties need to make every effort to put partisan politics aside, and see the bigger picture of protecting the country's common interests. A bi-partisan advisory group could be formed for this very purpose.
6. Every effort should be made to involve and empower the existing think-tanks/policy study institutions as well as create new ones, and enable them to become effective in publicizing Ethiopia's national security concerns nationally, regionally as well as internationally.
7. Intellectuals of Ethiopian background need to leave partisan politics and differences aside for the sake of the country's common long-term interests, and focus on conducting research; share their opinions and publish their papers in influential print and online media with the objective of promoting Ethiopia's national security interests.

All said and done, while the aforementioned measures are expected to mitigate the emerging problem, they are not going to deter enemies of Ethiopia from looking for a way to get back at the country, and try to subjugate its people. That's where the Russian approach comes in as a lasting solution.

Indeed, as the end justifies the means, Ethiopia has to use everything at its disposal to take a swift military action against Eritrea; get rid of its hostile government; annex Assab and declare any deal with a foreign country as null and void, based not only on history, geo-politics and demography, but also the clear and present danger the country is subjected to, and the lives of 90 million people that is put at risk.

Naysayers would rightly argue that, unlike Russia, Ethiopia is not a superpower with nuclear weapon in its arsenal to get away with its actions. But neither is Eritrea Ukraine, nor is the Arab League a NATO like force. Truth is, not only is Ethiopia capable of emerging victorious from any potential war, but – considering Saudi Arabia’s religious extremism exportation and Qatar’s obsession with a sphere of influence – the world is likely to see Ethiopia’s legitimate security concerns as just cause.

To sum up, Eritrea’s flirtation with Arab countries should come as a wakeup call for Ethiopia to end the looming threat from Eritrea once and for all. To that end, the best defense is a good offense adage comes as the one-and-only option to bring a lasting peace not only to Ethiopia, but also to the entire region.