

# ERITREA vs ERITREANS: A case of Intellectual and Cultural Revolution

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## Introduction

I guess it is time to be serious with intellectualism and culturalism. The recent attempts of visiting Eritrea and talking about the Eritrean people does indicate, if not some hideous backdoor deals, at least a positive attitude towards ERKANA SELAM with Ethiopia and Ethiopians.

Who is an Ethiopian and who is an Eritrean in the first place? No matter how we twist and how much we lie to correct the historical and cultural situations in both counties, we are not in any position to unfold what has happened. Both counties, i.e. Eritrea and Ethiopia, (I am deliberately missing the “R” letter), were the creation of the Greeks (today's GRK), at least in names. Ethiopia represents human faces while Eritrea represents red plants. That was our story, a novel and a mythology.

So what has happened to the names of these counties? To the present day, the names persist but not the contents of its habitants and resources. So the question, do these two counties become countries? One or two countries? Take your pick, it does not matter for me, one, two, three or many.

I will tell you a story about my status and my daughter concerning passport and visa. My daughter was denied passport from Ethiopian embassy because one of her parents voted for Eritrean Independence. What does this mean for my daughter? Absurd. I went to the Eritrean Embassy, they say, she will not obtain neither a passport nor a visa because the other parent did not vote for Eritrean Independence. What does this mean to my daughter? Again, it was more absurd. There is something going on with these two counties. I believe it is the fault of the “Revolution”. The letter “R” represents many good and bad things in Ethiopia and Eritrea, bad because emotional types of leaders had dominated the fields of intellectualism and good because the letter R signifies mass or Hafash Relationship via Revolution among people of all ages, ethnic and class for so long. What was the purpose of the “Revolution”? Which Revolution? The Eritrean or the Ethiopian? We should be able to distinguish between the two “Revolutions” for herein lies the solutions of all our perceived ills and misunderstandings.

For Isaias and his cohorts, to insert the letter “R” into county of Eritrea and making it a **country**, is a big success story. But the issue of passport and visa is not. Why because of many restrictions and vengeances of which three important issues I will enumerate as follows:

- The most vengeful thing is whether one belongs to maternal or paternal heritage?
- The second wrongful thing is to abolish land ownership, “all lands belong to the government”
- The third and final thing is that “the straw that broke the back of the camel” is the non-participation of its citizens in a) politics, b) economics and c) social affairs.

## Nazanet vs Harnet

These two vocabularies have done irreparable damages to the psychics of Eritreans. It is hard to grasp the basics of these concepts let alone to chew them. The ELF has started its struggle for Liberty, Fraternity and Equality on the lines of the French Revolution. The EPLF on its part has started its struggle

on the basis of people's revolution for all lives, liberty and pursuit of happiness. So which organization was right and on target? The Eritrean people knows better. They voted almost a hundred percent for Independence not for HARNET and NAZANET. The American version for these concepts is Liberty and Freedom as they are not interchangeable. As I have been telling my readers about which comes first, I asked Madame Haimanot, the mother of twins of Nazanet and Harnet and she told me that Nazanet was born seven minutes ahead of Harnet. And so the moral of this story, both concepts are mutually exclusive or not depends on the perspective and rationale of each Eritrean citizen. But for sure, neither Eritreans nor Ethiopians have an equivalent terminology for Independence. It did not and does not exist in the two counties of Eritrea and Ethiopia. So why did we fought before and why are some organizations want to fight again. They say for Independence of Ethiopia. Do they have a word for it? No. they don't. It is difficult to fight for a concept which does not have a name. Ethiopians should learn from

### The Eritrean situation.

The three demanding factors for removing obstacles in the Eritrean case as enumerated above is very similar in the case of Ethiopia, Parentage, landholding and democratic participation.

1. To be validated by origins of father or mother
2. Via asylum
3. Via marriage and
4. Via adoption

This is similar to the American system of Immigration with the exception of the first order of origin. In the rural areas of Eritrea, people have lived for generations after generations until, the soil depletes and now strives to live on the underground minerals. But on the other hand, the residents of AABMM (Asmara, Assab, Barentu, Massawa and Mendefera) plus the two towns of Dekemhare and Keren located to the south and north of Asmara, were destined to live politically on the whims of foreigners and local chieftains. The residents of these urban centers relationship with the outside world stretches and bends as circumstances avail. Names such as colonialism, imperialism, and capitalism became rampant in these towns. Who would understand such concepts and theories? Of course, the elites and the educated classes of Eritrea. Have they done their useful work? No. They did not. Why not? The answer lies in information, knowledge and wisdom all mixed up together.

The Eritrean educated class became anemic for two important words, why and how! Any journalist should strive to answer the five Ws , what, where, when, who and why. The Eritrean intellectuals are very good in answering the four Ws but not the Why and the How method. It is often explained by fear. I don't believe in that explanation. Eritreans are generous in giving not only material things but also precious lives. It is not out of fear but out of love for county and family. In order to fulfill the requirement of "R" in the county, the intellectuals have forfeit their intellectual stamina. Now, there is a dire request to put forward the questions of "why and how." This is the task of the intellectuals of Eritrea as Eritreans for Eritrea and Eritreans are not the same thing unless they can understand between Harnet and Nazanet.

### *The Ethiopian Revolution*

The Ethiopian Revolution was not an ordinary revolution as widely believed by the Millennial Eritreans the Ethiopian Revolution and Ethiopians. Historically speaking, three types of Revolutions have taken place.

1. The Coup d'état – happens frequently and everywhere
2. The Insurrection – as in French or Russian Revolutions
3. The Guerrilla struggle – as in the long March in China

The type of Revolution that was chosen, by the Eritrean intellectuals as well as by the Ethiopian intellectuals, was the third type of struggle, after all, Ethiopians and Eritreans are Marathonists by nature. Today's millennial generation want to be Sprinters like Americans. We wish them well to compete in today's global world.

So what went wrong with the Ethiopian Revolution? We call it the Eway Revolution. This Eway Revolution includes the Eritrean and all other types of struggle to change the political, socio-economic, and cultural aspects of Ethiopia in Toto. In other words, the earthly and the heavenly; the past and current should be synchronized to move forward. It is designed to move forward with focusing on the present situations. The Ethiopian Revolution –dubbed –Eway was proposed and carried out by EPRP of Ethiopia and Eritrea. It is a long history to narrate it here but the Cohen's the Kasa's and the Mesfin's should take heed from it.

### *Conclusion*

With all the sacrifices, Eritreans have now put comfortably the letter "R" in the country making it a country known as Eritrea. What is remaining is the consummation of the Ethiopian Eway Revolution. They have a flag and an embassy everywhere, a global recognition. Do they want to be known by a flag and an embassy or by a passport and a visa? I, for one don't care for a flag or an embassy I need a passport and a visa.

A country without its people is no country. Nazanet and Harnet are inseparable concepts.

### **Truth Will Prevail**

For any questions and concerns

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