

# Ethiopia, Tigrai and Eritrea (ETE)

Obo Arada Aba Shawl

June 15, 2016

## Introductory

Words have impacts on our lives but not as deep as concepts do. Back in the 1960's, I remember when two Maru brothers indulged in argument that they were from a region known as Tigray; that they speak Tigrigna and that they would like to be called Tigrians. That was simple enough to make people to comply with their claims. There was nothing wrong with that kind of wish. Tigray as a region was as old as our Ethiopian ancestors, the language Tigrigna was older than the Bible. The only new claim made by these two brothers was that they preferred to be called Tigrians. Everybody accepted these. As recent as two decades, the Gallas have preferred to be known as Oromos and Ethiopians have accepted that wish. So what is the fuss about belongingness to a certain language, ethnic or race? Nothing is wrong with this type of claims.

The problem arose when political leaders abuse and misuse the writings of Wallelign Makonnen on nations and nationalities. EPLF leaders use languages as a criterion for serious matters such as freedom and liberty while the TPLF leaders use ethnic dialect as a demarcation for independence. Others might have used race for struggle.

Historically, the Ethiopians have been called by many names. The Greeks have called us names, the Romans, the Jews and the Arabs called us as they perceived us through their microscopic and telescopic visions. We did not mind as we were and are a nation and nationalities of many colors and names. Even we did not mind when the TPLF leaders call us kill'lotch instead of Gondar, Wollo, Shewa, Wellega, Gemu Gofa and so on. The irony we are still accepting the prescription.

The problem arises when concepts, theories and practices collide. Here are the three important concepts that brought and still seem to wreck us into pieces. These are

- Independence
- Colonialism
- Imperialism

## Ethiopian Independence

Ethiopian-ism is something intangible. It is a conceptual entity defined by celestial bodies, natural phenomena and not by geographical maps. If we want to think in terms of celestial bodies, the appropriate reference would be the Old and the New Bible, the Stars and the black holes. If we want to refer to the natural settings of Ethiopian Independence, we should consult with the philosophy of Zera Yacob of Axum. As to the Ethiopian geography, we will be unwise to heed information from Professor Mesfin WM.

Ethiopians do not demarcate their territories. They are inclusive in every sense of the word though they consider themselves as unique as possible. They neither belong to any race nor do they limit their origin or destination. The human race belongs to us and we belong to them. This is a unique characteristic of a

nation. It is somewhat similar to the American Exceptionalism. American Independence was gained or any other proclaimed independence was obtained through sweat and blood. Ethiopian Independence is a given one. Nobody proclaims or claimed it until its current situation. What is the current situation?

### *Tigrayan colonialism*

What is colonialism? It is a policy or practice of a wealthy or powerful nation's maintaining or extending its control over other countries, especially in establishing settlement or exploiting resources. This definition perfectly fits the present policy of the TPLF. But in the past TPLF was wrong in recognizing the concept of colonial Abyssinia/Amhara in Eritrea. Ethiopia was neither attempt to settle Amhara in Eritrea nor exploited resources or markets. The TPLF had lied or misinformed its members about the concept of colonialism in order to come to power. Now it is time to regret and change their policy of colonialism.

The people of Tigray has been the center of ancient Ethiopia. Its central position is no more valid due to migration and science. Tigray, has become a bridge between Eritrea and Ethiopia. That is the bitter fact. If the TPLF leaders continue to destroy the bridge, then it would be not only a political crime but a human catastrophe. Speaking of bridges, there were some people who tease me that I belong to an organization that does not destroy a single bridge, my answer to them was that I don't like organizations who destroy bridges. My advice to them was that don't destroy bridges, if you win, you will use them for development if you loss, then you can run back to where you come from. Crossing the bridge without destroying it, in order to carry out what is set out, then I call this intelligence. Now if the TPLF want to survive, it should come clean to admit the misconception of its theories and practices. There is a hatred hovering on its shoulders and on the front line. Enough is enough. It is time to sober up.

As many article writers close their writings by saying "Ethiopia will prevail" I usually conclude mine by saying "Truth will prevail", both conditions will be fulfilled with or without the TPLF.

### *Eritrean Imperialism*

The Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) clearly initiated the liberation of Eritrea from Colonialism, i.e. the Italian colonialism. The Italians wanted and did settle Italians in Eritrea and wanted resources from Ethiopia. That was a classical definition of colonialism. However, the EPLF distorted or misinformed their members and supporters that Ethiopia had colonized Eritrea. That was a gross deception. They even convinced or threatened the TPLF to accept the theory of colonialism in their struggle. Who is at fault here, the message or the messenger? Had the Eritrean populous knew what they know now, the results would have been different.

The EPLF leaders have either deliberately convinced themselves or naively understood the philosophy of Karl Marx or the practice of Mao Zedong. By doing so and by continuing to be anti-American, they may perhaps assume to have understood the true concept of Imperialism. What is Imperialism, by the way?

Imperialism, according to dictionary, is a policy of extending the rule or authority of an empire or nation over foreign countries or of acquiring and holding colonies and dependencies. Or alternatively it is an advocacy of imperial or sovereign interests over the interests of the dependent states.

Accordingly, it is no coincidence that EPLF has acted or acting as an advocacy for the interests of Ethiopian nations or nationalities. TPLF on the other hand is acting as an imperial power for the nations or nationalities of Ethiopia. What a wonderful conceptual and practical aspect of historical distortion!!!

## Conclusion

As I have written before, Shabians are on denials and by extension, the Hafash, Weyanes are hooked to lies and EPRP members are on bent on regrets. These conditions are definitely destroying communities and societies of Ethiopia, Tigrai and Eritrea. Something has to be done. For a starter, the leaders of EPLF, TPLF, and EPRP should all revise the concepts of Independence, Colonialism and Imperialism (ICI).

## TRUTH WILL PREVAIL

For questions and concerns

<mailto:oboaradashawl@gmail.com>