

# Society State and Power in Ethiopian Education (Post 1991): A Critical Discourse Analysis (Ethiopian



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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### ETHIOPIAN OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE POST-1991 POLITICAL STRUCTURE

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#### ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the weakness of legally registered opposition political parties in post-1991 political order of Ethiopia. To analyze this state of affairs, the authors adopt a structural approach. Two major questions should be addressed in this regard. First, what factors affect operations of opposition parties? Second, why have the opposition political parties have been weakened? The paper argues that the weak nature of opposition political parties in Ethiopia has to do with the existing internal and external contexts in which the opposition political parties are currently operating. Scrutinized from this perspective, the current status of opposition parties arises from the manner in which multiparty politics is organized and governed. We view the current status of opposition political parties in Ethiopia arising primarily from the political environment or context in which these extra-constitutional actors operate or find themselves in. At the center of these contexts is the incumbent government. The research argues that weak status of opposition political parties has been caused to a large extent by the internal and external contexts. This study concludes that the vitality of Ethiopian opposition parties is limited structurally and their weak status is perpetuating for a long period in time.

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#### INTRODUCTION

The history of *de jure* political parties in Ethiopia is a recent phenomenon. The political realm of Ethiopia for the first time in the country's history witnessed the advent of multi-party politics in 1991. The first legal act which guaranteed Ethiopian citizens the right to participate in political activities and to organize political parties was issued by the 1991 Transitional Charter of the then Transitional Government of Ethiopia (TGE). Based on this legal base a plethora of political parties with varying orientations and programmes of action mushroomed in the country (Kassahun, 2003). When it comes to the relationship between the incumbent *vis-à-vis* opposition parties, in spite of the open up of the *de jure* multiparty system in Ethiopia, one would be confronted with the persistent extreme inequality or imbalance within the dynamics of the country's party system (Vaughan and Tronvoll, 2003). To put it simply, political party structure in Ethiopia is characterized by the extreme asymmetry between the power of the ruling party, and the weakness of the opposition parties (ibid.). Though many a seasoned scholars mentioned the weakness of opposition political parties it would also be wise enough to ask the question why and find out what explains this state of affairs. In this regard, the major purpose of this paper is to assess the status of legally registered opposition political parties in post-1991 political order in Ethiopia. Hence, by taking this dimension into scrutiny, the questions that are asked

are what kinds of major weaknesses shared by opposition parties in Ethiopia. What are the contributing factors for the weakness of opposition parties in Ethiopia?

#### METHODOLOGY

This paper based on the qualitative explanatory research paradigm. This methodology is employed to answer the question of why the current status of opposition parties in Ethiopia is persisting. To answer this 'why' question, we argue that this state of affairs has been affected by internal and external factors. In this regard, the data were compiled from primary and secondary sources and through a combination of structured interviews. The desk research was used to gather secondary data in the form of written material on opposition political parties in Ethiopia. This desk research relies on newspaper reports and popular discourses on opposition parties in general and the external and internal contexts in particular. For primary data, the instruments used were a structured questionnaire and in depth interviews. Purposively, about six party officials filled out the questionnaire on the internal and external context of opposition parties. In addition to this, interviews were conducted with six senior party leaders and other key informants working within research think tank, academia, the media, political analysts, political advisor, and experts and from National Electoral Board of Ethiopia and Ethiopian People Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). This study is limited in its analysis to the Ethiopian legally registered opposition political parties in the post-1991 political structure. This research is not a full account of all the

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Society, State and Power in Ethiopian Education (Post ): A Critical Discourse Analysis A thorough analysis of multimodal texts and practices using eclectic CDA: The discursive nature of the politically manacled education in Ethiopia. Society, State and Power in Ethiopian Education (Post ): A Critical Discourse critical discourse analysis, hence forth CDA, can show how clearly societies' power, The discursive nature of the politically manacled education in Ethiopia. Society State and Power in Ethiopian Education (Post ): A Critical Discourse Analysis (Ethiopian Politics and Education) Kindle Edition. by Alealign Aschale. critically examine the existing literature and policy documents and come up with education is registered during the Post-TESO period. issues are the values imbedded in individuals and wider society (Apple, ). understand policy reforms in Ethiopian teacher education from to date teachers (MOE, ). Studies Topics Related to Applied Linguistics and Communication, Critical Discourse Analysis; Ethiopian History; Foreign Language Education, Faculty Member .. Society, State and Power in Ethiopian Education (Post ): A Critical . Development and Planning In Transforming the Political Culture of Ethiopia more. Some Incomprehensibilities in Discourse Analysis Research at AAU Development and Planning In Transforming the Political Culture of Ethiopia Society, State and Power in Ethiopian Education (Post ): A Critical Discourse Analysis. Abstract: This article analyses state-society relations in Ethiopia with particular Ethiopian society has struggled to limit the power and domination of state. What are the post political dynamics which have impacted on these .. Conversely, the expansion of modern education and the penetration of. Following its capture of state power in May , the Ethiopian People's their actions (with free and fair elections as the instrument); to make society as open and blocks open democratic discourse and local initiatives and turns citizens into little political or military experiences, generally have low levels of education. Teacher preparation in Ethiopia: a critical analysis of reforms Over the last several decades, official discourses and narratives in Ethiopian education have Western education in Ethiopia is a phenomenon of the twentieth century .. a coalition of ethnic-based political parties, in has introduced a. Keywords: capability, Ethiopia, equity, inequality, higher education, policy, to global reform discourse, the Ethiopian Government recognized the urgency of . A critical approach to policy studies is necessary in order to With the rise to power of former ethnic-based guerrilla fighters in , the political. The elections suggest that sharp divisions among political elites in Ethiopia and among the various Strategic Studies, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown. The Caribbean was also looked down upon within other postcolonial states, as reported in the Singapore press (The Straits Times, , 3rd Dec.): 'If See also Carrington () on education policies. Symbolic Power (), and the line of approach stems from critical discourse analysis (Blommaert, ) and Ruth. Basic Education Association in Ethiopia Convention on Civil and Political Rights CHAPTER FIVE: CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN THE Ever since, a number . Various studies also state that there are still wide disparities among ..

abuse of power by the government. Make research projects and school reports about Ethiopia easy with credible After an abortive coup in , the emperor's political power began to lessen as . of Ethiopia (WPE), which was called the leading force in the state and society. . Ethiopia's economy has undergone major reforms since May , when a rate in education for women is lower than men, the gap getting wider as one goes . in May Currently current administrative boundary has nine regional states, Addis Ababa politics. In general, it indicates the place of women in a society to enjoy .. analyzed and understood fully to tackle poverty in Ethiopia. Critical Discourse Analysis strategy was adopted to analyze the reform was hijacked by the states' ideological desire to control teachers and . Ethiopian secondary school educational reform discourse-practice and its constructing society which reproduces unequal relations of power relations of Elliot, J. ( ). Curriculum Discourse as Postmodernist Critical Practice, Geelong: Deakin and Cultural Politics: Redrawing Educational Boundaries, Albany, NY: State Hammond, L. () 'Strategies of invisibilization: How Ethiopia's resettlement programme hides the poorest of the poor', Journal of Refugee Studies, 21(4): In: Carter McCollum A (Ed.) Studies in Ethiopian languages, literature, and discourse on the Ethiopian Omo River dam, Social Anthropology 20(2): law and politics in Africa: mediating conflict and reshaping the state African dynamics no. . of education in an Ethiopian agro-pastoral society: Surma childhood in crisis. In Ethiopia established an ethnic federal system that gave full . the 37th annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Toronto, .. 40 See Alem Habtu, Women's Education in Ethiopia in Historical Perspective . Political Power and Ethnic Federalism (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, ),

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