

## Book Review

### An Introduction to Ethiopia's Foreign Policy: Its Processes and Reflections Pre-1991, Taye Berhanu (Addis Ababa, 2010), pp.116

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The book is organized in to eleven parts which begins with preface (part I) followed by introduction (part II). It ends with appendices (part XI) preceded by conclusion (part X). Parts from three to eleven present different issues about Ethiopia's foreign policy. The book is not divided into chapters.

As the book covers a long duration, it is a conglomeration of different events which is mostly a historical account. Though the book is a short one, it touches many issues which are of relevance to the topic of Ethiopia's foreign policy. In A Glance at Ethiopia's Foreign Policy: General Reflections on its External Relations part, the author began by listing basis of Ethiopia's foreign relations in its old age history. In this part I found interesting by which in studying Ethiopia's Foreign Policy, it is compulsory not to search the name Ethiopia; instead Ethiopia was known in different names as Kush, Land of Hindeke, Abyssinia, Land of Mediam, Land of Azeb and Land of Saba (Sheba) (pp. 6). The author continues into a sub-section Ethiopia and the outside world, whereby he put a bird's eye view of Ethiopian relations, throughout the ages, with different parts of the world.

Part IV entitled Ethiopia's International Relations starts with a brief historical look of Ethiopia followed by struggles against foreign aggression from ancient to modern times. Even if it says from ancient, it begins from the 16 century. On page 26 and 27, the book states as the Ottomans attempted to dominate the Red Sea and used religion to divide the Ethiopian people. In response, Ethiopia allied with Portugal. Good relations were maintained until the Portuguese interfered in Ethiopia's internal affairs. When Jesuits attempted to convert the Ethiopian Orthodox Church to Catholicism, emperor Fasiledes banished all Jesuits from Ethiopia in 1632; thus Ethiopia severed diplomatic relations with Portugal (pp. 29). This section continues to the modern era of Ethiopia whereby it stated succinctly. The periods of the reign of emperors Tewodros II and Yohannes IV are dealt very concisely. Emperor Menelik II follows. In Menelik's period Italy's ambition to colonize Ethiopia and its defeat at Adwa are explained. Besides, the developments following the victory at Adwa are briefly mentioned. This sub-section (struggles against foreign

aggression from ancient to modern times) concludes by the reign of emperor Haile Sillase I and the Derg regime. Part IV ends with a sub-topic diplomatic relations. The period of diplomatic dynamism in Ethiopia's foreign relations was enormously manifested during the reign of Hiale Sillasie. This is elucidated by the diplomatic shuttles that the emperor did and the sustained and active diplomatic activities in maintaining unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty (pp. 49 and 50).

Part V of the book is about the need for peace, unity and collective security. Ethiopia's role in the formation and membership in organizations from continental to worldwide organizations is stated. There was Ethiopia's strong commitment to collective security. Ethiopia joined the League of Nations on 28 September 1923 (pp. 54) though it did not save Ethiopia from Italian invasion. Ethiopia was also a founding member of the United Nations. In view of collective security, Ethiopia participated in the United Nations peacekeeping force in Korea and Congo. Besides, Ethiopia was founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Most importantly part V dealt about the leading role that Ethiopia played in the establishment of the Organization of African Unity. Ethiopia played role in bringing together the Casablanca and Monrovia Groups. (pp. 70-72).

Part VI is the author's reflection on Ethiopia's foreign policy whereby he focused on the ideological influence specifically during emperor Haile Sillassie and the Derg regime. Part VII is entitled the shaping of Ethiopia's foreign policy in which the book states the basis of Ethiopia's foreign policy peculiarly on emperor Haile Sillassie and the Derg regime. The book ends by the topic de-ideologization of Ethiopia's foreign policy.

In conclusion, though the book does not include necessary details in some parts and seems historical explanation, it is of paramount importance to the issue of Ethiopia's foreign policy.