

FEDERALISM AND DECENTRALIZATION: COMPLEXITY INFLUENCING THE LEGAL, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL BASIS OF ETHIOPIAN FEDERALISM

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The shifting of bloc politics brings a changing world order to the military regime in Ethiopia, which took power in the 1970s; could no longer rely on Soviet Union military, political and economic support. Subsequently, the military regime went on defensive came under attacks from various opposition insurgent organized along ethnic lines and this was an uncertain time not clearly showing the new face of Ethiopia will look like. Also, federalism on predetermine blueprint which the opposition and the ethnic-groups' joint and simply emerge as a workable compromise. The opposition party which has the support of various militia groups set up or form political transformation and continuity political period; additionally seen federalism as the only way bestows popular sovereignty and empowers the various ethnic groups adopting a federal constitution for the 'nation, nationalities, and peoples' of Ethiopia.'. The ambiguity of this category was not an accident, but, reflect a desire in terms of self-designation of the ethnic groups, whether they saw as nation or nationalities or else peoples'.

Also, concerning the political foundation, Ethiopia's 1995 constitution was explicitly based on the principle of ethnic federalism recognizing the 'nation, nationalities, and peoples' inhabiting the country and almost 80 ethnic groups officially recognized by the right to form their own regional-state subjected to procedural and political qualification. In addition, the regional state of the Ethiopian federation also enjoys self-determination rights, including “the right to secession” and make Ethiopia

the only a country where the explicit right of seceding its constitution recognized and the procedure part to do so is outlined. Ethiopia's 1995 constitution as an unambiguous endorsement of ethnic federalism as the foundation of Ethiopia. To clarify, it is not ethnicity per se, but ethnicity in the territorial guise (a federal system based on ethnically determine regional state). Ethiopian post-conflict settlement funding on the principle ethnic federalism was ethnicity and territory corresponds, but, 20 yrs on the principle and the practice did not align which the day-to-day working of federalism is more ambiguous stated in the 1995 constitution; some smaller ethnic groups acquire their own regional-state without the requisite economic and political power to run their own affairs, while the territorial claims of bigger ethnic groups have been stamped. Ethnic politics often take place, not within the formal institution of the federal system, but within the country dominant political party the EPRDF (Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front) and its allies dominate electoral politics in both houses of the parliament as well in the regional state.

The legal foundation of Ethiopian federalism vesting the role of supreme constitution court indirectly elected in the upper house of parliament the Ethiopian House of the Federation was the representative of each one nation, nationalities, and peoples' seat; and this may underscore the Ethiopian federalism more of political compromise among ethnic communities rather than technical- legal one could be resolved by the court. There are formal elements of federalism and political patterns define the working of the federalism; which raise the question of how the two interact with the change in the social foundation that determines the working Ethiopian federalism. When we talk about the social foundation of the Ethiopian federalism, the first thing came into mind is a diversity of the Ethiopian ethnic group, which there are more than 65 ethics groups, also, some are seeking recognitions and others recognized in the regional, state constitutions' only; while a number of other communities much behind

in the level of economic development and far from Ethiopian infrastructure and modernizations. Many ethnic groups of the country further divided historically into Orthodox and Muslim shared ethno-cultural practices predating both religions put strong ties in common workable languages tie the ethnic groups and dividing the religions together. Ethiopian 100million citizens lived in 9 regional-states different from one another in geography, size, population, economic development, and ethnic composition; some are small city-state urban multi-ethnic populations, some are large, but the underdeveloped par frame regional-state, ethnically homogenous, others are an amalgamation of dozens of different ethnic groups, some which are indigenous to the territory while others are settled in recent generation. Regional- states of central-northern Ethiopia form the historic basis of Highlanders Semitic speaking ethnic group had been politically, economically, culturally and linguistically dominate in imperial times. The southern region, the state had been incorporated in Ethiopia in a recent episode of the imperial; ethnic group the south politically, economically, culturally and linguistically marginalized until the arrival of ethnic federalism in 1995. Most of this ethnic group relatively recent history of incorporation Ethiopia relatively small and inhabit ethnically and linguistically diverse southern regional-states; and to help navigate the maze of territorial politics and ethnicity in Ethiopia is the difference between 'titular' and 'settler' ethnic-groups (which the language and culture, ethnic groups historically indigenous to the territory is recognized in ethnic federalism, which simply they hold title to the territory); tensions are growth regional states amend their constitutions to affirm this right. So, ethnic relations had become particularly polarized in some regions-stated whose constitution make homeland references, thereby politically and culturally disfranchised settler communities live in the same territory for generations; in addition to the title to the territory some of the southern regions include small and isolated groups, in

comparison to the 'titular' and 'settler' these groups are powerless to defend their rights in the game of ethnic politics.

The challenges to translate the principles of ethnic federalism into practice does not only come from inter-ethnic politics, but there are also, geographic and demographic factors preventing the full-scaled realization of the principle tried in the 1995 constitution. Some ethnic the group simply lacks the territorial concentration that is necessary for the creation of the new regional- state, in other cases the demographic mosaic so complex, different ethnic- groups inhabit the same geography with a clear the territorial concentration that ethnic federalism needs. Economical infrastructural and personal limitations in translating the principles of ethnic federalism into practice. Some of the smaller regional states simply lack the administrative capacity their newly found competencies; like the Afar region-state up until recently lacked trained personnel professionals in its own language itself. The country's territorial diversity has economy cite it well; urban and industrialized regions coexisted with a poorer par frame and subsequent economic disparities between the region creates more challenges for the federal system.

Poorer regional states cannot fulfill their constitutional responsibilities, regional corporation become asymmetrical empowering rich regional-state and the central government become more powerful than what the constitution suggest as it jumps into a large scale developmental infrastructural project and to supervise foreign direct investment.