

The Tragedy of Colonialism in Non-colonised Society: Italy's Historical Narratives and the Amhara Genocide in Ethiopia

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Abstract : In its attempt to colonize Ethiopia, Italy challenged the nationalism of Ethiopians, claiming that Ethiopia is a mere collection of discrete ethnic groups brought together by Amhara colonialism. Extracting data from a variety of sources including secondary materials, opinions expressed in the broadcast, print and social media platforms, party documents, official letters and key informant interviews, this paper provides a critical reflection on how the colonial presence of Italy made a political mess in Ethiopia by asserting ethnic nationalism. The paper argues that the narratives invented by the Italians greatly contributed to the emergence of ethnic nationalism following the advent of Marxism-Leninism in Ethiopia. Borrowing narratives from the Italians, Ethiopian ethnic elites of the 1960s, who were the advocates of Marxism, simplistically categorized the Amhara as oppressor while 'others' as oppressed in Leninist fashion. This categorization negatively shaped the attitude of 'others' towards the Amhara and instigated massively executed genocide against these people.

Keywords : Amhara colonialism, Ethiopia, Genocide, historical narratives, Marxism

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