

THIRD WORLD CHARACTERIZATION AND METAPHORS: REACTION TO ETHIOPIAN GIBE-III AND OTHER SIMILAR WATER RESOURCES LOCAL USING CRITICISM IN ABROAD



1.1. DEFINITION

The economically underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa, Oceania, and Latin America, considered as an entity with common characteristics, such as **poverty, high birthrates,** and **economic dependence on the advanced countries.** The French demographer Alfred Sauvy coined the expression in 1952 by analogy with the "third estate," the commoners of France before and during the French Revolution-as opposed to priests and nobles, comprising the first and second estates respectively. Like the third estate, wrote Sauvy, the third world is nothing, and it "wants to be something."

The term therefore implies that the third world is exploited, much as the third estate was exploited, and that, like the third estate its destiny is a revolutionary one. It conveys as well a second idea, also discussed by Sauvy, that of non-alignment, for the third world belongs neither to the industrialized capitalist world nor to the industrialized Communist bloc. The expression third world was used at the 1955 conference of ***Afro-Asian countries held in Bandung, Indonesia.***

In 1956 a group of social scientists associated with Sauvy's National Institute of Demographic Studies, in Paris, published a book called *Le Tiers-Monde*. Three years later, the French economist Francois Per roux launched a new journal, on problems of underdevelopment, with the same title. By the end of the 1950's the term was frequently employed in the French media to refer to the underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa, Oceania, and Latin America.

1.2. DISTINCTIVENESS

The underdevelopment of the third world is marked by a number of common traits; distorted and highly dependent economies devoted to producing primary products for the developed world and to provide markets for their finished goods; traditional, rural social structures; high population growth; and widespread poverty. Nevertheless, the third world is sharply differentiated, for it includes countries on various levels of economic development. And despite the poverty of the countryside and the urban shantytowns, the ruling elites of most third world countries are wealthy.

The main economic consequence of Western domination was the creation, for the first time in history, of a world market. By setting up throughout the third world sub-economies linked to the West, and by introducing other modern institutions, industrial capitalism disrupted traditional economies and, indeed, societies. This disruption led to underdevelopment. Because the economies of underdeveloped countries have been geared to the needs of industrialized countries, they often consist of only a few modern economic activities, such as mining or the cultivation of plantation crops. Control over these activities has often remained in the hands of large foreign firms. For example, an Ethiopian new economic development strategy and rumoring about such an extraordinary achievements of using our own resources under the good governance of EPRDF is getting many obstacles, despite of strong defence capacity and duty of our leadership premiers.

The prices of third world products are usually determined by large buyers in the economically dominant countries of the West, and trade with the West provides almost all the third world's income. Throughout the colonial period, outright exploitation severely limited the accumulation of capital within the foreign-dominated countries. Even after decolonization the economies of the third world developed slowly, or collapsed rapidly, owing largely to the deterioration of the "terms of trade"-the relation between the cost of the goods a nation must import from abroad and its income from the exports it sends to foreign countries. Terms of trade are said to deteriorate when the cost of imports rises faster than income from exports. Since buyers in the industrialized countries determined the prices of most products involved in international trade, the worsening position of the third world was scarcely surprising. Only the oil-producing countries succeeded in escaping the effects of Western, domination of the world economy.

1.3. ROLE IN WORLD POLITICS

The Bandung conference, in 1955, was the beginning of the political emergence of the third world. Two nations whose social and economic systems were sharply opposed-China and India-played a major role in promoting that conference and in changing the relation between the third world and the industrial countries, capitalist and Communist. As a result of de-colonialization, the United Nations, at first numerically dominated by European countries and countries of European origin, was gradually transformed into something of a third world forum. With increasing urgency, the problem of underdevelopment then became the focus of a permanent, although essentially academic, debate. Despite that debate, the unity of the third world remains hypothetical, expressed mainly from the platforms of international conferences.

1.4. ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

Foreign aid, and indeed all the efforts of existing institutions and structures, have failed to solve the problem of underdevelopment. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held in New Delhi in 1971 suggested that one percent of the national income of industrialized countries should be devoted to aiding the third world. That figure has never been reached, or even approximated. In 1972 the Santiago (Chile) UNCTAD set a goal of a 6 percent economic growth rate in the 1970's for the underdeveloped countries. But this, too, was

not achieved. The living conditions endured by the overwhelming majority of the 3 billion people who inhabit the poor countries have either not noticeably changed since 1972 or have actually deteriorated. Whatever economic development has occurred in the third world has not been distributed fairly between nations or among population groups within nations. However, the relationship between the underdeveloped and the industrialized countries has improved somewhat. In 1975 the nine-nation European Economic Community (EEC) concluded an agreement, called the Lome Pact, with 46 African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) nations that exempted most ACP exports from tariffs.

The Lome II Pact, signed in 1979 by the EEC and 57 ACP countries, consolidated and broadened the Lome I agreement—for example by guaranteeing income from agricultural exports. Nonetheless, excepting only a few oil-producing countries with low populations, the economic crisis of the 1970's was more detrimental to the third world than to the West; and there did not seem to be much chance in the foreseeable future for any significant change in the relationship between the industrialized and underdeveloped countries. Nor did the prospects for economic development in the third world appear to be very bright: Between 1960 and 1980 half of the African countries had actually regressed. Almost the only countries to receive some of the capital needed for development were those lucky enough to have a significant amount of raw materials, especially oil, to export. All international agencies agree that radical action is required to improve conditions in third world countries, including urban and rural public work projects to attack joblessness and underemployment, institutional reforms essential for the redistribution of economic power, agrarian reform, tax reform, and the reform of public funding. But, in reality, political and social obstacles to reform are a part of the very nature of the international order and of the most third world regimes, as it was in Ethiopia for 17 years under the Derg regime.

2. ETHIOPIAN CASE

Ethiopia is a landlocked state in the Horn of Africa. Officially known as the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, it is the second most populous nation in Africa with over 79.2 million people and the tenth largest by area with its 1,100,000 km². The capital is Addis Ababa. Ethiopia is bordered by Djibouti and Somalia to the east, Kenya to the south, Sudan to the west and Eritrea to the north. Though most African nations are, in their modern form, less than a century old, Ethiopia has been an independent state since ancient times, being one of the oldest countries in the world. A monarchical state for most of its history, the Ethiopian dynasty traces its roots to the 10th century BC. Besides being an ancient country, Ethiopia is one of the oldest sites of human existence known to scientists today, having yielded some of humanity's oldest traces, it might be the place where *Homo sapiens* first set out for the Middle East and points beyond.

When Africa was divided up by European powers at the Berlin Conference, Ethiopia was one of only two countries that retained its independence. It was one of only three African

members of the League of Nations. After a brief period of Italian occupation, Ethiopia became a charter member of the United Nations. When other African nations received their independence following World War II, many of them adopted the colors of Ethiopia's flag, and Addis Ababa became the location of several international organizations focused on Africa. The country is a land of natural contrasts, with spectacular waterfalls and volcanic hot springs. It has any sources for agriculture, tourists and other minerals and also it is very comfortable country for the investment attraction and creation. The Ethiopian passed history closed the civilization for Aksumite empire by internal and external problems. In 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union supported Socialist Military Regime(i.e. Derg), Ethiopia came down to the list poverty country's level from middle economic class and became very strongest military campaign in Africa. The problem was not the shortage of resources both human and natural, but mistaken policy of using resources in a fault directions. Only for war and for the arm purchases.

Poverty refers to the condition of not having the means to afford basic human needs such as clean water, nutrition, health care, education, clothing and shelter. This is also referred to as absolute poverty or destitution. Relative poverty is the condition of having fewer resources or less income than others with in a society or country, or compared to Worldwide averages. The poverty threshold, or poverty line, is the minimum level of income deemed necessary to achieve an adequate standard of living in a given country.¹ In practice, like the definition of poverty, the official or common understanding of the poverty line is significantly higher in developed countries than in developing countries². The common international poverty line has been roughly \$1 a day, or more precisely \$1.25 at 2005 purchasing-power parity (PPP).³

World Bank has done extensive work in this field. Determining the poverty line is usually done by finding the total cost of all the essential resources that an average human adult consumes in one year. This approach is needs-based in that an assessment is made of the minimum expenditure needed to maintain a tolerable life. This was the original basis of the poverty line in the United States, whose calculation was simplified to be based solely on the cost of food and is updated each year. In developing countries, the most expensive of these resources is typically the cost of housing. Economists thus pay particular attention to the real estate market and housing prices because of their strong influence on the poverty threshold. Individual factors are often used to account for various circumstances, such as whether one is a parent, elderly, a child, married, etc. The poverty threshold may be adjusted each year. The poverty threshold is useful as

¹ Poverty Lines-Martin Ravallion, in *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, 2nd Edition, London: Palgrave Macmillan

² Dollar a day Revisited-Martin Ravallion, Shaohua Chen and Prem Sang aula *World Bank Economic Review* Volume 23,Number 2-2009-Pp. 163-184.

³ Dollar a day Revisited-Martin Ravallion, Shaohua Chen and Prem Sangraula *World Bank Economic Review* Volume 23,Number 2-2009-Pp. 163-184.

an economic tool with which to measure such people and consider socioeconomic reforms such as welfare and unemployment insurance to reduce poverty.

Ethiopia has shown a fast-growing annual GDP and it was the fastest-growing non-oil-dependent African nation in 2007 and 2008.⁴ Since 1991, there have been attempts to improve the economy; however, there has been some political opposition to the policies as well as a 2008 drought which slowed progress. The effectiveness of these policies is reflected in the ten-percent yearly economic growth from 2003-2008. Despite these economic improvements, urban and rural poverty remains an issue in the country. Ethiopia is often ironically referred to as the "**water tower**" of Eastern Africa because of the many (14 major) rivers that pour off the high tableland. It also has the greatest water reserves in Africa, but few irrigation systems in place to use it. Just 1% is used for power production and 1.5% for irrigation.

Historically, Ethiopia's feudal and communist economic structure has always kept it one rainless season away from devastating droughts and not using human power properly. But Ethiopia has a big potential and it is one of the most fertile countries. According to the New York Times, Ethiopia could easily become the breadbasket for much of Europe if her agriculture were better organized. Provision of telecommunications services is left to a state-owned monopoly. It is the view of the current government that maintaining state ownership in this vital sector is essential to ensure that telecommunication infrastructures and services are extended to rural Ethiopia, which would not be attractive to private enterprises.

This the last issue is understood by EPRDF Ethiopia and dealing with the great effort to achieve this target of using its **RESOURCES** properly. Now who is becoming enemy and obstacle for this development road of Ethiopia? The answer is very clear and it is some European backed Ethiopian mistaken children's who are betraying their land by living abroad because of different individual or political problems. Individual problem must be solved by Individuals by themselves, but the Political problem is created a new atmosphere to invite all Ethiopian children's to come in and work , to use their mother land resources and other development factors in their home. Thanks to the **EPRDF** party who has proposed this important investment projects for **ALL ETHIOPIANS** without any racism and differences. It is amazing things and even very complicated thing not to be understand or accept such revitalization or renaissance policy we have got since 1994/5 of the first written and guaranteed constitution of the country.

2.1. CONTEMPORARY ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENT VISION

The Ethiopian vision is characterized by intellectual discussion with an overall objective of dissecting themes and topics that address the future of Ethiopia. The Nigerian vision, on the other

⁴ Ethiopia sees Africa's fastest growth". Afrol.com. <http://www.afrol.com/articles/28991>. Retrieved 2009-03-16.

hand, must come with a blue print of development program and submit it to the government. In fact, the economic imperative of the Nigerian vision includes the following principles:

a) Government needs to focus on creating an enabling environment, which stimulates private sector savings and investment. The government should provide conducive infrastructure, build human capital (education, health care and technological know-how); govern effectively in the public interest; and orient the economy towards diversified, export-oriented development based on national comparative advantage;

- Private sector is to support government in a truly progressive partnership. The private sector must become the engine of growth of the economy and this can be achieved through undertaking significantly higher level of investment, concentration on the best global practices and quality standards, penetration of West African and global markets, and utilization of domestic natural resources, skills and inherent competitive advantage; and

- Macro-economic framework and economic institutions, which are similarly outward-oriented, based on free markets and global competition, and fostering high domestic savings and investment. This will be supported by stable and consistent economic policies with emphasis on achieving low inflation rates, and strong fiscal/monetary discipline.

In terms of organization and overall goal orientation, the two visions have essential differences, but themes incorporated in the respective topics discussed by both visions share a common denominator aimed at transforming both societies. Even though Bahru is professor of history and his synthesis of contemporary Ethiopian politics is primarily historical, the title of his topic is crucial for the present and future economic imperatives in Ethiopia. Both visions are historically significant in terms of galvanizing the urgency of economic and social transformations that our respective societies must undergo. The precondition for a meaningful transformation, however, lies in the dynamics of a dedicated and visionary leadership. Thus the context the primacy of politics is very crucial and determined issue for the Ethiopian current situations. Thus what I wrote in my previous II papers -“**YINGESELEI DAYE**”!

All Ethiopian for the next 5 years either to be out from the ecstasy of famine and drought history as our identity or to be free and come to second world level economic, social and political progress, Intelligent leaderships and good governance issues remains very determinant. Economic determinism should not obscure the import of a democratic system with attendant accountability and transparency that can contribute to a whole gamut of political field, that in turn serves as medium between the people and the transforming agencies.

The EPRDF, main objective in Ethiopia is to overcome the country's near-constant state of food security. Also to eliminate natural disasters, extreme poverty and underdevelopment, poor water and land management, and inadequate access to health care, education, and economic opportunity are seen as the main enemies of the Ethiopian people in the vision of EPRDF/Prime Minister

Meles Zenawi administrations. Ethiopia improves disaster prediction and response management, economic growth, governance structures, and the quality of health care and education, in the last 18 years, one after another by starting from **ZERO LEVEL INFRASTRUCTURES**. This is really very clear for all of us, as Ethiopian if we are the true history tellers.

2.2. ISSUES IN WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The experiences of Sub-Saharan Africa on water development in the last three decades have sparked a lively debate on the subject. The African experience is now being seriously re-examined both by specialists on the subject as well as the donors that were heavily involved in the financing of many of the projects⁵. Interestingly enough, the debate has led to a new consensus over some of the important issues of the African experience. It is now commonly accepted that Africa's water development program, which began in the early 1960s and which was heavily financed by such donors as the World Bank and USAID, has by and large been a failure. Even FAO, which has been promoting water development schemes in the continent for many years, now recognises the problem is deep-rooted and complex. Many of the major dams and reservoirs are performing poorly and have failed to meet their original objectives. Few water projects have brought about improvements in agricultural production or increases in foreign earnings.

Finally, a major question that has attracted a good deal of debate is: what criteria should be used to evaluate water development schemes, especially large-scale irrigation, and what should be the justification for promoting such schemes? Donors such as the World Bank emphasize that economic efficiency and the economic rate of return should be the main criteria for evaluating agricultural water projects. Economic efficiency is determined by the narrow measure of expenditure and revenue. But how can they criticise the individual people's false criticism about using Ethiopia its rivers and water resources?

However, such a narrow view of the blocking of the benefits of water development schemes is now should be challenged. For countries that are frequently exposed to drought and other environmental crises, like Ethiopia, when we try to use our resources, what problem will create for European powers?

In the country where there is repeating history the loss of life from food shortages and other disasters is high, the notion of "economic rates of return" which makes big difference for our country must not be senseless program for International few and especially for our mistaken political drugged brothers and sisters. In these circumstances, greater weight should be given to *social* benefits, than the individual people who are living in abroad as diasporas. Finally to say the political hatred and development of the country should be discerned issues and agendas towards the benefit of the local people.

⁵ Adams 1992, Barghouti and LeMoigne 1990, FAO 1986 and 1987, Moris and Thom 1990

2.3. THE EVALUATION OF WATER PROJECTS.

Water projects should be judged successful if they promote food security, if they contribute to poverty alleviation, increase employment opportunities or in other ways promote rural welfare. These forms of social benefit do appear in the economic equation. In Ethiopia, in particular, which has had a long history of environmental crisis and food insecurity, and where rural poverty is a major concern, agricultural water schemes should be justified on the grounds of increased social benefits. Therefore, the social criterion for water programmes is much more meaningful than the narrower criticism running by few people (*Some Ethiopians aliened by abroad people*).

In other words, agricultural or electricity water policy is the main measurement of development that can give greater importance to the problems of food security and poverty alleviation. It follows therefore that in the formulation of water development strategy, priority should be given to areas with frequent drought history and areas that are vulnerable to recurrent food shortages. Thus World bank and IMF should not get confusion through individual anti development and anti democracy of Ethiopia.

3. CONCLUSION

The new thinking on water resource planning in Ethiopia is, in principle, in favour of a pluralist strategy of development. It does not reject large-scale projects, provided that they are thoroughly and carefully planned, taking all relevant problems and issues into account, that they have no adverse effect on the communities concerned or on the local environment, and that their benefits are shared by the surrounding population. However, there is general consensus that small-scale and user-based schemes have greater advantages, are less costly and more sustainable. Such schemes should therefore be given greater emphasis by policy planners. Moreover, the new thinking makes a strong case for community ownership and management of water projects. Finally, the purpose of agricultural water development programmes should be to increase social benefits and to meet critical needs, such as, in Ethiopian case, **food security** and **poverty alleviation**. This is what Ethiopia looking for the future plan of Gibe-III or other similar projects and really it is grass root level reality that you can understand from farmers and local people, the Government agricultural strategy is achieving it main objectives! If I am mistaken negotiate with the target groups in all regional levels of Ethiopian Nation nationalities and Peoples of democratic Republic Ethiopia. Long life and further development for the EPRDF!

GOD BLESS ETHIOPIA!

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