

ISTVÁN TARRÓSY

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE

OPENING REMARKS

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BALÁZS SZÉLINGER

THE TREASON OF THE INTELLECTUALS AN ESSAY ABOUT THE HUNGARIAN LESSON

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As the subtitle indicates, this is not a scholarly article based on research but one almost identical to the oral presentation I gave during the workshop “30 Years of Freedom – Farewell to Communism in Hungary, Local and Global Lessons” in Addis Ababa on October 25, 2019, organized jointly by the Embassy of Hungary in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian Civil Service University, the Hungarian National University of Public Service, and the University of Pécs, Hungary. I made every effort to strengthen my arguments with valuable references.

ALI [SHEIKH] AHMED ABDI

ETHIOPIA'S BURGEONING DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION: NEW GLAMOUR OR NEW STATESMANSHIP GIMMICKS?

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Following the amounting accusation of autocracy, the heritage of exclusionary rulership with an underlying ethnic undertone that confined the parameters of political power finally yielded nearly three years of unemployed youth-led street protests initially in Oromia region and later spread all over the country, demanding for political reform and socio-economic improvements. All these paved the way for PM Abiy Ahmed on April 2nd, 2018 in what seemed to be a transition in the form of a “play-within-a-play”. In this article, I offer an account that explains the image of Ethiopia's democratic transition in 2018, undeniably using my own physical experience and observations as an academic and a humanitarian practitioner owing to my more than 15 years of stay in the country where I have often been close to the decision-making tables in Addis Ababa as well as in the Somali region. Of course, I will also use all other seminally relevant information helpful to draw an explanation to the interminable socio-political and economic transformation in Ethiopia.

MERESSA TSEHAYE GEBREWAHD

NATION-BUILDING PREDICAMENT, TRANSITION FATIGUE,
AND FEAR OF STATE COLLAPSE:
AN EMERGING PHENOMENON IN POST-2015 ETHIOPIA

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Ethiopia, evolved from Tigray, is known by its history of having been an empire (e.g., the Axumite kingdom) and having been independent. The fundamental weakness of the Ethiopian state has been the lack of inclusive national consensus, hampered by national oppression and the dilemma of democratizing a feudal state. The article investigates the nation-building aspirations, transition fatigue, the predicaments of secessionist, federalist, and assimilationist narratives, and the subsequent fear of ‘state collapse’ in the post-2018 crisis in Ethiopia.

MIFTAH MOHAMMED KEMAL

ETHNIC-BASED PARTY SYSTEMS, CULTURE OF DEMOCRACY,
AND POLITICAL TRANSITION IN AFRICA: CHALLENGES
AND PROSPECTS FOR POLITICAL TRANSITION IN ETHIOPIA

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According to David Easton, “Politics involves change; and the political world is a world of flux, tensions, and transitions”. Ethiopia’s history of political transition fits the conceptualization of politics as changes and the political world as a world of flux. This article discusses the challenges and opportunities for a political transition in Ethiopia using comparative data analysis and various presentation methods.

CHUOL KOMPUOK

THE EFFECTS OF LAND TENURE POLICY ON THE
ENVIRONMENT IN THE GAMBELLA REGION

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An attempt is made to investigate the consequences of land tenure policy on the environment enhancing reforestation as a means of ascertaining tenure security in the Gambella region. This paper sheds light on the accelerated pace of deforestation in the study area and its impact on the environment.

SZILÁRD BIERNACZKY

WHAT SHALL WE THINK ABOUT AN AFROCENTRIC VISION?

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In many cases, series of theses and antitheses get to grips with each other for a long period of time without the hope of creating a synthesis. And of course, to open the gates elsewhere: this old-world syllogism, as a reflective model, is not sufficient for the interpretation of the realistic and mental entity that inundates us. However, nowadays we can pick up on the specific mental-interpretational ideology that stands out in the form of this model whose essence is Afrocentrism set against the Eurocentric approach. This is discussed in the paper.