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**About EAPRI**

EAPRI is an independent, nonprofit policy think tank that aims to bridge the gap between research, policy & practice in the East African region.

At EAPRI, we believe in the power of critical information in creating change agents & building a brighter future. Hence, we are committed to provide high-quality policy research that inspire participatory & sustainable policy solutions.

**Our Vision:**

To be the leading institute in policy research, capacity building and policy dialogue facilitation in East Africa.

**Our Mission:**

To conduct in-depth and actionable policy research, strengthen policy capacity, facilitate policy dialogue to smoothen democratic transition in East Africa.

**Objectives:**

- Produce & interpret empirical evidence to inform policy formulation
- Organize & facilitate policy dialogue to create consensus on pressing policy matters
- Strengthen capacity in policy evidence utilization & implementation
- Providing state of the arts consultancy & advisory services on policy issues
- Support community development initiatives



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**In Ethiopian, revolution is a policy of making a new policy****Ethiopia is a no easy change country**

The history of change in Ethiopia is the history of violence and bloodshed. Even peaceful protests with small demand has been quirelled by merciless measures. Ethiopians rulers have difficulty of making easy and smooth changes. Some argue it is the result of how we have been socialized to the concept of change.

Uprooting the existing and replacing it often with its opposite is deep rooted in Ethiopian culture. Compromising, maintaining the good and changing the bad on the other hand is uncommon. Incremental policymaking has no place in Ethiopian policymaking process. Revolution is often a policy of making a new policy.

Ethiopian dictators have used revolutions as an opportunity to destabilize the existing systems, to justify their achievements and to excessively benefit themselves. That made the Ethiopian revolution the factory of greedy elites that are worse compared to their predecessors. And that is how Ethiopian revolution force every other generation to revolt against the status quo and put the country in a vicious circle of revolutions.

Names like Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, Mao Zedong, Fidel Castro and Che Guevara are famous names in Ethiopia.

**Chain of violence and revolutions**

Ethiopia is tied into a chain of violence where one ruler has to overthrow since it took its current shape. Even under the feudal era when the power transition was justified by bloodline and the line of Solomonid dynasty, power transfer involved bloodshed and violence.

The power transfer between Zewuditu, Iyasu V and HaileSELLASSIE involved multiple wars and violence. The sagele war, the Wollo war and finally the assassination of Iyasu V are recorded in history.

Similarly, the monarchy lived a chain of revolutionary attempts between 1941-1975. The Neway Brothers and the Tadesse coup d'etat attempts are examples. Finally, the Marxist-Leninist Derg staged a coup against the monarchy and abolished in 1975.

Although the frequency of coup attempt declined under the Derg and the EPRDF, mainly because of the merciless measure, there were attempts that qualify to be described as coup. In general, revolution is still considered as a viable transition in Ethiopia and many have a difficulty accepting peaceful power transfer as transition.



*Mengistu, the president of the military junta with Castro*

**The history of the struggle of the Ethiopian peoples for justice, freedom, equality, democracy and progress against the reactionary forces and the military junta is the history of many bloody disputes that have costed million of Ethiopians lives.**

### **The way forward**

Either greedy people led Ethiopian revolutions or its aftermaths turn revolutionaries into greedy reactionaries. They revolutionaries understand and cherish their revolution backward while the mass understand their problem and complain backward. That makes the biggest mismatch and throw seed for another round of revolution in Ethiopia.

This mismatch leaves the new generation in no better option than revolting against the status quo which creates a vicious circle of revolutions in the country. But change is quit expensive. Revolution generation after generation is a disaster.

***All revolutions devour their own children ~ Ernst Rohm***

That is why the whole world is opting for incremental change. Integrating steady reforms into the ongoing revolution in Ethiopia can reduce the costs. Those reforms make the revolution not only less costly but also sustainable. The source of the current revolution in Ethiopia is the rotten political system in the country. For that the economic sector reform, institutional (military, intelligence, media and electoral board) reforms and judiciary system reforms are already suggested.

For this reforms to happen and for revolution to be sustainable,, we need well-equipped change agents. Not just the prime minister but many people with the right vision and policy mindset. The how, the when and the where to create those change agents determine the success of our revolution as well as its sustainability.

EAPRI is established to make a thoughtful leadership contribution in harnessing opportunities and overcoming challenges in East Africa.

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### **The reform option**

The history of reform in Ethiopia has been the history of failure. Although all the successive dictators have tried reform, they all alike started it too late and delivered too little. That made the reform option a not significant option in the country so far.

The sector review of the monarchy system, the dialogues and agreements of the military junta with EPLF, TPLF and OLF, and the unfulfilled reform promises of the regime in power have many similarities in common. The lesson one can draw from these experiences is that reform may not well suit the Ethiopian people and rulers concept of change. But that doesn't mean reform is impossible. But it definitely needs extra effort, good planning and implementations.

### **The Current Revolution**

Ethiopia is undergoing another round of revolution. The movement that started with simple demands transformed into revolutionary movement. Some government mouthpieces choose to call it a color revolution, others say it is a "state capture". The name choice was to help arresting the revolution. But the revolution has proved itself to be unarrestable. This revolution is fundamentally different from the historical Ethiopian revolutions.

I would call it an information revolution in its real sense. Unlike the previous revolutions, this is not led by elites. It is not about replacing a ruler with their opposite. It is a revolution that aims to empower the Ethiopian people. It is not only political; it is economic, social and cultural. It is a revolution that aims to take the country back from the few power and wealth greedy dictators and give it to the rightful owner-the Ethiopian people. It is revolution that aims to make Ethiopia home for all Ethiopians.