

It is with pleasure to read this excellent book entitled *Ethiopia: Democracy, Devolution of Power & The Developmental State* authored by Dr. Ghelawdewos Araia. His work proposes serious consideration toward the implementation of democracy not only for Ethiopia but also for the entire African world. The book does more than lament and exhort: it teaches us with precision the basic principles about democracy and the necessary tools to nurture its development; it also boldly uncovers the bad seeds decimating our political discourse and take us patiently, step by step, how we can build our democracy by ourselves and with concerted effort.

In my humble opinion, I think this book ought to be a required reading for all political science and political economy students and must be a handbook for policymakers and for those engaged in active politics, and it is for the following reason: The book presents a comprehensive analysis of contemporary Ethiopian politics in the context of democracy and decentralization and renders a thorough examination of the theory and practice of the developmental state by comparing Ethiopia with other successful nations and what lessons it can gain from those countries. Incidentally, the magnificent density of ideas infused into the corpus of the book are impressive and the many chapters on the pros and cons to implement democracy show Ghelawdewos' vision of a peaceful and viable transition to a market economy with a gradual access to capital and property, thereby allowing an intriguing democracy in the African continent.

I thank the author for inviting me to read his book; frankly his subject matter is immensely profound and from all other works that Ghelawdewos presented to us over the years, I truly believe *Ethiopia: Democracy, Devolution of Power, & The Developmental State* is his magnum opus.

Daniel Gizaw, author of *The Prince of Africa* and *Fikre Kudus*

ISBN 978-0-578-12124-6



9 780578 121246

Ethiopia

Democracy, Devolution of Power, & The Developmental State

Araia

Ethiopia

Democracy, Devolution of Power, & The Developmental State



Ghelawdewos Araia

Institute of Development & Education for Africa (IDEA)