

Policies and Situations over the Nile/Abay in Ethiopia and Egypt for the Last 200 Years

Daniel Seifemichael Feleke BTh. MA (Memihir)¹

Abstract

For the last 200+ years, since 1805 Egyptian based rulers' rigorous policy over the Nile River have affected Ethiopian sovereignty, and Natural right to make use of the Abay River. some of these policies are like "the Unity of the Nile", "Controlling the Nile from its Source" the "plan to make Red Sea the Arab Sea" and the like. Such policies were pragmatically essential to understand Egypt's or Egyptian based rulers attempt to create a New Socio-Demographic and economic Empire in North-East Africa and the Nile Basin. On the other hand, it demonstrates what the New Egypt after 1950s version inherited from her colonial superiors without alteration. The oscillation of Egyptian Governors using these colonial policies helps them wavering between the Arab world to safeguard their superiority over the Red Sea and the African identity to control to the Nile. Hence, Egypt attracts global attention. On the contrary, Ethiopian, though physically un-colonized, has not yet solved our unstable internal political landscape for the last 200 years, since the middle of the 'Zemene Mesafint.' Therefore, the comparison between the strong unchanging policy of Egypt over the Nile, and Ethiopian Cooperative Framework strategy or what is called "Fair Utilization of the Nile" must be seen from the its historical point of view; especially, the humble and genuine gesture of our diplomacy could by far struggle to challenge Egypt's claim, and those who are behind, that lasted for these 200+years.

Note: A summarized note of at least 11 governments from each side.

Keywords: Nile River, Abay River, Ethiopia, Egypt, Nile history

¹ Head of Foreign affairs department of Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Patriarchate, Teacher in Theology, Member of Ethiopian Public Diplomacy, Email: danielsmf2@yahoo.com