

Review of: "GERD: A Catalyst for the Nation-Building Process in Ethiopia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you very much for your invitation to review this manuscript. I very much appreciate that your trust to review this manuscript.

I have now gone through the manuscript.

I like it very much (**GERD: A Catalyst for Nation-Building Process in Ethiopia**) Since I find this research very interesting, what I would like to propose is that the Author should revise this paper to fit the journal after making some changes. Here are the changes I propose:

- In the abstract, the abstract should focus more clearly on the puzzle (cause (someone) to feel confused because they cannot understand something); it is also necessary to consider what is the article about (the title); what is the purpose, the gap, problem and/or the research question; methodology/methods; arguments/findings; and, contribution to knowledge/methodology;
- In the introduction section, please, include the relevance of the topic; research question; summary of approach and findings (arguments); contribution to literature; and, the knowledge (theoretical and methodological) contributions. However, you did only introduction to structure which is a good start;
- The implications of your findings should already be apparent at the end of the abstract and at the end of the introduction;
- Methods and methodology should be clearly indicated in the manuscript, I think the method is description study;
- Conceptualization of terms and the conceptual framework is very good; however, it needs to be linked with the analysis and conclusion;
- The literature review should be updated and more focused on the author's main puzzle. Reference sources should be included in some definitions in page 2/13, for example, like nationalism, national identity, state, etc.
- References need to be updated about state-and nation-building concepts. Please, refer to the following:
 - Bach, J.-N., EPRDF's Nation-Building: Tinkering with convictions and pragmatism. *Cadernos de Estudos Africanos*, 2014(27);
 - Stepan, A., Linz, J. J., & Yadav, Y. (2011). *Crafting State-Nations: India and other multinational democracies*. The Johns Hopkins University Press;
 - Wimmer, A. (2018). *Nation building: Why some countries come together while others fall apart*. Princeton University Press;

- Dinnen, S. (2006). Nation-building, Australian National University, Canberra. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283136264>. Accessed 27 Jan 2018;
- Desalegn A and Solomon N (2021). "The interrelationship among institutional capacity, infrastructure governance and equity, and nation-building process in Ethiopia". Public Organization Review, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11115-021-00523-7>.
- What are the international experiences like GERD as a catalyst for Nation-Building Projects?
- It also needs to pay better attention to the quality of English; it is uneven throughout the manuscript. Some parts are well written, but others have poor syntax and grammar (e.g. articles missing, plural declinations incorrect, etc.);
- I agree in the author's conclusion; the problem is that it is not clearly connected with the analysis;

I think that the author could put the aforementioned suggestions into practice if they are something the author is interested in doing. If the aforementioned has been implemented successfully, the paper will be good. Of course, it's challenging to guess how an external review will turn out. I would contend that the above-mentioned improvements will increase the likelihood that the author's manuscript will succeed.

Regards,

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