

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

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Potential competing interests: -

The article deals with the important topic regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), which is one of the biggest economic projects in Ethiopia because it provides energy capacities for the country.

The author associates his study on the GERD with the concept of nation-building process in Ethiopia, and he focuses on various theoretical approaches demonstrating the connection between the two elements. Moreover, the Author argues that the GERD demonstrates unifying objectives concerning Ethiopians' patriotism and country's sovereignty.

However, the theoretical study presented in the sections 1, 2 and 3 should be shortened and implemented directly to the introduction or the section 4, which refers to the Ethiopian context. In fact, the theoretical approaches may be more evident and relevant in combination with local history, culture or state policy.

In addition, some questions should be further elaborated. The research did not reflect economic data and characteristics of the GERD. Besides, the Author mentions symbolic unity of the nation during the Eid al-Fitr festival, which is a Muslim ceremony. It should be clarified how any ethnic or religious groups affect nation-building process because Ethiopia is inhabited by different religious communities, including Muslims and Christians.

Moreover, the Author omitted the important topic of political and economic tensions between Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan and Ethiopia in the context of the GERD as well as water politics in the Nile Basin. In fact, the relationship between these countries plays an important role in effectiveness of the GERD. Besides, the study on how those tensions affect nation-building in Ethiopia could be very interesting as well.

Despite some remarks, the article is very interesting and after some revisions it will contribute to the debate on the ongoing political and social situation in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.