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.

Reviewer: Salam Abdulqadir Abdulrahman

I have read the article and I would like to make several remarks.

1. Both the introduction and conclusion need to be revised again for linguistical, grammatical and structural mistakes.

2. GERD is projected as a success story. The fact that the dam is still under construction after 11 years of its commencement will cast doubt on the material-side success of the project.

3. The whole enterprise of the paper relies on the contribution of GERD to the process of state-building and nation-building in Ethiopia. However, this should be understood as hypothetical at this stage.

4. GERD is connected to eradicating poverty, which is securitised, as the author says, hence the eradication of poverty will be used as a major tool for bringing people together and strengthening the nation-building process in Ethiopia. However, it is very unclear and uncertain at the same time how and to what extent the dam will help eradicate or reduce poverty and promote nationalism and accelerate the state-building process.

5. Ethiopia has a big population and poverty is widespread, and the country lacks the necessary infrastructure in many places. GERD does not stand a big chance to reduce poverty considerably.

6. Strong Egyptian and some Arab states' opposition as well as opposition from Egypt's allies to the dam are all challenges to how far GERD can support the state-building project in Ethiopia.

7. Recent war in the Tigray Region and subsequent massacres have totally bypassed the author's attention. This issue needs to be mentioned in the paper in connection with the process of state-building and nation-building in that country.

8. Finally, I'd like to say that the paper is significant and addresses GERD from a new perspective. Incorporating our comments will benefit the paper and restore some balances which we think are missing.