Questioning the Interference of External Actors on the Internal Affairs of Ethiopia on the Case of Northern Armed Conflict

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Abstract

The global world is being characterized in terms of Darwinism in interfering with other sovereign entities and boldly violates the principles of "non-interference on internal affairs of other sovereign states". Ethiopia is striving to materialize these globally agreed principles and struggling to maximize its own security interests in proposing free domestic affairs and lacerating itself for its sovereignty. This study attempts to analyze the interference of foreign actors in the internal affairs of Ethiopia in the case of the Northern Armed conflict. The study employed a qualitative research approach via case study design and a key informant interview was held through purposive sampling in selecting officials and experts. The rationality of foreign interference on the domestic political issues of Ethiopia by dismantling the government as it is non-legitimate and riding the popular sovereignty of Ethiopia and saving the status quo of the previous western-affiliated regime. The foreigners involved in a direct confrontation on Northern armed conflict by employing cyber security apparatus and competing to control digital diplomacy and discontented attempt to Ethiopia as violator state of international norms in Africa. International government organizations and humanitarian aid providers were prominent actors and implemented the intrusions. Geopolitical interests, the national and historical pride of Ethiopia, and negligence of political transition are galvanizing the attraction of external actors. The state should reverse these problems by revising foreign policy and diplomacy using pragmatic orientations, by considering the pitfall in preserving the national interests of the state rather than sustaining a political regime.

Keywords: Internal affairs, External actors, Armed conflicts, Diplomacy

1. Introduction

The interference can be understood with a dimension of state sovereignty, and Sovereignty refers to absolute authority or supreme power within a bounded territorial space. We mostly use this term to refer to the autonomy and independence of modern nation-states. In historic times, what we consider nation-states were ruled by kings; some of them were even ruled by colonial powers. Sovereignty is the independence and autonomy of a nation's states, especially decisions taken considering citizens and the government. Therefore, nation-states have the freedom to decide what form of democracy they want, their rulers, and internal and external policies. We can also describe sovereignty as the main organizing principle in a system of states. In

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addition, we can categorize the concept of sovereignty into internal sovereignty and external sovereignty (Biersteker and Entail, 1996).

'External sovereignty' is used to describe two elements. Firstly, states have legal equality in international society. Wealthy or poor, strong or weak, every sovereign state is legally equal in international law(Puchala,1984), Secondly, for a state to achieve full external sovereignty it must be recognized as a fellow sovereign state by 'enough' of the other members of the international system, especially the most powerful states(Puchala,1984).

'Internal sovereignty' is the other vital component of this concept. It consists of two elements: 'legal' and 'practical' sovereignty. Legal sovereignty encapsulates the right of a state to be the only law-making body for the population inhabiting a given territory (Heywood, 1994). The state has the right to construct and impose laws free of any external involvement by other states or bodies. It must be the sole law-making and law-enforcing authority for a territory. Any sharing of sovereignty must, by the very nature of the term, mean that whatever arises out of such an act, the result cannot be called 'sovereign'. Sovereignty does not recognize any superior or equal in the legal right to make laws for a territory (Ibid).

State sovereignty, therefore, is not just a legal concept. It must be closely linked to the practical power available to a state. A state defeated in a war will lose, usually temporarily, the right to run its domestic and foreign policy in line with its own principles and interests. That is especially the case if the state is defeated in a major war and is overrun by its enemies (as was the case with Germany and Japan at the end of the Second World War). Peace treaties, however onerous their imposed obligations on a defeated state, do not deprive the defeated state of its legal sovereignty (Goodwin, 1974). Indeed, principles of sovereignty can be appealed to by a state to throw off or reduce the burden of such impositions.

Practical state sovereignty can be undermined and even fatally weakened by internal revolt. The consequences for the population of a state, when its practical sovereignty fails, are usually horrendous (Goodwin, 1974). The Lebanese state during the late 1970s and early 1980s, for example, remained the legally sovereign entity for its territory (Heywood, 1994). However, that practical sovereignty was at one time reduced to a few Beirut city blocks while the rest of the country was in the hands of militias and, later, Israeli and Syrian armed forces. Similar problems have been seen in Somalia, Bosnia, Sierra Leone, and Afghanistan.
In the case of Ethiopia, the state sovereignty is challenged in two ways types the external sovereign; the territorial integrity of the states is being challenged and the internal sovereignty is also challenged by the militant groups who are armed in the Oromia region, Benishangul Gumize, and the former rulers of the state, TPLF are beyond the control of the legitimate central government of Ethiopia.

The feud reached a boiling point in September 2020 when the Tigrayans held regional parliamentary elections in defiance of Mr. Abiy, who had postponed the vote across Ethiopia. Two months later, it turned violent. In November 2020, T.P.L.F. forces attacked a federal military base in Tigray in what they called a pre-emptive strike against federal forces preparing to attack them from a neighboring region. Hours later, Mr. Abiy ordered a military operation against the Tigrayan leadership. But his promises of a swift and bloodless victory quickly crumbled (NY Times, 2020/09/10). The T.P.L.F. and its armed supporters fled to rural and mountainous areas, where they waged a guerrilla war. The intention of the statement was to boost the rightness of TPLF and condemned the central government but, The TPLF forces committed a mass human rights violation on civilians of the Afar and Amhara regions.

On the issue of the armed conflict in Northern Ethiopia, slim studies have been conducted and very few of them are discussed underneath, but yet they have never conducted on the external intervention on the internal affairs of Ethiopia in due emphasis of the Northern armed conflict.

Abbink (2021) although this conflict is primarily a domestic problem within an African state, there are ramifications for neighboring countries, such as Sudan, Somalia, and Egypt. But in turn, international relations

can also have an impact on such a national crisis. The researcher lacked in addressing the justification of the external actors on the interference of the armed conflict in northern Ethiopia.

Alefe and Mkhon (2021) addressed the impact of the armed conflict with special emphasis on women and children and considered covid -19 as the major cause of the conflict but lacked to address the external actor's interventions interests on armed conflict and major areas of intervention of the external actors in the internal affairs of Ethiopia in the armed conflict.

Hibst (2021) the TPLF had built up an army and para-military of close to 200,000 men, prepared to take over the Ethiopian Arm's Northern Command and march on to Addis Ababa, having prepared allied insurgent groups in some other parts of Ethiopia in Western Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, Qemant, and elsewhere. Therefore this study is aiming to address the reasons for the external states' interference in the internal affairs of Ethiopia and the major interference areas, particularly in the case of the Northern armed conflict from 2020-2021 and now ceased fire unilaterally by the central government. The basic questions of the study: 1). Why do external actors interfere in the internal affairs of Ethiopia in the case of Northern armed conflict? 2). what are the interference areas of the external actors to intervene in the internal affairs of Ethiopia? This study also has its own significance in contributing to policy makers of foreign policy and diplomacy, and the security of Ethiopia as it provides genuine information on why the external actors interfere with the domestic issues and interest areas that can attract them.

2. Theories of State Sovereignty

2.1 Absolute Sovereignty

The late nineteenth century was characterized by the growth of the theory (and the practice) of 'absolute' sovereignty, in Germany, and later in England. The advocates of this doctrine articulated that sovereignty is not merely the supreme authority- summa protest as i.e. an authority over which there is no other authority, but also the plenitude potestas i.e. full and more or less unlimited power (Jackson, 1997).

The extreme consequences flowing out of the theory may result in States becoming independent of one another, of any other higher authority, and of any higher principle. Further, they enjoy full freedom to either fulfill their obligations or to denounce them, in accordance with their national interests. This results in the negation of equality as an element of sovereignty on one hand, and on the other hand implies an equation of sovereignty with the actual power to exercise it, which in the final analysis would mean its identification with force (Jackson, 2003) and lead to a distinction, made in this context, between 'legal' and 'factual' sovereignty. Further, the theory accords primacy to sovereignty (i.e. domestic law) vis-a-vis international law.

2.2 Relative Sovereignty

In the period between the two world wars, the relativist approach to sovereignty dominated international legal and political thinking. It emerged in the context of the need to adjust sovereignties in an increasingly interdependent international community, and the main focus of the theory was to 'de-absolutize' the concept of sovereignty (Jackson, 2003) The main feature of the theory of 'relative sovereignty' is that sovereignty can be subordinated to international law; however, importantly, the sovereignty of a State cannot be subordinated to another State because all States in principle are equal. The above premise leads to the following important consequences. The doctrine of relative sovereignty establishes the primacy of international law over state sovereignty. Furthermore, sovereignty is identified with external independence i.e. independence of a State from any other 'sovereign' authority, but at the same time does not imply 'independence' from the norms which govern the 'sovereign' States i.e. the international law. However, in exercising its sovereignty, the State can assume obligations towards other States through mutual agreement. Another consequence flowing out is that every State is sovereign within the sphere of its jurisdiction, and this

means that it has the right to independence from any form of intervention. However, its independence and freedom are limited by the equal freedom and independence of other States, as well as by international conventions and specific agreements entered into by these States? 2 Independence in turn, is maintained, entails legal equality of States in their mutual relations and autonomy in their internal relations.

Thus, the theory of relative sovereignty provided the essential prerequisites for the co-existence of States within the international community. However, keeping in mind the preponderant Western influence in the constitution of the norms of international law, the subjection of sovereignties of States to such norms may amount to an erosion of the sovereignty of the developing countries.

3. Contemporary Challenges of Sovereignty

State sovereignty may be challenged by different reasons and these issues different scholars have addressed differently; however the researcher used the recent works of scholars Harrison and Boyd (2018) they wrote a book entitled the state and Sovereignty in Understanding political ideas and Movements. I discussed the challenges of sovereignty in the following issues.

3.1 The Structure of international society

State sovereignty has always been predicated upon political power: the practical ability of the state to defend its sovereignty against internal revolt and external enemies. In international society there have always been considerable differences in practical power among sovereign states; although states are legally equal, the differences mean that some states are more 'equal' than others. However, the modern international system has seen the rise of a whole new class of states, known as the 'superpower'. Superpowers are so powerful that they undermine the practical sovereignty of all other states in the international system.

At times, the sovereignty of small states can be strengthened in the face of superpower pressure. They can be seen as the victims of superpower bullying and can embarrass the superpower accordingly. Perhaps the most obvious element in the continuing importance of states is their sheer number in the international system despite the hierarchical nature of power in international society

3.2 The impact of globalization

Globalization is said to undermine practical sovereignty through the rapid spread of technology, ideas, electronic communications, and the swift movement of people and capital around the globe. The global economy has created such strong economic ties between states that old concepts of national economic independence are obsolete and, therefore, the economic basis of practical sovereignty has gone. State sovereignty in the past could be protected by state action to prevent movements of people and ideas across frontiers. However, global technology ensures that states are unable to isolate their people from new ideas. State frontiers and concomitant state sovereignty have become increasingly meaningless as a concept in the modern world.

3.3 The spread of weapons of mass destruction

Nevertheless, the state remains the major organizer of military power in the world. Even the most sophisticated terrorist organizations can only compete militarily with the resources available to a very small state. The majority of sovereign states retain considerable military power. Nuclear weapons can strengthen relations between nuclear-armed states by developing concepts of 'nuclear deterrence' to ensure that peace is maintained and caution is a feature of the handling of crises between such armed states. In confrontations between nuclear and non-nuclear armed states, however, one cannot see any evidence that the non-nuclear state is significantly intimidated by nuclear power and alters its behavior. Nuclear weapons may not be a

credible political tool in crises with non-nuclear weapons powers. What nuclear weapons power would threaten, let alone use, nuclear weapons against a small non-nuclear power? The threat would be hollow and would merely isolate the nuclear weapons state in international society. Hence, the practical sovereignty of states is unlikely to be significantly reduced by developments in weapons technology.

3.4 The growth of informal ties

The practical sovereign functions of the state are undermined by the growth of informal links between people outside inter-state relations. Subversion, propaganda, ethnic cross-border ties, religious affiliations, the internet, tourism, international media and the creation and spread of a global culture all weaken the power of the state to call automatically upon and expect the loyalty of the people under its legal sovereignty.

3.5 The rise of new international actors

State sovereignty is certainly challenged by the growth of a vast range of actors in international affairs. These include Multi-National Corporations (MNCs), environmental and aid pressure groups, terrorist organizations, international capital markets, religious movements and international organizations created by states. Thousands of such groups exist and certainly make the workings of international society more complex than if it had been composed of sovereign states alone. These new international actors have their own interests and objectives, which will often not coincide with the interests and objectives of states, and may actually be in conflict with them.

Many new international actors, such as the European Union, the United Nations or international courts, are created by states themselves and exist to reflect state interests. Indeed, the European Union and the United Nations, among many such bodies, exist only as state-created structures and can only be understood in relation to legal and practical state sovereignty. The state, therefore, remains a major factor in the calculations of most new actors.

3.6 Neo-colonialism

Sovereignty is made meaningless by the economic control of foreign-owned MNCs. This is especially true in Africa, Asia, Latin America and parts of the Middle East. Governments may retain legal sovereignty of a state but practical sovereignty is undermined by the influence of MNCs, acting out of self-interest rather than the interests of the state in which they operate. Even powerful states in the developed world find themselves struggling to exert sovereignty in the face of economic pressures from powerful MNCs. The extent to which such economic processes undermine state sovereignty can be exaggerated. States need the tax revenues, jobs, investment and wealth that MNCs can bring and these, in themselves, can strengthen practical sovereignty. MNCs know they need to tread carefully in dealing with states, as states can assert their control over key national resources by the nationalization of foreign assets. Many Middle Eastern states nationalized foreign oil companies in the 1960s and used the revenues to develop their countries. However, the success of such a strategy depends on the value of the resources concerned.

4. Principles of Non-Interference on the Affairs of other States

The link between the principle of non-intervention and the principle of prohibition of the use of force would appear to be evident in the framework of both international armed conflicts and non-international armed conflicts.

Pustorino (2018) assert that there is a general and 'absolute' principle of non-intervention or neutrality in civil wars, which prohibits third party countries from lending support to any side in the internal armed conflict. According to this stance, there are no exceptions to the application of the principle of neutrality

although the advocates of this view are not unanimous as regards when exactly the principle of neutrality must be applied since some scholars maintain that one must preliminarily establish the existence of a highly intense internal armed conflict. Moreover, a number of scholars in this respect argue that only the most significant forms of support for the various sides in an internal armed conflict are prohibited, in particular military-type support. Indeed, for some scholars the ban on helping or assisting both sides of an internal armed conflict covers solely direct military intervention and the sending of military advisers and trainers while any assistance 'short of tactical military support' is lawful.

The unlawfulness of external armed intervention in favor of insurrectionary movements is confirmed by the International Court of Justice in the Armed Activities case, in which the Court held that the direct and indirect military support that Uganda lent to the Movement deliberation congolais was a violation of the principles of non-interference and the prohibition of use of force irrespective of the specific aims of the intervention in question and therefore 'even if the objectives of Uganda were not to overthrow President Kabila, and were directed to securing towns and airports for reason of its perceived needs'. Pustorino (2018) argue that Specifically determining which rules and principles of international law are violated in the case of external intervention in favor of insurgents obviously depends on the type of intervention undertaken in favor of the insurgents – direct or indirect, military or economic intervention, etc. – as well as the other characteristics of the intervention in terms especially of duration and intensity of the foreign action. From a general perspective it is arguable that if military intervention is most likely to amount to a violation of the principle that prohibits the use of force in international relations, economic intervention or even significant political support (for example, early recognition of the insurrectionary movement) could amount to a violation of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of the country in a state of civil war.

5. Materials and Methods

5.1 Approaches of the study

To achieve the underlined objectives that the researcher set, the qualitative research approach overrides the quantitative one for a variety of reasons. First of all, as Creswell (2003) argued, the qualitative approach is the best remedy to deal with why the question of external intervention in armed conflict in northern Ethiopia, which are the basic objects/questions of the research study. Besides this approach enabled me to interpret the meaning, history, and experiences rather than describing those incommensurable issues which are difficult to be presented in quantitative terms (Given, 2008). Thus, this research is following a qualitative approach since it tried to explore the rationality and areas of intervention of the external actors.

5.2 Research design

This work is done by consuming and testing the main theories of state sovereignty using case studies. In our context, a case study is expected to be the appropriate research design to achieve our research objectives. As Gering (2007) stipulated, a case study is preferable usually when; the research is predominantly qualitative with research questions often lies on why and how, and the topic dealing with a single political question in a holistic manner (comprehensive examination of the topic), the topic is diffuse (case and context are difficult to distinguish), and when truth as well as knowledge is predominantly historically constructed. Accordingly, the above basic features of the case study fit my research topic so that sufficient details of information and responses are expected from our data sources (both primary &secondary) to effectively handle the underlined research questions .

The study population primarily comprises senior foreign ministry officials of Ethiopia, experts of peace and security, political science and international relations and diplomacy experts, and populations represented in the data collection instruments through key informant interviewees' interviews. A purposive sampling

technique was used. In any case, the number of individuals to participate in the investigations (interviews) is determined by the level of data saturation on two research questions.

5.3 Data Collection Instruments

In this study, a mixture of primary and secondary data was employed. Accordingly, data was collected through in-depth semi-structured interviews, exploring different primary documents, archival materials, textbooks, international treaties, foreign policy, and other official documents predominantly related to the objectives. In addition to interviews, relevant documents: different policies and agreements, archival materials, TV documentaries, and Newspapers presented in English other language, were critically assessed and analyzed to sufficiently address the research questions.

5.4 Data Analysis technique

While conducting various forms of data collection through interviews, and documents, I simultaneously transcribe them to smoothly conduct the thematic analysis procedure of investigation. Here, every detail of our data was arranged into themes so that the core activity in thematic analysis is to reformulate similar information presented by the data in similar categories to make it easy for analysis (Corbetta, 2003).

6. Discussions

6.1 Why do foreign states   interfere on the internal affairs of Ethiopia?

The main point of this session is to analyze the main driving factors that/shape the external actors of the Northern armed conflict in Ethiopia. Therefore, the researcher categorizes the rationality of the intervention of the external actors, and reasons are analyzed in each theme. These themes are; historical relations of the terrorist group, geo-political interest, Ethiopia's national pride losing the confidence of the Western and its opponents, Ethiopia speeding up the renewing Pan-Africanism, new rapprochement of Ethiopia and Eritrea, Ethiopia challenging the Western powers on the principles of non –interference on other sovereign states, and mismanagement of the political transitions.

6.1.1 Historical Relations of the terrorist group with Superpowers

According to the key informant interviewees, the rulers of Ethiopia from 1991-2018 was a rebel group in times of the Derg regime and it was sponsored its military logistics, military and political training from the West and from states which were categorized in the capitalism for countering response of socialism blocks and pro – Egypt Arab countries. The birth of the TPLF was from the ideas of the West and high political investment was held to its infant level. Lastly, it grew its militant power and sized the center political power and it served the Western superpowers as the vein of patron–client relationship to the Western, Ethiopia, and the Horn of Africa. This implies that while the political decay happened in Ethiopia during TPLF rule, they attempted to continue its status quo and this historical relation forced the external powers to intervene in the armed conflict of northern Ethiopia and back the terrorist group.

6.1.2 Geo-political interest

Ethiopia is the largest country in Eastern Africa in its human population and geographical size. Based on this fact the key informant interviewee forwarded that Ethiopia is the potential country for the world superpowers (USA, France, and Britain …) and the growing power (Russia turkey, china) for searching for a market for their products and services.

On the other hand, the superpowers and the growing powers are moving and creating a new cold war base on the balance of power is creating militarization, and securitization approaches for which Ethiopia is a

very strategic area in the Horn of Africa and not of the region's state is balancing Ethiopia, unlike the cold war which mantled based on political economy ideologies.

Hydro politics of Nile and maintaining the status quo of Egypt and its allies; most of the pro-Egypt states are attempting to delay and suspend the GERD project in its water reservoirs filling and construction. This issue was anchored clearly on the USA and other states of pro-Egypt Africa like Tunisia based on the interviewee. The northern armed conflict was the fertile ground of the status quo propagators (natural right and historical) and attempted Ethiopia (equity and reasonably utilization propagators) to hamper and use the armed conflict as instrumental values for maintaining the hydro hegemon status quo. However, Ethiopia is countering the status quo by employing the counter hydro-hegemony strategy by implementing the water development projects and standing on equity, seasonality, and equality principles and challenging the down riparian states on the international platforms and down riparian also take the security council of UN and they miss led the veto powers to their reality of conception. For this counter-response, the Western also blamed the government for war crimes and left the TPLF as an 'innocent personality".

The other key informant addresses the issue that the Red Sea is the central power of the world power full states that attract them in terms of competing economic interests where above 40% of the world trade route finds here to anchor their economic hegemon. The power full states are also competing in the area for militarization base and securitization of the World. So the area is strategic military and security interest of the power states of the world and newly growing hegemons states. They never demand Ethiopia to be strong and make allay with other states for this geopolitical strategies

6.1.3 Ethiopia's national pride loses the confidence of the Western and its opponents

Based on the informants in this paper the statehood history of Ethiopia is unique for all of the African states are created through colonial thesis and are the result of colonial legacy while Ethiopia developed its institution which stood for the victories of Ethiopia over the western and Nile sources scramblers. This sound argument recalled the Westerns as they developed the feeling of losing confidence and brightening the national pride of Ethiopia through unity and symbols of victory over the white it is an unforgettable remember of their history and attempting Ethiopia's historical revenge and manipulating any opportunities to weaken and make fragile Ethiopia so that the Northern Armed conflict is conducive for them. The particular USA is the result of colonial craft.

6.1.4 Ethiopia is speeding up the renewing Pan-Africanism

Based on the informants, Ethiopia is the reflection of liberty and sovereignty in the time of the anti-colonial movement of Africa, and today Ethiopia is also the driver of the pan- Africanism and attempting Africa to be free from political–economic repression and oppression of the Western powerful full states. Ethiopia is demanding representation of Africa in the Security Council of the UN and dismantling the Western neo-colonialism, oppression, and exploitation of Africa. This propagation is striving to dismantle the vein of patron–client relations between Western and Africa, through the exploitation of Africa by speeding up the veil of globalization in damping the market-fundamentalism to Africa, but the Northern Ethiopia Armed conflict made the pleasant to hamper Ethiopia and sponsoring the group of TPLF.

6.1.5 New Rapprochement of Ethiopia and Eritrea

The recent Ethio-Eritrea rapprochement has changed the long conflicts and hostilities into peaceful relations between the two countries in particular and the region in general. The informant strengthens this idea as the rapprochement could have far-reaching positive impacts on the two states and the entire region in economic, political, security, and social aspects. Ethiopia will maintain access to the sea. it will also make Ethiopia a

strategic state to horn on military, economic, and security issues and be growing into a hegemon, which threatens the competitors of the area. Ethiopia is challenging the Western powers on the principles of non – interference in other sovereign states. The government is striving to resolve the internal conflict through domestic laws and institutions of the land.

The government is attempting to be non-predatory and it is changing the status quo.

6.1.6 *Mismanagement of the political transitions*

Based on the informants of this study the political transition of Ethiopia traced in 2018 was very promising and it attracted domestic and external political actors .the transition was highly led by the mega politicians of the state who was considered the Engines of the reform and central force of the politics was lacked to disseminate as it was expected to the entire part of the state, which enables the militant group to strengthen the military power of the insurgent groups which was supported by the status quo leaders and the government's security apparatus was hijacked by the militant groups and served for the attention divert strategy of the TPLF to hide its human right crime and to shadow the promising political reform of the state.

6.2 *Areas of Intervention*

The Western intervene in the national politics of Ethiopia particularly in the 2021 general election of Ethiopia as it was not a free fair and periodic election they consider elected government was non-legitimate power to rule Ethiopia and the TPLF is better than the central government. They sponsored different insurgent groups in Ethiopia and made relations unilaterally With TPLF as it is legal personality by undermining the central government. The second area on the Economy is that the westerns take part Indirect support of illegal many trafficking to aggravate the shortage of dollars in NBE and ban Ethiopia from AGWA. The third area is military intervention; Supporting insurgents through propaganda, fakeness, use of cyber against GoE , training hosts in Kenya(OLF) and Sudan (TPLF). The fourth area is dismantling the Ethiopian proliferation of propaganda and supporting the TPLF by the actors of Actors; USG-EU alliance, Media, US organizations like USAID, some governments and government machinery from Africa eg KDF, IIS in Kenya, Sudan, BBC, Al-Arabiya, Al-Jazeera, CNN. They create Command and Control Fusion Center (C2FC) Running a Basma-like Campaign in Ethiopia. Methods and techniques developed in Project Basma, which was a regime change campaign conducted against the government of Syria.

7. Conclusion

This study attempts to analyze the interference of foreign actors in the internal affairs of Ethiopia in the case of the Northern Armed conflict. The rationality of foreign interference on the domestic political issues of Ethiopia by dismantling the government as it is non-legitimate and riding the popular sovereignty of Ethiopia and saving the status quo of the previous western-affiliated regime. The foreigners involved in a direct confrontation on Northern armed conflict by employing cyber security apparatus and competing to control digital diplomacy and discontented attempt to Ethiopia as violator state of international norms in Africa. International government organizations and humanitarian aid providers were prominent actors and implemented the intrusions. Geopolitical interests, the national and historical pride of Ethiopia, and negligence of political transition are galvanizing the attraction of external actors. The state should reverse these problems by revising foreign policy and diplomacy using pragmatic orientations, by considering the pitfall in preserving the national interests of the state rather than sustaining a political regime. The government should take lesson from the previous failed Ethiopian nationalism that never attracted the citizen to the center and made them to be fragile attention for nation building is highly recommendable.

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