

It is the Water, Stupid!

For hundreds of years Egypt's desire, even before its policy was articulated by Muzinger Pasha⁽¹⁾ the Swiss mercenary, has been: 'to occupy and Islamize Ethiopia, or that failing, to keep it in perpetual poverty and misery....'* This is done to prevent Ethiopia develop its rivers by irrigation, and thereby reducing the flow of the Nile reaching Egypt.

Through the ages this policy has been successfully implemented in various ways and means, and we even saw in our own lifetime how Ethiopia suffered drought, secessionist wars, poverty, and famine, all engineered directly or indirectly, by Cairo. Throughout all that time Egypt has been developing and prospering at the expense of Ethiopia.

Recently a flurry of letter writing campaigns were carried out by some European nations (France, Italy, et. al.), expressing a totally unfounded 'environmental concern' with the evil intention of blocking loans earmarked for the Gibe Gilgel III Dam. Behind these letter writing campaigns, we are sure, is our eternal enemy, Egypt! Egypt lives in mortal fear of Ethiopia building dams and drying up the Nile, a fear which is totally unfounded.

The amount in question, \$400 million US, a small fry in the scheme of such projects, is for a loan negotiated with the US financial giant, JP Morgan Chase. Unlike coal, diesel, or nuclear power, hydro-electric plants are among the cleanest and most environmentally friendly. So, where is the beef? What concerns could they be expressing? Could it be the environmental concerns of Egypt? What a shameful travesty of justice, truth and fairness!

With the letter writing strategy Cairo is pursuing its long standing policy '...of keeping Ethiopia in perpetual poverty and misery...' So, I personally contacted representatives of JP Morgan Chase and told them I would cut my Chase Credit Card in half and close my account, should Ethiopia be denied the loan. Every concerned Ethiopian should also do the same, and I would be happy to share the address and other relevant information.

What I am interested in here, however, is to ask my fellow Ethiopian Moslem brothers and sisters what they think of this long standing policy of Egypt against our mother land. Is there any justification for it? Has Ethiopia ever wronged or harmed Egypt in any way that our country should forever be hampered in its development, and impoverished?

Famine and poverty are not selective. Both Moslems and Christians, men and women, young and old, starve to death in a famine. So, can anyone make sense of a policy that states: "Egypt should occupy and Islamize Ethiopia or..."? Does Egypt think Ethiopian Moslems are either stupid, or such religious zealots that they would sit and watch quietly as our rivers flow down the Nile for Egypt's prosperity, while their families starve? Can our Moslem brothers and sisters speak up on this policy?



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Notes

1. Muzinger Pasha, working for Kediw Ismael of Egypt and for the Ottoman Turks, was appointed governor of Southern Sudan, and tried to destabilize Ethiopia in various ways in the Nineteenth Century.

*** The Nile: Historical, Legal and Developmental Perspectives by Gebre Tsadik Degefu**