



The Rise and Fall of the Solomonic Dynasty of Ethiopia

Is the *Kebrä Nagast* a
Time-Bound Document?

About the Book:

The Rise and Fall of the Solomonic Dynasty of Ethiopia reveals the importance of the *Kebrä Nagast*, *The Glory of the Kings*, which seems to have both legitimized and influenced the political structure of the Ethiopian monarchy. The *Kebrä Nagast* serves as a text that validates the monarchy of the Solomonic Dynasty in Ethiopia, whose origins are purportedly King Solomon the Wise and the Queen of Sheba, resulting in the birth of Menelik I. The *Kebrä Nagast* serves as an important piece of literature for Ethiopians because it contains the myth of the founding of the nation of Ethiopia, and remained a legitimizing document of the Ethiopian monarchy until the end of the reign of Haile Sellassie I. This book attempts to analyze this text, well known and understood by Ethiopian scholars, theologians, as well as the uneducated peasants in the countryside, to examine the successes and downfalls of the political history of Ethiopia.

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About the Author:

Dr. Gizachew Tiruneh is an associate professor of political science at the University of Central Arkansas, U.S.A. His teaching interests include comparative politics (e.g., democratization, African politics, and Middle East politics), international relations (e.g., globalization), and political methodology. His research interests include democratic theory and measurement, socioeconomic development, academic performance, and Ethiopian political history. Dr. Tiruneh has published several journal articles and is the author of the book, *When is Democracy Normal? The Relation to Demography, Market Economy, and Globalization* (The Edwin Mellen Press, 2008). He has also published a memoir, *On the Run in the Blue Nile / Nefis Adin Rucha BeAbay Sheleko / ነፍስ አድን ሩጫ በግብይ ሸለቆ*, about his political persecution during the military/communist regime of Ethiopia. His memoir is published in both English and Amharic languages (Create Space, U.S.A., 2014; Afro Printing Press, Ethiopia, 2015).

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Gizachew Tiruneh has done extensive research on the history and essence of the *Kebra Nagast*, which for millennia formed and helped shape the Ethiopian psyche and political development. What are the insights gleaned from this ancient epic and does it apply to today's challenges? One lesson is clear and that is that the *Kebra Nagast* is a repository of great wisdom.
 — **Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie**, President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia

I found *The Rise and Fall of the Solomonic Dynasty* by Gizachew Tiruneh a fascinating book. The depth and breadth of the subject tackled within it are simply breathtaking. The dexterity and delicacy displayed by the author in dealing with such highly controversial matter as the future of the monarchy in Ethiopia is admirable. In a time of intellectual dishonesty in which we seem to live, it can be equated to bravery.
 — **Dr. Getachew Mekasha**, Founding President of Moa Anbessa

This book is based on a thorough research and a sound analysis of the history of Ethiopia's royal rulers, or the Solomonic dynasty, who were descendants of King Solomon of Jerusalem and Queen Sheba, or Makeda of Ethiopia. Students of history and those interested in learning about Ethiopia's long and rich history could enormously benefit from this book.
 —**Prof. Getachew Metaferia**, Professor of Political Science, Morgan State University

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