

Aspects of Homogeneity and Heterogeneity of the Ethiopian Regional States and Some Implications

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ABSTRACT:

This paper attempts to evaluate the present Regional States of Ethiopia from the standpoint of their degree of homogeneity. The regional states are the “meso-governments” that have direct link to the Federal State and are its major building blocks. It is assumed that some degree of homogeneity is in order for efficient provision of services. First, the Central Place Theory (CPT), which is one of the relevant principles of territorial structure for the provision of goods and services; agropolitan district development, which advocates rural development within an appropriately combined territory-population size; and globalization, which is a process impacting on spatial structures at the global level are briefly discussed. In addition, some empirical examples of territorial administrative reforms processes, mainly from Europe, are given. These three principles and the empirical examples are invoked here to serve as benchmarks for our regional states evaluation. Secondly, the historical evolution of Ethiopia’s administrative subdivisions is presented to put the discussion in a historical setting. Thirdly, the present regional states are analyzed from the viewpoint of their homogeneity or heterogeneity degree on the bases of some available physical and socio-economic measures. Lastly, some implications are alluded.

Key words: Ethiopia, regional states (kilel), homogeneity-heterogeneity, ethnicity.

1. INTRODUCTION

We shall briefly discuss the rationale for dividing countries into sub-units and invoke two principles that explain how such subdivisions should be effected under ideal conditions. The empirical evidences included under sections 1.1 and 1.2 demonstrate how actual division into sub-units is effected. Globalization, which is at times assumed to have a nullifying effect on local level spatial structure, is also considered. Then,