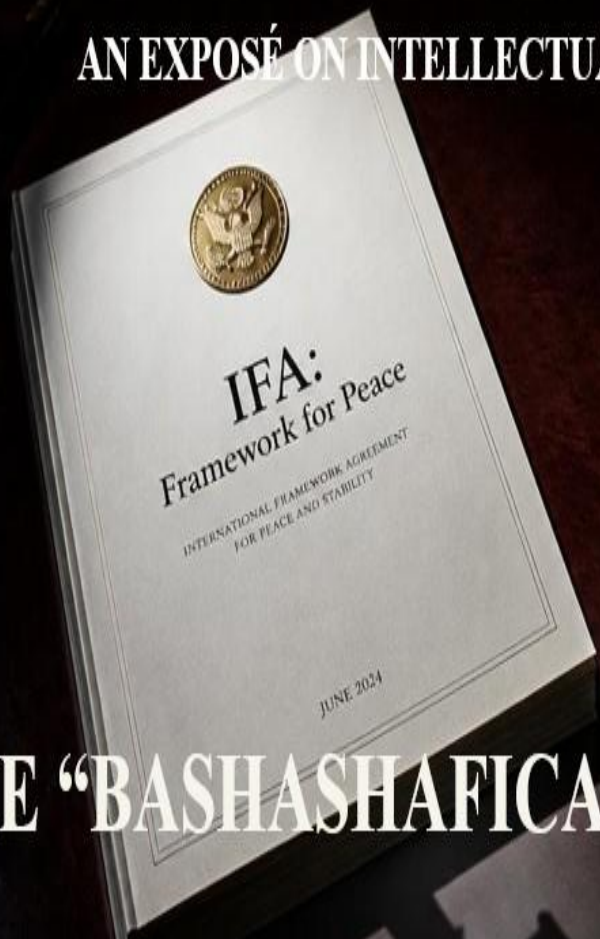


AN EXPOSÉ ON INTELLECTUAL PROXY WARFARE



THE “BASHASHAFICATION” OF PEACE

Unmasking the IFA as the Intellectual Proxy of Ethiopia’s Genealogy of Aggression

Dr. Gebre Gebremariam

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Preface: Unmasking the Intellectual Camouflage of Ethiopian Expansionism

The struggle for Eritrean sovereignty has entered a new and increasingly insidious phase. Beyond the direct threats of military adventurism and the violation of international treaties, the current Ethiopian administration under Abiy Ahmed has deployed a surrogate infrastructure of "independent" voices to sanitize its belligerent agenda. It is no longer sufficient to merely monitor the official statements of the Ethiopian state; we must now confront the sophisticated network of proxies - self-styled think tanks, state-embedded academia, and co-opted social media influencers - who operate as the intellectual wing of Ethiopia's "Genealogy of Aggression."

Chief among these entities is the so-called Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA). While masquerading as an objective policy research institution, the IFA functions in reality as a strategic arm of the Abiy regime, tasked with providing a "scholarly" veneer to what is fundamentally an illegal assault on the sovereign rights of the Eritrean people. Their publications are not products of rigorous inquiry but are instead blueprints for "Bashashafication" - the systematic manufacture of revisionist truths designed to justify the "Red Sea Access Gambit" and the dismantling of established borders.

The "Framework" recently issued by the IFA is a prime example of this sinister practice. By framing the violation of Eritrean sovereignty as a "precondition for peace" and reviving long-settled grievances under the guise of "regional architecture," they seek to normalize the unthinkable. These groups represent a "Potemkin academia" that masks the internal decay and state failure of Ethiopia by projecting expansionist fantasies outward.

It is a moral and intellectual imperative that these groups be identified for what they are: state agents and facilitators of aggression. To allow their revisionist narratives to go unchallenged is to permit the slow erosion of the international legal order. The following rebuttal is offered not merely as a response to a single document, but as a systematic deconstruction of the broader Ethiopian strategy of intellectual proxy warfare. In the face of such calculated deception, "the devil must get its due." We must confront these revisionist myths with the hard light of historical truth and the inviolable principles of sovereign equality.

The statement released on May 25, 2026, by the Addis Ababa – based Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) – titled [“Ethiopia–Eritrea Relations: Framework for Sustainable Peace in the Horn of Africa”](#) – is not an olive branch. It is a calculated manifesto of “Bashashafication,” a process by which the Ethiopian state manufactures revisionist truths to justify its expansionist ambitions (Gebremariam 2026). Under the guise of “policy research,” the IFA has constructed an intellectual scaffold for the dismantling of Eritrean sovereignty.

This document is a sinister ploy, a “Potemkin framework” designed to provide academic cover for what is effectively a declaration of intent for regional hegemony. To understand the danger this statement poses, one must deconstruct it through the lens of Ethiopia’s long-standing “Genealogy of Aggression” (Gebremariam 2025b).

The “Normalization” Trap: A Blueprint for Sovereignty Infringement

The IFA’s “First Pillar” calls for the “Normalization of the Eritrean state” as a precondition for peace. This



is a profound violation of the most sacred principles of international law. By demanding that Eritrea alter its domestic administrative structures and national service policies to suit Addis Ababa’s preferences, the IFA is advocating for a direct breach of **Article 2(7) of the UN Charter** – which forbids intervention in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any state – and **Article 4(f) of the African Union Constitutive Act**, which mandates non-interference by Member States in the internal affairs of another (Gebremariam 2025j).

The audacity of a neighbor demanding the restructuring of a sovereign state’s internal governance is what I have termed “political rudeness of the highest order” (Gebremariam 2025j). This is not

diplomacy; it is an attempt to establish a “suzerain – vassal” relationship. The IFA statement reveals that Ethiopia does not view Eritrea as a sovereign equal, but as a territory in need of “correction” to satisfy Ethiopian strategic needs.

The Red Sea Access Gambit and the Assab Obsession

The inclusion of a “maritime and logistics agreement” regarding the Port of Assab in the IFA’s “Second Pillar” is the centerpiece of their expansionist agenda. As my research has demonstrated, Assab is the “Cradle of Eritrean National Identity”



(Gebremariam 2025o). It is not a commodity for trade, nor is it a “contested grievance” (Gebremariam 2025d).

The IFA characterizes the 1993 referendum and the loss of the sea as “contested grievances on the Ethiopian side.” This is a dangerous exercise in “state amnesia” (Gebremariam 2025f). By giving legitimacy to these revisionist claims, the IFA is actively undermining the Algiers Agreement and the final and binding rulings of the Eritrea–Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC). Ethiopia’s rhetoric regarding “Red Sea access” is a mirage – a tool used to weaponize public ignorance and mobilize the Ethiopian masses toward an illegal annexationist path (Gebremariam 2025g, 2025n).

The Potemkin State: Scapegoating Eritrea for Domestic Failure

The IFA statement characterizes Eritrea as a “strategic threat” to Ethiopian stability.



This is a classic inversion of reality. The true threat to regional stability is the internal collapse of the Ethiopian “Potemkin State” – a facade of prosperity masking a reality of ethnic fragmentation and administrative incompetence (Gebremariam 2025m).

When the Ethiopian state faces internal revolt or economic stagnation, it reverts to its historical “Genealogy of Aggression,” using Eritrea as a convenient scapegoat (Gebremariam 2025b, 2025n). The IFA’s claim that Eritrean “interference” is responsible for the unraveling of the Pretoria Agreement is a cynical attempt to externalize Ethiopia’s own failure to implement domestic peace. As I have argued, it is Ethiopia’s assault on the sovereignty of its neighbors – including both Eritrea and Somalia – that has turned it into an “aggressor host,” disqualified from the privilege of hosting the African Union (Gebremariam 2025e, 2025c).

The Franco – German Analogy: A False Equivalence

The IFA proposes a “long-term institutional partnership” modeled on the post-war Franco–German rapprochement. This comparison is fundamentally flawed and intellectually dishonest. The Franco–German model was built on the absolute and mutual respect for existing borders and the total renunciation of territorial claims.

In contrast, the Ethiopian state, as evidenced by Abiy Ahmed’s parliament speeches and this IFA document, continues to treat Eritrean coastal territories as a “lost”

Ethiopian province (Gebremariam 2025l). One cannot build a “community” with a partner that holds a knife to your throat while claiming your backyard belongs to them. The IFA’s “three-pillar framework” is not about integration; it is about the “soft annexation” of Eritrea through economic and institutional entanglement (Gebremariam 2025g).

Conclusion: The Inviolable Red Line

The IFA statement of May 25, 2026, is a “hollow statement” because it refuses to acknowledge the one thing necessary for peace: the absolute, unconditional respect for Eritrean sovereignty and territorial integrity as defined by international law and the EEBC.

Sustainable peace in the Horn of Africa does not require a “normalization of Eritrea.” It requires a **normalization of the Ethiopian state**. Ethiopia must:

- Abandon the “Red Sea Access Gambit” and the revisionist claim that it has a right to Eritrean ports (Gebremariam 2025a, 2025o).
- Uphold **Article 4(b) of the AU Charter**, respecting borders inherited at independence.
- Cease the “Bashashafication” of history and stop using Eritrea as a tool for “revisionist scapegoating” to mask its own internal decay (Gebremariam 2026, 2025n).

Eritrea has already sacrificed immensely for regional stability, often with “unreciprocated cost” (Gebremariam 2025k). Our sovereignty is not a bargaining chip, and the Red Sea is an “inviolable red line” (Gebremariam 2025d). The international community must see the IFA document for what it is: a sophisticated roadmap for aggression disguised as a framework for peace.

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