

## Homework 1 Solar Power Africa Due August 28, 2021

Watch the movie Parts 1,2,3,4 (15 min each)

<https://www.eng.uc.edu/~beaucag/Classes/SolarPowerForAfrica/Linktovideo.html>

(fast forward through parts that don't interest you)

and this recent clip about the situation in Ethiopia through which the students travel in part 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0cYHw-joZI>

Prior to the recent news from Ethiopia, the last time the US and Europe showed any interest in Ethiopia was in 1985 with the "Live Aid" concert that your parents or grandparents may remember:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live\\_Aid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live_Aid)

The "Live Aid" concert was aimed at relieving a famine in the same region of Ethiopia, Tigray, for basically the same political reasons, political uprising of the Tigray, a small but historically relevant part of Ethiopia, against the centralized government.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1983-1985\\_famine\\_in\\_Ethiopia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1983-1985_famine_in_Ethiopia)

In 1985 a brutal dictatorship aligned with the USSR, "the Derg" led by Mengistu, was fighting an insurgency (the TPLF) in the mountains of Tigray. (The US was sided with Somalia but didn't play a significant role in Ethiopia.) With the fall of the USSR in 1991 the Derg fell and the TPLF took over Ethiopia to lead a less brutal autocratic government aligned with the US until a few years ago with the arrival of Abiy Ahmed, who is seen by most Ethiopians as the Nelson Mandela of Ethiopia. To the US government Ahmed is seen as a second Mengistu (who is still alive in exile in Zimbabwe). The US plays only a cursory role in Ethiopia.

- 1) The movie shows a naïve view of Africa as a single "problem" for which a solution could be found. In the context of the Tigray uprising compare what you think our role should be compared to the ideal US role that might be inferred from the movie.
- 2) Consider that a small region of the US, Florida, decided to hold presidential elections on their own to form a separate government after declaring that the US government was illegitimate and they proceeded to take over Homestead and Patrick Air Force Bases, the nuclear facilities in Pensacola and NASA. If the US sent troops to regain control over Florida (about 7% of our population similar to Tigray's fraction of Ethiopia) with the assistance of Cuba (a former enemy) would it be appropriate for the Chinese press to argue in favor of Florida? Who would be responsible for civilian casualties?
- 3) Prior to the recent political unrest, Ethiopia had fifth fastest economic growth rate in the world at 10% per year. This was largely driven by Chinese investment. The US role was negligible. China has developed strong and deep links to African countries building the African Union headquarters in Addis, and interstate highway systems in East and

West Africa as well as highspeed rail and subway systems in Ethiopia and other African countries. What do you think is the motivation of China with these investments? Compare your thoughts with those of the students in the movie.

- 4) Strategically, what should be the US interaction, if any, with sub-Saharan Africa.