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## The Making of the **Oromo Diaspora**

### A Historical Sociology of Forced Migration

by Mekuria Bulcha, P.h.D.

Dr. Mekuria documents the diaspora of the Oromo people from Northeast Africa to locations around the world. The author identifies the roots of the diaspora in forced migration caused by the Red Sea slave trade and in repressive regimes since the creation of the Ethiopian Empire at the end of the nineteenth century. He discusses the links between the Red Sea slave trade, acquisitions of firearms by the Amhara-Tigrean rulers, and the creation of the Ethiopian Empire.

The documentation of the involvement of both Muslims and Christians in the Red slave trade provides an insight into the history of Northeast Africa which has not, heretofore, been widely known. Furthermore, the book provides interesting comparisons between slavery in Middle Eastern Islamic and Western “Christian” countries.

The author highlights the contributions of the diasporate Oromo to the development of written Oromo literature, literacy in the Oromo language, and the spread of evangelical Christianity in Ethiopia. He identifies contemporary world-wide organizations through which Oromo communities interact with each other, and the implicit and explicit ties they maintain with their homeland.

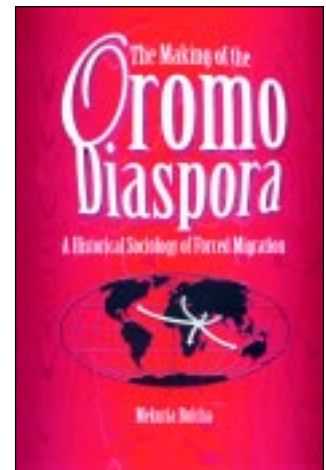
The book also is about the plight of the uprooted, including their aspirations, resignations, and inner power to fight for survival. Students of African history and the slave trade will find this book a valuable source of information. The Oromo people will find an insight into their ethnic and cultural roots.

#### *The Making of the Oromo Diaspora*

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*The Making of the Oromo Diaspora*  
A Historical Sociology of Forced Migration

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Mekuria is also the author of *Flight and Integration: Causes of Mass Exodus from Ethiopia and Problems of Integration in the Sudan*. Nordic Institute of African Studies, Uppsala, 1988. He has contributed numerous chapters to other books and articles to international journals. He is the founder and editor of *The Oromo Commentary: Bulletin for Critical Analysis of Current Affairs in the Horn of Africa*.

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