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## ERITREA:

### A PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY

by

Kassahun Checole

At a time when the Eritrean peoples' struggle for national liberation and independence has made fresh and successive advances, it becomes increasingly necessary to have a clear understanding of its socio-economic and historical dimensions and origins. It is probable that such an understanding can adequately combat the concerted false propoganda of the Western media that has for so long projected the Eritrean peoples struggle as that of secession, religious-conflict, etc.

The materials compiled in this preliminary bibliography might serve this purpose, but in general, they remain far from adequate. As it is, they can be roughly classified into three parts. First, an assortment of materials of colonial origins, largely from colonial anthropologists and other sympathizing social-scientists. Then there is the large collection of contemporary political writings, mainly journalistic reports and accounts of official positions on the question of "disposal" of the former Italian colonies. Finally, there are smaller but succinct accounts, original documents and war-front reports by the Eritrean Liberation Fronts and their supporters. The latter, of course, speak more responsibly and concisely on the history and present conditions of the Eritrean peoples' struggle.

Fourteen years after the armed struggle began in Eritrea, making it one of the longest protracted wars of national liberation in Africa, it still remains vaguely understood. The few texts that are entirely devoted to Eritrean history and social conditions (at least in the English language) originate from ex-colonial administrators who are apt to recount their own and the political evaluation of their governments. I am not aware of any major text that portrays Eritrean economic, political and social history from the perspectives of the Eritrean people.

It is hoped that this preliminary compilation of materials on Eritrea in the English language, will encourage further study and research; especially among Eritrean combatants and scholars.

Note on Sources: This preliminary bibliography was compiled from varied sources. The two or three major books on Eritrea include very little bibliographic notes. On the other hand, a careful check of the footnotes in articles and other materials have given me valuable leads.

Becker's book, *The Disposition of the Italian Colonies, 1941-1951*, has an invaluable bibliography of materials on the question of "disposal". D.H. Varley's *A Bibliography of Italian Colonisation in Africa*, is an extensive compilation, however, it is basically limited to the pre-1936 period.

The following abstracts, bibliographies and indexes were also consulted with varying results. Often, the listing of materials on Eritrea in such sources is disappointingly scanty. *African Abstracts*, *British Humanities Index*, *Current Bibliography on African Affairs*, *International African Bibliography*, *International African Institute: Cumulative Bibliography of African Studies*, *Library Catalog of the Hoover Institute*, *Library of Congress: African South of the Sahara*, *Index to Periodical Literature*, *School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London: Library Catalogue*, *Subject Catalogue of the Royal Commonwealth Society* and several other catalogs and indexes.

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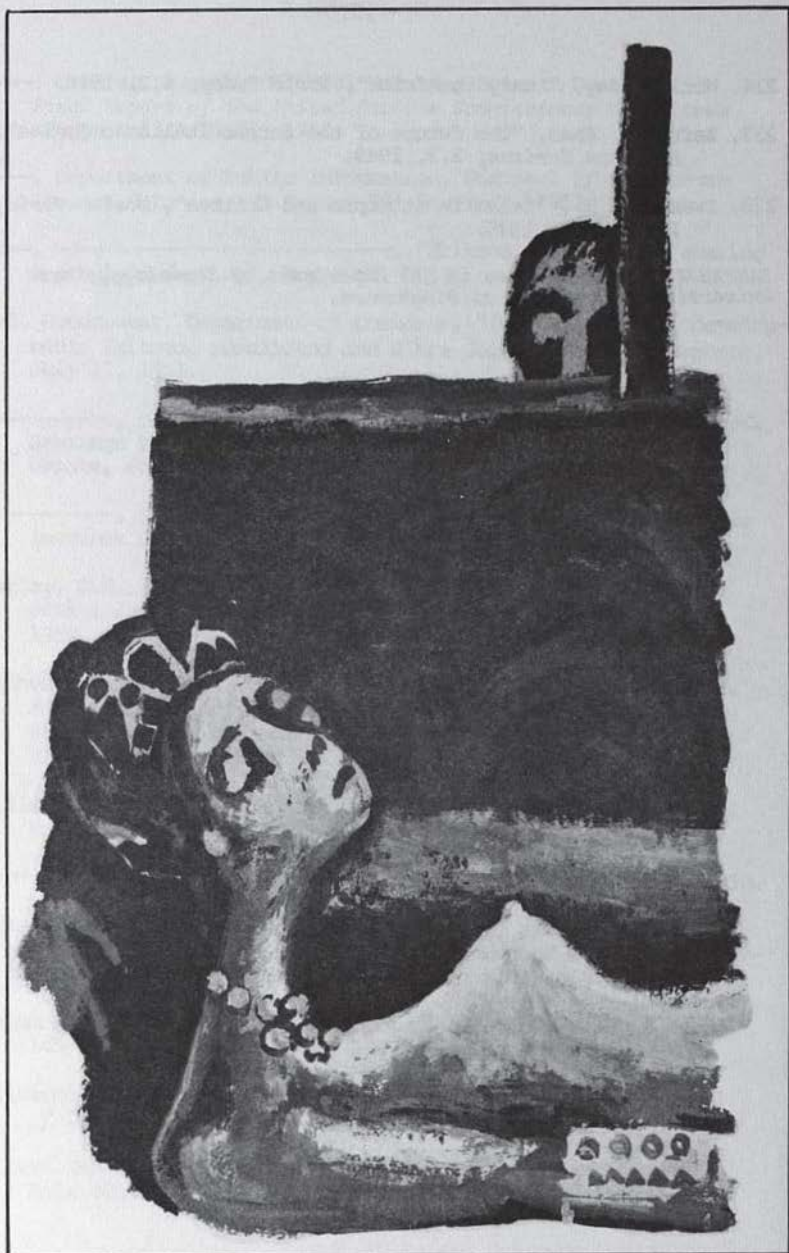


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