

## The Oromo versus Big Government

In Shakespeare's time, power was concentrated in the monarchy, and decentralization was thought of as dangerous and immoral. This is evident in *King Lear*, as the division of power between the daughters results in a tragic ending. In our current world, centralization remains an important issue. Nation states continue to oppress ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples, often with other powers involved. (?)

One example is the oppression of the Oromo people in Ethiopia. The Oromos live in the region of Oromia, one of the most agriculturally rich regions in the Horn of Africa. In the 19th century, they were colonized by the Ethiopian government and lost much of their previous independence. Despite being the largest ethnic group in Ethiopia, the Oromo have been subject to discriminatory injustices. The Oromo Liberation Front, formed in 1973, wished to establish an independent Oromia state. However, the government has used the actions of their armed division as an excuse to suppress the entire Oromo population. There are an estimated 20,000 Oromo political prisoners, often arrested for speaking out. The conditions in these prisons are inhumane, with Amnesty International documenting the use of torture as a means of obtaining information. Most recently, on June 29, the assassination of Haacaaluu Hundeesaa, an Oromo musician and civil rights activist, has sparked protests in the region as well as all over the world. The Ethiopian government has since then arrested many political figures and journalists, killed protestors, shut down the Oromo Media Network, and blocked internet and phone services. Although Oromos are often associated with secessionism, many Oromos simply wish to build an Ethiopia that recognizes its diversity and various ethnic groups.

The Ethiopian government has also provided lease of lands to various land grabbers. This was because of food insecurity, and previously failed land policies in remote parts of the country. In 2010, the government leased 300,000 hectares of land to Karuturi Global, an Indian company, with the hope of "development" at the expense of displacing the indigenous population in the area. However, the investor did not cultivate more than a few thousand hectares. Despite this, the Ethiopian government leased 28,000 hectares to the same company in 2018, leading to outrage among indigenous organisations.

## Active Separatist Movements in North America

Rank	Movement Name	People	Proposed Status
1	Anishinaabe	Algonquin, Mississaugas, Odawa, Oji-Cree, Ojibwe, Potawatomi	Anishinaabak
2	Alberta	Albertans	Independent All
3	Alaska	Alaskans	Independent A
4	Bermuda	Bermudans	Independent I
5	California	Californians	Independent C

	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Movement Name</b>	<b>People</b>	<b>Proposed Sta</b>
	6	Cascadia	British Columbia and the Pacific Northwestern US	Cascadia
	7	Confederate States of America	Southerners	Independent C America
	8	Greeland	Greenlanders	Independent C
	9	Hawaii	Hawaiians	Nation of Hav
	10	Lakotah	Lakotah	Republic of L
	11	Martinique	Martinican	Independent M
	12	Mosquito	Miskito	Communitari
	13	New England	New Englanders	Independent M
	14	New Hampshire	New Hampshirite	Independent M
	15	Newfoundland and Labrador	Newfoundlanders	Independent M
	16	Nova Scotia	Nova Scotians	Independent M
	17	Nunavut	Inuit	Indepdent Nu
	18	Puerto Rico	Puerto Ricans	Independent I
	19	Quebec	Quebecois/e	Independent C
	20	Saskatchewan	Saskatchewanians	Indepedenent
	21	Texas	Texans	Republic of T
	22	Vermont	Vermonters	Vermont Rep
	23	Zapatista	Chiapas Mayas	Independent C