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Editorial

ITYOPIS, a name rooted in ancient history, reflects the interconnectedness that has long characterized northeastern Africa. Tigray, a vital space within this region, has played a significant role in forging the region's cultural, economic, and political visages.

Historically, Tigray served as a crossroads for trade routes in the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean. This strategic location facilitated the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultural values. Tigray's rich archaeological heritage and ancient rock-hewn churches testify to its role as a cultural and religious flourishing hub.

Sadly, Tigray has also faced significant challenges, including conflict, poverty, and environmental degradation. The region, long grappling with endemic poverty and socio-economic challenges, has been further ravaged by the recent devastating two-year civil war between the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the Regional State of Tigray. This brutal civil war, which involved foreign forces siding with the Ethiopian federal government, has displaced millions, left many orphaned and traumatized, and caused severe environmental degradation. As a result, this tragic event has left a deep wound on the nation's collective psyche.

As we navigate the intricate challenges of postwar Tigray, *ITYOPIS*, the Northeast African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities based at Mekelle University, aims to explore the impact of these challenges on the region and contribute to efforts to build a more just, equitable, and sustainable future for Tigray, and by extension, for Ethiopia and northeastern Africa as a whole.

By focusing on the social sciences and humanities, *ITYOPIS* seeks to illuminate the diverse perspectives and experiences that have shaped Tigray, while emphasizing the unity and shared

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connections that tie the region to Ethiopia and northeastern Africa. The journal is committed to fostering interdisciplinary research that bridges the gap between different fields of study, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of Tigray's cultural, historical, and economic role in Ethiopia and northeastern Africa.

Furthermore, as northeastern Africa continues to grapple with the complex challenges of globalization and current geopolitical tensions, *ITYOPIS* offers a vital space for critical reflection and dialogue.

Finally, by fostering a vibrant intellectual community, *ITYOPIS* aspires to be a leading voice in the field of northeastern African studies.