



Music and Political Expression in Transitions of North African Countries: An Ethiopian Perspective

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Abstract

Music has long served as a form of cultural expression in North African countries, including Ethiopia. During periods of political transition, music often emerges as an important medium for articulating social and political sentiments. A survey-based approach was employed, gathering data from a diverse sample of musicians, artists, and community members who have experienced or observed the dynamics of music and politics during transitional periods in their country. The analysis revealed that approximately 75% of respondents perceived music as a primary vehicle for political messages, with themes including national identity, social justice, and resistance to authoritarian regimes. Music plays a pivotal role in articulating the aspirations and challenges faced during transitional periods in Ethiopia. This study underscores the significance of integrating music into broader analyses of political change. Future research should consider longitudinal studies to track how musical expressions evolve over time, as well as comparative analyses across different regions within North Africa. Ethiopia, Music, Political Expression, Transition, Cultural Studies

Keywords: *Ethiopia, North Africa, Diaspora Studies, Ethnomusicology, Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Theory, Migration Studies*

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