

## **RENOVATING AFRICAN ANTIQUITY: THE GIFT OF WOLAITA CIVILIZATION TO THE NEAR EAST**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This article explores socio-political innovation of Omotic speaking people of Wolaita and its resemblance with ancient Egyptian civilization. The article examines the origin of pre-dynastic Egypt in relation to Wolaita's Omo River Valley Civilization and its northwestern dominion to discover the epicenter where indigenous African values had been defused to the Near East. The major purpose of this article is to disprove the pro-Christian historical discourse which suggests that all ancient civilizations of Ethiopia belongs to Semitic immigrants of Arabia who came to Africa with a superior culture. As antithesis of pro-Christian historical rhetoric, this article argued that pre-Sabeian civilizations of Ethiopia such as Wolaita, with its shared socio-political values to pre-dynastic Egyptian civilization, have antecedence to the Near Eastern civilizations. To rationalize the actuality of Wolaita's precedence in the ancient civilization, archaeological evidences, linguistic facts, clan structure, oral traditions and living culture of the people have been consulted through interview and field work. Finally, the primary and secondary sources have been analyzed systematically and interpreted through the historical data analysis method to declare that the indigenous people of Wolaita were an architects of the most sophisticated institutions such as the belief in subprime god (Monotheism), ancient system of administration (Divine kingship) and early form of art of writing (Wolaitic Petroglyphs) before it had been defused to the Near Eastern societies including Semitic Arabia before 13,000BP.

**Keywords:** Omotic, Wolaita, Egypt, Near East , enset, , monotheism, divine king, art of writing.