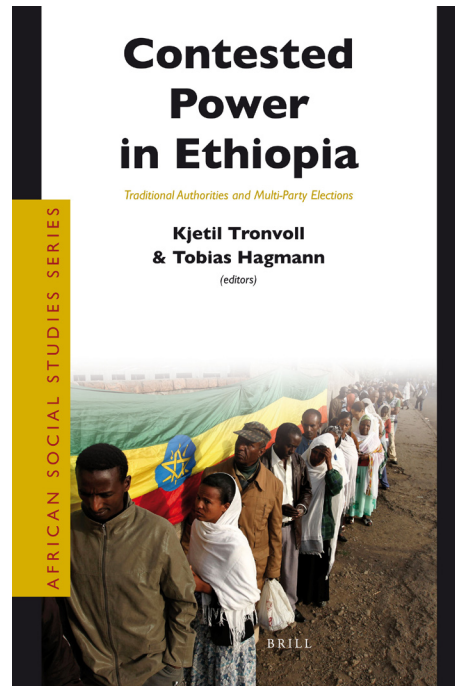


# Contested Power in Ethiopia

## *Traditional Authorities and Multi-Party Elections*

Edited by Kjetil Tronvoll and Tobias Hagmann



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This book offers a comparative ethnography of the contested powers that shape democratization in Ethiopia. Although multi-party elections have become the norm in Africa, relatively little is known about the significance of non-state actors such as traditional authorities in electioneering. Focusing on Ethiopia's competitive 2005 elections, this book analyzes how customary leaders, political parties and state officials confronted and complemented each other during election time. Case studies reveal the contemporaneity of traditional authorities in modern politics, but also how multi-party competition reproduces traditional relations of domination among ethnic groups. The book documents the importance of customary authority in selecting party candidates and providing legitimacy to political parties, but also their limitations in a country dominated by a semi-authoritarian party-state.

Readership: Anthropologists, political scientists and development practitioners interested in democratization, multi-party politics, electoral studies and the study of power and politics in Africa and Ethiopia.

Kjetil Tronvoll, PhD (2003) in political anthropology from LSE, is professor of human rights at the University of Oslo and Senior Partner of the International Law and Policy Institute. He has published extensively on the Horn of Africa, and his latest monograph is *War and the Politics of Identity in Ethiopia* (James Currey, 2009).

Tobias Hagmann, Ph.D. (2007), University of Lausanne, is a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley. He has published on politics in the Horn of Africa and is co-editor of *Negotiating Statehood: Dynamics of Power and Domination in Africa* (Wiley Blackwell, 2011).



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