Key Terms:

1. *Civil Society*: A fundamental part of the democratic system; a culmination of political and non-political activity within the private culture of a given society.
2. *Honorary Recipient*: Any individual who, prior to the establishment of the Ibrahim Foundation, would have qualified under the Selection Board's criteria for being a recipient of the Ibrahim Prize. These individuals do not receive the monetary award associated with the actual Ibrahim Prize, but do attain an honorary membership on the Selection Board.
3. *Ibrahim Prize for African Leadership and Achievement*: An award established by the Ibrahim Foundation in 2007, which, generally, seeks to recognize African heads-of-state who rule transparently, democratically, and effectively. The award includes a seat upon the Selection Board, as well as a monetary prize (the largest in the world). This prize will be, hereinafter, referred to as the "Ibrahim Prize."
4. *Ideological View*: As used in the context of this essay, refers to one's overriding view on life and governance, and how that should be practically applied.
5. *Liberal*: One who endorses a line of thinking that is "left" on the European political spectrum. Typically, liberals endorse democracy, and denounce tradition as a theoretical framework to run society.
6. *Liberal-Democrat*: An ideological view-point which endorses liberal-democracy, equality amongst people within a society, and encouragement for a strong civil society.
7. *Practical Recipient*: Any individual who has received the Ibrahim prize after the foundation of the award itself; these individuals would have received the monetary component of the prize. There have been only two such recipients.
8. *Progressive*: An ideological view-point which endorses new ideas, in place of old/traditional views.
9. *Ibrahim Selection Board*: The committee, chosen by the Ibrahim Foundation, which is charged with the duty of selecting the Honorary and Practical Recipients of the Ibrahim Prize. This term will be, hereinafter, referenced as the "Selection Board."

Introduction

Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim, Africa's only self-made, homegrown billionaire, established the Ibrahim Foundation in 2006. Since its creation, the foundation has expanded considerably; and, in 2007, it established the Ibrahim Prize (Forbes Editorial Staff, 2013), (ONE, 2013). In general, the aforementioned accolade provides a substantial monetary reward to African heads-of-state who rule democratically, as well as transparently, and are willing to peacefully step down from their office at the end of their constitutionally defined terms. On top of this, a significant subcomponent of the award's selection process, to be discussed in full detail later, is to assess whether or not the leader being examined "paved the way for prosperity" within his or her respective nation (Auletta, 2011; The Ibrahim Foundation, 2013).

Originally designed to be awarded annually, the Ibrahim Selection Board has found only two individuals who have met the board's seemingly impossible criteria over the past six years (The Ibrahim Foundation, 2013). In essence, this means that the board has opted four times to not select a recipient. This fact adds to the award's already resounding prestige, and it implies that the Ibrahim Selection Board is extremely strict in its selection process. As a result of the board's exactitude, it becomes difficult for political scientists, geographers, historians, and other students of the social sciences to predict the next recipient of the award in question. Nonetheless, the following analysis will attempt to make such a prediction. By examining the Ibrahim Prize and its requirements, as well as using two past recipients as case studies, it will become clear that one of the future recipients of the Ibrahim Prize will be the current President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim, the Man Behind the Prize

To fully comprehend the Ibrahim Prize and its selection criteria, it is imperative to grasp the general ideology of the prize's founder and Selection Board Chairman, Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim. As with most people, Dr. Ibrahim's ideology stems from his life experiences. Born on May 3, 1946 in the nation of Sudan, Dr. Ibrahim lived a generally comfortable life. His father was an educated government employee, and the Ibrahim family lived contentedly in