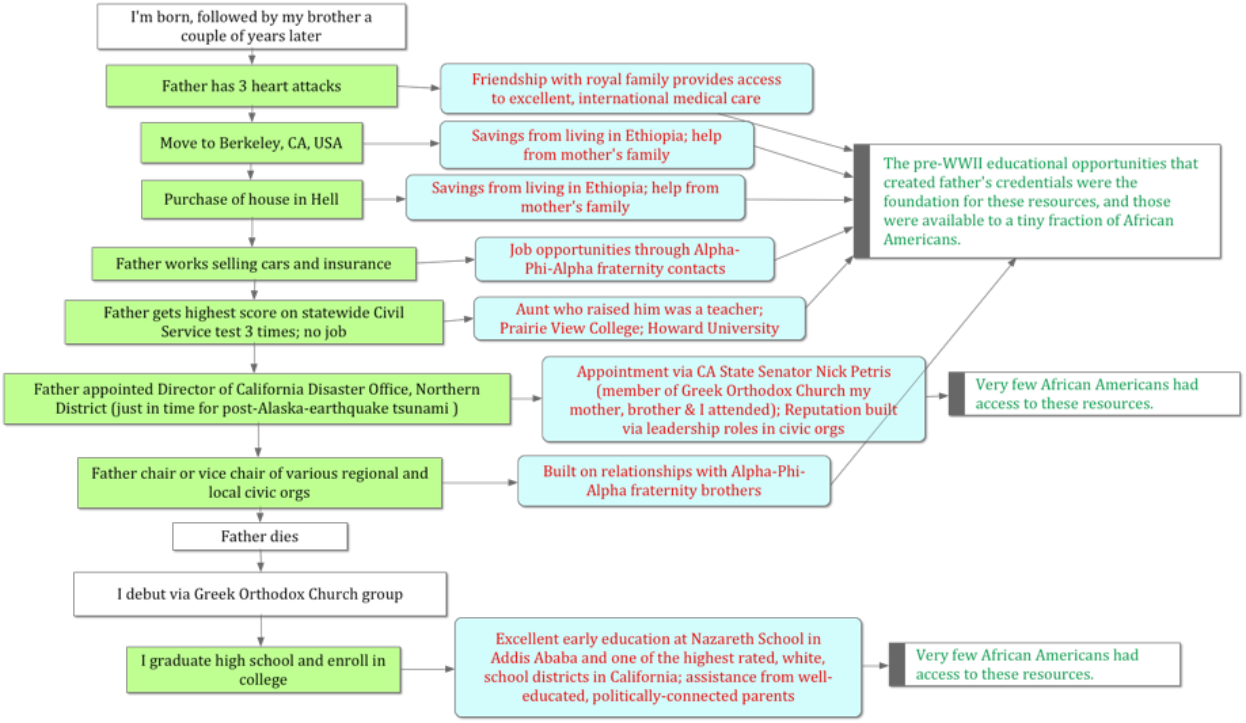
I'm born, followed by my brother a couple of years later
Father has 3 heart attacks
Friendship with royal family provides access to excellent, international medical care
Move to Berkeley, CA, USA
Savings from living in Ethiopia; help from mother's family
Purchase of house in Hell
Savings from living in Ethiopia; help from mother's family
Father works selling cars and insurance
Job opportunities through Alpha-Phi-Alpha fraternity contacts
Father gets highest score on statewide Civil Service test 3 times; no job
Aunt who raised him was a teacher; Prairie View College; Howard University
Father appointed Director of California Disaster Office, Northern District (just in time for post-Alaska-earthquake tsunami)
Appointment via CA State Senator Nick Petris (member of Greek Orthodox Church my mother, brother & I attended); Reputation built via leadership roles in civic orgs
Very few African Americans had access to these resources.
Father chair or vice chair of various regional and local civic orgs
Built on relationships with Alpha-Phi-Alpha fraternity brothers
The pre-WWII educational opportunities that created father's credentials were the foundation for these resources, and those were available to a tiny fraction of African Americans.
Father dies
I debut via Greek Orthodox Church group
I graduate high school and enroll in college
Excellent early education at Nazareth School in Addis Ababa and one of the highest rated, white, school districts in California; assistance from well-educated, politically-connected parents
Very few African Americans had access to these resources.