History Handout (2) for Grade 12 May, 2020 G.C

8.5. The military Dictatorship (1974-91)

Consolidation of Military Dictatorship and Measures Taken

Having put to an end the monarchy, the Derg proclaimed itself the provisional military administration council (PMAC) and assumed full power.

Both before and after 12 September 1974, the Derg took the following measures:

- Imprisonment of top military and civilian officials of the Haile Selassie regime
- Banning of all anti-government strikes and demonstrations
- Repression of all forms of protest
- Execution of 52 renown officials and fuctionalies of the old regime, as well as General Aman Mikael Andom, the Derg's Chairman in November 1974
- Conduct of the Development Through cooperation campaign of the Zemecha to spread literacy and organize the peasantry beginning from 1974.
- Proclamation of "Ethiopian socialism" and adoption of the official name of the provisional government of socialist Ethiopia
- Nationalization of banks, insurance and commercial companies, as well as all rural and urban land in 1975
- Elimination of opponents to the personal dictatorship of Mengistsu H/mariam was comleted between 1977 and 1978.

When all political organizations in the capital collaborated with the Derg, only the Ethiopian people's Revolutionary party (EPRP) continued in its opposition to military rule, thus becoming its target. In cooperation with the al Ethiopian socialist movement (Meison). The Derg began what is called the "Red Teror" against the EPRP, whose counter attacks were designated "White terror". However, before the Derg could totally eliminate the EPRP, it faced a challenge of a different king. This was the invasion of Somalia.

The Somalia invasion began in 1977. The cause for the conflict between the two countries was the Somalia ambition to take the Ogaden. By August 1979, the Somali army had been pushed back from Ethiopia with the help of the cuba and south yemen.

After victory over Somalia, three major issues took the attention of the military government. The first was the total elimination of the EPRP from towns. In the process, thousands of innocent people became victims of the "Red Terror". But the EPRP continued its struggle by moving to the northern port of the country. In 1977. Meison was identified as the Derg opponent and became a target for its attack.

The second issue which took attention of the Deg was the task of party formation. The Derg had planned for a communist party formation. The Derg had planned for a commusist party formation by merging political organizations that supported it. Using that strategy a party known as the workers party of Ethiopia (WPE) was established in 1984 & memgisrs H/mariam became its secretary - General.

The third issue was the suppression of opponent groups and freedom fighters which had their bases in northern part of Ethiopia. These were the Ethiopian Democratic union (EDU), the Eritrean peoples liberation front (EPLF). However, this program was not successful because the Derg was unable to eliminate the EPLF and the TPLF.

Fall of the military Dictatorship

After controlling the where of Tigray in 1989, the TPLF changed the strategy of its struggle to liberate Tigray to liberating the whole country from the rule of military dictatorship and establish a democratic system in Ethiopia.

To this end, the TPLF made the necessary organizational charge by forming a broad front known as the Ethiopia people's Revolutionary Democratic front (EPRDF) in early 1990. In addition to the TPLF, the EPRDF included such organizations as the Ethiopian peoples' democratic movement new called the Amhara people's Democratic organization (OPDO). On 28 may 1991 the EPRDF forces entered to Addis Ababa and brought to an end to Mengistru's military dictatorship.

The downfall of the military dictatorship marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Ethiopia. Following its entry in to Addis Ababa, the EPRDF established a provisional government under meles zenawi, In may 1993 Eritrea became a separate independent state by a referendum. In 1993, a new constitution was approved by a constitution assembly in December 1994.

Unit Nine

African National Liberation movements and independence since 1945

9.1 Pan-Africanism expresses two main ideas Fristly, it is an expression of a desire for African Unity. Secondly. It aims at for menting a sense of unity among all black peoples of the world, whose ancestors originally came from Africa.

The origin of idea of pan-Africanism was from outside Africa, in the new world. It was a movement which originated in America and the Caribbean by people of African descent. They wanted to have equality with the other races and justice for black peoples.

- ✓ The term "pan" is a Greek origin and means "all", hence pan-Adricanism means "all African"

The first pan-African congruence (congress) was held in London in 1900. The conference was organized by a Trinidad (west Indies) lawyer, H. Sylvester Williams. Before 1945, four pan-African conferences were held two famous readers of pan-Africanism during that period were Dr-william E.Burghardt DC Bois and M. Garvey. De Bois was an African American scholar and writer he became an organizer and preacher of pan-Africanism He came to be known as the Father of Pan-Africanism.

Garvey was a Jamaican who moved to and lived in the USA. Garvey was the founder of the universal Negro on the futures of blacks outside Africa should struggle for the respect of human their rights in the countries they lived in. But Garvey insisted that the countries they lived in. But Garvey organized a "black to Africa" movement.

The year 1945 marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of pan-Africanism movement. In that year, the fifth pan-African conference was held in Manchester. This conference was important in two respects.

Firstly, for the first time in the history of pan-Africanism, Africans from the continent participated in a pan-African conference. E.g K.Nkrumah and J.Kenyatt were participant in this conference.

Secondly, the conference seriously demanded the independence of Africa. Attendants of this conference expressed their determination to resort to violent means unless the demand for independence is seriously considered.

The Manchester conference was also important in another way it marked the emergence of new tendency in the pan-African movement. As was stated earlier, one of the ideas contained in pan Africanims was stated earlier, one of the ideas contained in pan Africanism was a desire for African unity. The movement's slegan for this leading idea was: united Africa But it was not successful because of division among the Africans.

9.3 **National liberation movements**

Several factors affected the nature of national liberation movements in Africa. The most important were the attitudes and political traditions of colonial powers, whether or not the colonies contained white settlers and the political experience of African nationalists. On the basis of these elements, national liberation movements took mainly two courses, violent and non-violent- But, whatever form African struggle took, it was a struggle for justice as well as human and democratic rights.

In West Africa, where both the French and the British had colonies, independence was achieved fairly smoothly. The main reason for this was that West Africa had no white settlers. Added to this, the nationalists movement in west Africa had long history and better experience enabling them to provide leadership and facilitate.

Generally, the national liberation movements of the Africans was hastened by the effects of WWI.

Nationalist agitation in British wash Africa was especially strong in the Gold coast (Ghana) and Nigeria. On march 6,1957 Gold coast achieved independence adopting the new name Ghana and K. Nkrumah became the first president of independent Ghana. On October 1, 1960 Nigeria became an independent state, while sierra leone became independent on April 27, 1961 and Gambia on February 18,

By Noveber 1960 all Franch West African colonies achieved full independence. Except Guinea under sekou Toure, all of tehm maintained their close ties with France. They were Cameroon,

Togo, Dahome (Benin), Niger, upper volta (Burkina Faso), Ivory east, Chad, ubangishari (ventral African Republic), Middle congo (Repblic congo-Brazzavilla), Gabon, Senegal, Franch Sudan (Mail) and Mauritania.

In contrast to the French and the British west Africa colonies, there were colonies where independence was achieved only after vialent armed struggle. Eg. the Algerian independence was achieved through violent armed struggle. The struggle was started in 1954 and it lasted until 1962. The organization that led the movement was National liberation movement, abbreviated in French as FLN and Ben Bella was the leading figer in the movement en+ July, 1962 Algeria became independent under MPLA.

In east Africa, the British colony of Kenya was another example a violent liberation struggle. In 1963 Kenya achieved independence under KANU (Kenya African National Union) and K.kenyatta became its first president.

Other African Countries also achieved their independence either through violent or non-violent struggle. Among these Sudan in 1956, British and Italian Somaliland in 1960 and Dijiouti in 1977. The process of independence of all other African countries continued unitil the early 1990s when Namibila became independent and the apartheid in RSA was destroyed

9.3 **The Organization of African unity (OAU)**

The idea of forming the OAU was a result of the pan-African movement. In April 1958 Nkrumah invited all independent African countries to all-African people's Ghana, Egypt, the Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, Liberia and Ethiopia participated in the conference. This conference was important for two reasons firstly, representatives of nationalist movements from 28 non-independent African countries attended the conference and it hastened their liberation movement secondly, many of the resolutions of the confrence became corner stone for OAU that was established five years later.

The main objective of the Accra conference was to set up the OAU. However, with regard to the structure of the organization, there was no consensus among African states. This red to the emergence of two groups of states with different ideas.

In 1961, the two groups held separate conferences at Casablanca and monpovia. The Casablanca group included Chana, Guinea, mali, Algeria, Egypt and Morocco. The monroia group consisted of sierra leone, Liberia, Nigeria, Togo, Ethiopia and Libya. The Casablanca group was led by K. Nhkruma. States in this group were regarded anti-western, while those in the Monrovia group were considered as pro-western. The Casablanca group advocated the creation of a single African state. But the other group wanted 'Functional coopration rather than integration. For the time being, and agreement was reached, to postpone the final goal of forming a united states of Africa (USA) and form the organization of African unity (OAU). In may 1963, the OAU charter was signed by 31 independent nations in Addis Ababa and it marked the formation of the OAU. The objectives of the OAU, as contained in the charter, included:

To promote the unity and soliderarity of the African states, to coordinate and intensify their coopration and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa and the hope to eradicate all forms of colonialism from the continent.

However, the OAU was unable to achieve inost of its goals. Despite its weakness, the OAU struggled to strengthen the solidarity of African states. At the 36th OAU summit held in Algeria in 2000, the heads of African states and governments decided to transform the OAU in to African union (AU).

9.4 **Contemporary Africa**

Independent Africa has experienced both successes and failures. In the 1960s and 1970s and later, the major problems in the socio-economic and political sphares were:

- ✓ Lack of political stability
- ✓ Irresponsible and undemocratic government
- ✓ Military coup d'etats and border conflict
- ✓ One party system
- ✓ Corruption
- ✓ Poverty
- ✓ Injustice
- ✓ Absence of self reliance
- ✓ Draught
- ✓ Famine and
- ✓ HIV/AIDS pandemic