

Chapter 6

Internal Interactions and External Relations in Ethiopia and the Horn, 1800-1941

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, many independent peoples and states existed in Ethiopia and the Horn. In the north, several states existed including the Gonder and others states independent of Gonder rulers. One of these was the kingdom of Shawa that emerged as a strong state. In the south, several peoples established independent polities and states. The Muslim communities also possessed well-organized Sheikdoms or emirates. The major factors for the rise of these states were the rich agricultural resources and lucrative trade.

A. The State of Qabena:

- southern portion of central Ethiopia, Hadiya, Alaba, Kambata, Gurage and Silte
- They economically, depended on agriculture.
- Local merchants actively involved in local trade and to some extent in the long distance trade.
- the Gurage land was an important market centre and political entity.
- important trade centers such as Soddo and Ayamallel were located in Gurage land and are said to have been established by King Sahile Sillasie of Shawa.
- The Gurage leaders were known as Abegaz or Azmatch combined political and military authority.
- In 1875, Gurage land was divided into five Negariti or drum districts of **Qabena, Walani, Gadabalo, Abso & Mohir**. western Gurage and Hadya State of Qabena emerged as a strong political entity.
- It became a centre of Muslim revivalist movement in the northeast of the Gibe River. Muslim refugees from Wallo, and with possible connections even with Mahdists Sudan

B. The Gibe States:

- 19th century, several monarchical states known as mootummaa emerged among the Macca Oromo at the expense of the Gada system.
- the war leaders of the Gadaa system (abba-duulaa) and powerful individuals usurped the power of the Gadaa government. The abba-duula accumulated wealth from the control and taxation on long distance trade and utilized the opportunity to rise to power.
- This development especially took place among the Oromo around Gibe where the following five monarchical states emerged

❖ Limmuu-Inaaryaa:

- was the earliest of the Gibe states.
- It was formed by Bofoo/Abbaa Gomol who abdicated in favor of his son, Ibsaa/Abbaa Bagiboo.
- It reached the height of its power during Ibsaa's reign. Ibsa was succeeded by A/Bulgaa.

❖ **Gomma:**

- formed by A/Bookee who was succeeded by his son A/Manoo who conquered Qattuu and converted to Islam by Muslim Ulama/scholars.
- place called Coocee-Kattaa Muudugaa in Gomma is said to have been the origin of coffee.

❖ **Jimma:**

- Ose Kobbii (A/Faaroo) and Daangilaa (A/Magaal) began state formation that was completed by Sannaa/Abbaa Jifaar I
- who formed Jimma Kaka/ confederacy and left a consolidated state to his successors like A/Reebuu and Abbaa Booqaa
- There were iron mining center at Daakkaanoo and smelting center at Kittoo.

❖ **Guumaa:**

- Jiilchaa A/Bal"oo of Ciraa killed Sarbaaroodaa of Daagoyyee; began state formation and succeeded by his son Onchoo who was in turn followed by Jawwee.
- It was from Guma locality/Onjaa that slave raiders captured Ajjaamee/ Bilillee. German prince Herman Pickler Muskau purchased her at Cairo in 1837. changed her name to Mahbuba meaning beloved and made her his mistress. she suddenly died of poisoned food she ate in fortnight

❖ **Geeraa:**

- formed by Tulluu Gunjii followed by A/Baassoo and A/Raagoo I

C. The Leeqaa States:

- Leeqaa-Naqamtee was founded by Bakaree Godaanaa in 1840.
- reached its height under his successors Moroda and Kumsa.
- Leqa-Qellam was located in the south western of Wallagga. It was founded by Tullu and became powerful under his son, Jote being centered at Gidaam and controlling the areas around Sayyo-Dambi Doolloo.

D. Iluu:

- the Tumme clan leader Caalii Shoonoo set up the well consolidated richest state of Ilu-Abba Bor.
- It was from Ilu that Hika/Onesmus Nesib/Abba Gammachis was captured and sold in to slavery nine times before Menkulluu Swedish mission freed, and educated him.

E. Nilotic Sheikdoms:

- around course of Blue Nile, Sheikdoms mentioned below were established through parallel imposition of Arabic-speaking Sudanese mercantilists over Berta and Gumuz inhabitants based on agriculture, gold mining and frontier trade in early 19th c.
 - ❖ **Asosa (Aqoldi):** this got preeminence under Sheikh Khojale al Hasan.
 - ❖ **Bela/Beni-Shangul:** this became famous under Abd al Rahman Khojale.
 - ❖ **Khomosha:** reached zenith under Khojale Muhammad Wad Mahmud.
 - ❖ **Guba:** this attained similar prominence in the southwest of Gojjam.

Note The influences of Islam from the Sudan and cross border trade were the main reason for the rise of these states. The rich gold of the region also attracted foreign powers like the Mahdists and Egyptians who attempted to use the sheikdoms to control.

The Role of Trade and Trade Routes in the Interaction

Two main trade lines linked various territories of Ethiopia. **South western** Ethiopia was the starting point of the two main lines. The trade route that originated from **Bonga**, the capital city of Kafa kingdom, linked peoples and states of the south western Ethiopia with the northern part of the Ethiopian region.

The main market centers on this line were Bonga, Hirmaataa (in Jimma), Saqa (in Limmuu-Inaaryaa), Billoo in Leeqaa Naqamtee, Asandaaboo (in Guduru), BassoYajube (in Gojjam), Yifaji Darita (in Begemider) and Gonder. From Gonder, one line bifurcated to westward through Cilga Matamma/Qallabat taking commodities to be sold to Sudanese Jallaba merchants.

The second major line of trade route began from Jireen in Jimma and ran via AgabjaaAndoodee-Tolee to Sooddoo in southwest Shawa; Roggee near Yerar. Then, the line passed through Aliyu Amba or Abdul Rasul in northern Shawa and ran eastward to Harar. From Harar the route branched into Zeila and Berbera, the most important commercial centers in Somalia. Then Ethiopian products transferred mostly to Jidda, Hudeida, Mokha & Makkah.

The main sources of lucrative trade items were southwestern regions. Among these, gold, ivory, rhinoceros horn, skins, civet, musk, honey, wax, coffee, various spices and slaves. Items as exchange mediums included salt bars (amole), iron bars, wines, cowries' shells, beads, pieces of cotton cloth (abujadid), Maria Theresa Thaler (MTT) etc. For internal trade, amole was the only important commodity and source of wealth. It was mined in Taltal plains at border of Affar & eastern Tigray and then suitably shaped for transportation.

The town of Mekelle emerged as the salt was cut in and distributed to the highlands from the area under supervision of the governor of **Enderta with the title of Balgada**, who had the tributes as tax judge, grew in importance and rivaled Bahr Negash (the governor of the maritime province to the north). Maria Theresa Thaler was a coin introduced to the Horn of African region at the end of the 18th c. Muslim merchants were the most dominant traveling from interior to the coast. Among these were Muslim Northern merchants/Jabarti and Muslim Oromo merchants of southwestern region known as Afqala.

Power Rivalry

"Zemene Mesafint," there were rivalries among regional lords. The man who ended the Era of Princes was Kasa Hailu, who had become a free-lance soldier under his brother Kinfu in crushing Egyptians at Wadkaltabu in 1837. When Ras Ali II (Ali Alula/Ali Abba Bula) gave Quara to his mother Empress Manan/Halima, Kasa moved to jungle and became a bandit. Ali then recognized him as Qwar governor and arranged for him to marry Tawabach Ali in 1847. **refer page 132**

Emperor Tewodros (r.1855-1868) faced stiff resistance from local powers. In Gojjam Tadla Gwalu, a member of the local dynasty, remained contender to Tewodros until he was crushed at Injbara.

In Lasta, Wag Shum Gobaze Gabramadhin later Emperor Takla-Giyorgis (r. 1868-1871) raised the standard of rebellion after he had seen his own father executed by Tewodros. The growing oppositions from his rivals forced Emperor Tewodros, who had dreamt of uniting Ethiopia, to retreat and establish his last stronghold in Maqdela. In addition, in the military expedition of the British to Maqdela in the late 1867, Bezbeaz Kasa Mercha (Yohannis IV) gave guidance and material support to the British troops.

Following the death of emperor Tewodros in 1868, a war broke out for emperorship. Three contenders for the throne namely **Wagshum Gobeze of Lasta**, **Ras Kasa Mercha of Tigray** and **Nigus Menilek of Shawa** aspired to be emperors. In fact, they reigned in that order with the throne names Takla-Giorgis, Yohannis and Menilek II.

In fact, they reigned in that order with the throne names Takla-Giorgis (r. 1868-71), Yohannis (r. 1872-89) and Menilek II. The strongest regional challenger of Emperor Yohannis was Menilek II of Shawa. Yohannis did not tolerate him but his confrontation with Egyptian compelled him to postpone his decisive war with Menilek. In 1878, peace initiatives came from Menilek because of the probably military superiority of Yohannis. This was concluded at Liche Agreement on which Menilek agreed to pay tribute, drop the title of King of Kings, and stop his independent dealing with foreign powers. Yohannis was able to maintain his sovereignty until his death at Metema in the battle with the Mahdists in 1889.

The Making of Modern Ethiopian State

Tewodros II, Yohannis IV and others made empire formation their project and fought their ways. Yet, the most successful was Emperor Menilek II. What made Menilek expansion new were the intensity and the degree of success. One causative factor of territorial expansion to resource rich areas was the Great Famine **kifu Qen**. The disaster forced Menelik II to march towards south and southwest for resources. **Refer page 134**

In 1875-76, Menilek made campaign towards the Gurage. The northern Gurage, the Kistane peaceful submitted because of their religious affinity, geographical proximity and fear of surrounding Soddoo Oromo. On the other hand, the western Gurage, led by Hasan Enjamo of Qabena which had elements of Hadiya-Gurage coalition, inflicted a number of defeats on the Shawan forces until Menilek's general, Ras Goobanaa crushed Hasan's forces in 1888.

In the western side of Gibe River, Nigus Tekle-Haymanot of Gojjam had first established his control in mid 1870s. Yet, Horroo forces led by Abishee Garbaa Hurruubaa overwhelmed Gojjamite forces led by Tekle-Haymanot's commander, Ras Darasu in vicinity of Coomman valley. Qadiidaa Waannabee of Jimmaa Raaree persuaded Abishee to surrender after which Abishe was taken through Kokor to prison in Gojjam where it was **said he chewed his fingers from anger & frustration and died**. Competition between the Gojjame and the Shawan was terminated with the defeat of the Gojjam forces **at the battle of Imbaaboo** on 6 June 1882.

Yet, Garbii Jiloo of Leeqaa-Billoo, Tuuchoo Daannoo of Leeqaa-Hordaa, Ligidii Bakaree of Leeqaa-Naqamtee, Geendaa Busan of Sibuu-Siree, Mardaasaa Konche of Nonnoo Migiraa, Turii Jagan of Nonnoo Roggee and leaders of Limmuu & Gudayyaa formed confederation. Their coalition

devastated Abyssinians led by Dasta, Dilinassawu & Tasamma Nado at Gurra Doobbaa in Bonayyaa near Waamaa and chased them up to Gudar River.

Guumaa King A/Joobir and his brother A/Diggaa fought at Bakkee Ganjii against Gojjame. Firrisaa A/Foggii of Guumaa made Jihad versus Menilek scoring victories at places like Santo from 1889-1901. Guumaa King A/Joobir and his brother A/Diggaa fought at Bakkee Ganjii against Gojjame. Firrisaa A/Foggii of Guumaa made Jihad versus Menilek scoring victories at places like Santo from 1889-1901. A/Booraa of Gommaa crushed Shawans led by Basha Aboyye at Tijjee while A/Boossoo was beaten by Räs Damissawu Nasību's army in 1900. Tasamma's army crushed resistance from A/Quxal of Gachii on upper course of Dhidheessaa and conquered Bunnoo. Fatansaa Ilu's forces made attacks upon Tasamma's troops at Gabba & Qarsaa Googilaa, but Fatansaa's forces were routed and he was imprisoned at Barrooyii.

Menilek encountered fierce resistance from the Arssi. The Arssi were led by notables like Leenjiso Diigaa, who scored victory at Doddotaa. Shewan forces led by Ras Darge Sahlasillase made the final assault on the Arssi at Azule on 6 Sept. 1886. This was followed by Annolee amputations (female right breast and male right limbs were cut off, accompanied by castrations in the extreme cases).

Similarly, the eastern Oromo/Itu Humbanna led by Bakar Waaree and the Harari led by Emir Abdullahi (r.1885-1887) repulsed the initial Shewan thrust led by Dajjach Walda-Gabr'el. Menilek's cousin, Dajjach (later ras) Makonnen Walda-Mikael was appointed a governor of the province. Furthermore, Dawuro-Konta and Kambata were occupied in 1889 and 1890 respectively. Ogaden, Baalee and Sidamo were controlled in 1891. Gamo Gofa was conquered in 1894. Kawa (King) Tona's instigation of the [Dawro] and the Konta peoples, to the west of Wolayta against Menilek's authority added fuel to the confrontation. Menilek personally led the campaign. The Shawans defeated Tona in 1894. Gedeo was annexed in 1895.

Fitwari Habtegiyorgis Dinagdee/Abba Machal/Abba Mala built a fort at Megga and took over Booranaa & Konso in 1896-97. The final battle between the Shewan forces and Kafa took place in 1897. Ras Walda-Giorgis became the Governor of Kafa after the defeat of Tato Gaki Sherocho. Beni Shangul was occupied after Fadogno battle and campaign up to Famaka in 1897/8. Waldagiorgis also conquered Goldea. Russian Dajjazmatch Leontieff conquered Maji and extended up to Turkana Lake in 1898/9. Tasamma Nado also conquered up to Baro (Sobat) and Nasir in Gambella.

Modernization Attempts

It is apparent that Tewodros' defeat by well trained and equipped Egyptian troops at the battle of Debarkī in 1848 forced him to reform his troops. Finally with the help of European missionaries & artisans tried to manufacture fire arms at his workshop, "Gaffat (near Debre-tabor). In the case of socio-economic reforms, he began the construction of Ethiopian first embryonic road network to link Debre tabor with Gondar, Gojjam, and Maqdela. He also made attempt to put an end of the slave trade. expanded the culture of expressed ideas by writing letters. he tried to solve the religious doctrines controversy that continued from the 17th century.

With similar interest, emperor Yohannes IV attempted to reform administration. He recognized and allowed the then competent regional lords to exercise power. These included Menelik II of Shawa, Adal Tessema of Gojjam.

Modernization attempts during the reign of emperor Menelik included many aspects. establishment of a postal service and telecommunications/the telephone-telegraph system, the beginning of construction of railway line from Djibouti to Addis Ababa. The opening of bank (the bank of Abyssinia) and the introduction of paper money. In terms of administration, the emperor introduced a European style of ministerial system/ministers in 1907. His reign also witnessed the opening of a hotel in 1907 (Itege Hotel), a modern schools (Menelik II School in 1908) and also the foundation of Russian Red Cross hospital in 1906 and a Russian-run hospital (Menelik II Hospital) in 1910.

During his reign from particularly from 1913-16, Lej Iyasu had also made several reforms. He attempted to reorganize State finances. Iyasu tried to put a distinction between state property and the monarch's personal property. In 1915, he established Dire-Dawa Municipality and re-organized its police with salaries and uniforms. avoided Quragna system, tried to amend Leba shay. introduced a policy of auditing of governmental accounts, introduced city police/Tirnbulle/ and he also tried to integrate Ethiopian Muslims into the administration. introduced a policy of auditing of governmental accounts, introduced city police/Tirnbulle/ and he also tried to integrate Ethiopian Muslims into the administration.

The two rulers namely ras Teferi (later emperor Haile-silassie) and empress Zewditu had different views towards western culture. ras Teferi had keen interest in modernization by which he wanted to boost the country's image on the international stage. This was marked by the entry of Ethiopia into the League of Nations and his grand tour to Europe in 1923 and 1924. promulgation of Ethiopia's first constitution, in 1931. establishment of Imperial Bodyguard in 1930. the opening of Ethiopia's first Military Academy at Holeta 1934.

Socio-Economic Issues/Developments(1800-1941)

Trade and Slave Trade

Slaves probably the major export items to Sudan and Arabia in the 19th century. in many cultures from ancient to modern the causes of enslavement were failure to debt (tax), committing crime, war captive, and the birth of slave children to slaves. Before the 16th century, in Africa, slavery was endemic and part of the structure of everyday life. Since the 16th century, the Dutch began importing large number of slaves into their colonies. With the beginning of plantation agriculture in South America, and the need of human labour exacerbated slave trade in Africa. The horrors of slave trade were the large-scale slave raids that brought family breaks, social and economic deterioration.

In Ethiopia, several slave markets evolved in the 19th century. Slavery reached its peak in Ethiopia and the Horn in the 1880s when Menelik II waged extensive war for territorial expansion. Jimma and Hirmatta became slave markets. In addition, market centres from Bonga to Mettemma and Missiwa served as market centres. Sources indicate that Abba Jifar II was referred to as "the ruler of the kingdom of slave" and later as the biggest slave trader in the world."

Rulers such as Tewdros, Yohannis and Menelik of the period attempted to regulate slave trade without abolishing slavery itself. Measure to stop slave trade was begun in 1920s. In 1923, slave trade was banned and in 1924, a decree was issued for emancipation of slaves.

Manufacturing

evidences donot trace the exact period of the beginning of modern industry in Ethiopia. Foreign citizens from Armenia, Greece, Italy and India also brought the entrepreneurial capacity to develop manufacturing industries locally. Among modern manufacturing: Holleta Grain Mill and Massawa salt were set up in 1896 and 1904, respectively. Up to 1927, about 25 factories were established in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Asmara and Massawa. Thse included cement factory, wood and clay, tanneries, soap and edible oil plants, ammunition factories, brewery, tobacco processing plants and grain mill. Most of them were established by private entrepreneurs. From 1928, including in the short lived Italian rule more than than ten manufacturing industries were set up. Among these Artistic Printing Press and Ambo Mineral Water plant were established before Italian occupation.

Agriculture and land tenure

The period of the 19th and early 20th centuries was the time when agricultural economy grew and the demand for land for cultivation and grazing increased. Monarchies favored agricultural production and trade since the revenue from the sector was a source of wealth for the emerging monarchies. The quest for land and surplus production were one factor of territorial expanion by Menelik in the late 19th century. The former relatively enjoyed self-administration but subject to pay fixed tax. he latter was placed under the naftegna-gabbar system whereby the new order swiftly removed the indigenous land tenure system in favor of the riflemen. The general effects of the implantation of the naftegna-gabbar system were the creation of two classes of societies: the minority landholder and the majrty landless.

The most influential factor of change in agriculture and land tenure was land measurement (the qalad system of the 1909/10). The purpose was to obatain sufficent land for sale. The system introduced fresh rules in which certain social classes gained access to land while reduced the majority of the people to landless as they had no money to buy land.

Urbanization

The period from the early 19th century to 194l marked the evolution of towns owing to different socio-economic as well as the demographic and ecological factors. transformed age-old market and socio-political centers into towns in Ethiopia and Horn. , several towns located on the long-distance trade in western Ethiopia grew into both towns and political centers. In addition, the opening of railway road from Djibouti to Addis Ababa since 1917 was followed by the evolution several fast growing towns.

On the other hand, politico-religious centers in several parts of the region evolved into towns. This was true mainly in the northern parts of Ethiopia. One of the towns that grew from such process was Addis Ababa. Emperor Menelik II shifted his seat to there from in 1886. The new site"s major attraction was its hot springs, Fel-Wuha. The presence of the military governors and soldiers provided such areas as permanent areas of economic-political and religious activities. Such centers of administration known as katamas (garrison towns) became centers of trade and eventually grew into towns. Towns including Goba, Asalla, Arjo, and others were garrison that grew into towns.

External Diplomatic Relations and Treaties

One consequence of the Zemene-Mesafint was the end of the “close door policy.” One of the earliest private travelers was Henry Salt reached to the court of Ras WoldeSilassie of Tigray on 28 August 1805, to establish friendship between England and Ethiopia. **Refer page 146**

One result of these contacts was the agreement between Negus Sahle-Selassie of Shewa and British captain W. Harris in 1841 as well as the French Rochet d'Hericourt, in 1843. In addition, Walter Plowden also signed treaty with Ras Ali in 1849. On the other hand, regional lords had established contacts with religious centers in the Middle East, particularly with Jerusalem. During the period, Egyptians threatened the Ethiopian religious community settlement at Deir Al-Sultan in Jerusalem. strong lords like Ras Ali and Dejjazmach Wube „sent letters to queen Victoria of England to request support against the Egyptians. Emperor Yohannes IV like Tewodros tried to create strong relations with European. War was his last choice as he fought with Egypt in 1875/76 and Mahadist Sudan in 1889. One major diplomatic relations Yohannes concluded was Hiwot /Adwa Treaty. It was peace negotiation signed between the emperor and British on behalf of Egypt through her envoy 3 June 1884 at Adwa. The purpose was to safely evacuate the trapped Egyptian troops in Ethio-Sudanese border through Ethiopia. In rewards Ethiopia was to restore Bogos and, freely use Massawa for the transit of goods and firearms. Britain secretly transferred Massawa from Egypt to Italy in February 1885. One consequences of the treaty was that Mahadist determination to avenge Yohannes that led to the battle Metemma on 9 March 1889 and his death.

In terms of diplomatic relations and quelling external threats, Emperor Menilek II, was more successful through maintain the balance among powerful forces of the period. He first made commercial relation with Italy and gradually he acquired military equipments from Italy to secure his territory. At the same time he concluded treaties and obtained support from French, Russia, and Britain.

During the late 19th century European had interest to control Red Sea area.(With the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869). Italy began to penetrate into northern Ethiopia and occupied Sa“ati, Aylet and Wia to Mereb Melash but they were defeated at battle of Dogali by Ras Alula Endida. Ethiopia"s relation with Italy reached its climax with the signing of Wuchale Treaty. It was drafted by Antonelli and signed on 2 May 1889, at Wuchale, Wollo between Emperor Menelik-II of Ethiopia and count Pietro Antonelli on behalf of Crispi of Italy.

The Italian version of Article III indicates the “effective occupation” of Italy to legitimize their further expansion towards the Marab River. Article XVII of the Italian version indicates Menelik"s foreign contacts must be through the agency of Italy. This happened because Menelik and his supporter Grazmach Yoseph Neguse had nothing to do with Italians language. **Refer page 148.**

Major Battles Fought Against Foreign Aggressors and Patriotism

The Battle of Dabarki (1848)

- was fought between It was fought between Kassa Hailu (later Emperor Tewodros II) of Quara and Egyptian forces in 1848.
- the forces led by Kassa Hailu lost the battle

The Battle Maqdella (1868)

- Tewodros imprisoned Captain Cameron and others. British's letter under Hormuzed Rassam also bears no hope an eager Tewodros
- In response, Britain sent a combined force(32,000) led by Sir Robert Napier from Bombay through Massawa.
- This force reached Meqdela by the support of Dejazmach Bezibiz Kassa of Tigray (later Emperor Yohannes) and Dejazmach Wagshum Gobeze of Lasta in April 1868.
- On April 10, 1868 about 3,000 to 8,000 fighting men's of Tewodros including his general Gebrye were defeated by the British at the **battle of Aroghe**. on the next two days the Emperor released the captives.
- on 13April 1868,Emperor Tewodros committed suicide.
- battle of Meqdela shows the cost of division and rivalry among regional lords of the period.
- **The Battles of Gundet & Gura**
 - Egyptians showed keen interest to occupy Ethiopian region and the Horn particularly in the 19th century. Following their occupation of the Sudan, Egyptians attempted to occupy Ethiopia.
 - in 1875, Khedive Ismail Pasha invaded Ethiopia in three directions.
 - Mohammed Rauf Pasha led the Zeila front and the result was the occupation of Harar Emirate (1875- 1885.
 - Werner Munzinger, the architect of the whole of Ismail's invasion to Ethiopia, led about 500 Egyptian troops through the Tajura.
 - colonel Arendrup and Arekel led 2,000 well armed troops through Massawa.
 - Emperor Yohannes and Shaleqa later Ras Alula mobilized 20,000 forces and fought the Egyptian at the **battle of Gundet** 16 November 1875.
 - Ethiopian forces again defeated them at the **battle of Gura** (7 – 9 March 1876).
 - Egyptians were supported by European powers.

The Battle of Mattama

- Hewett Treaty caused clashes between Mahdist and Ethiopian forces that lasted from 1885 to 1889.
- The first clash was **at Kufit** between Ras Alula and Uhtman Digna in September 1885. Ethiopian force was victorious.
- when emperor Yohannis IV was in Northern Ethiopia checking the Italian advance to Mereb Melash, the destructive invasion of the Mahadist destroying churches and monasteries reached Gondar.
- in January 1887, Yohannes sent Negus Tekle Haymanot of Gojjame to defend the Mahdists who defeated them at Metemma.
- One year later the Mahdists led by Abu Anja, defeated Negus Tekle Haymanot's troops at Sar Wuha in Dembya.
- on 9 March 1889, the Emperor marched to Mattema to fight Mahadists where he died.

The Battle of Adwa and Its Aftermath

- The disagreement on the Wuchale Treaty finally led to the big battle between Ethiopia and Italian forces.
- Italians crossed Marab River and arrived at Adigrat and to Amba-Alage.
- force led by Fitawrari Gebayehu Gurmu defeated the Italians at Ambalage and forced them to retreat to Mekelle.
- In January 1896, by the leadership of Ras Mekonnen Ethiopian forces defeated Italians at Mekelle. The strategy was commonly called the “siege of Mekelle” and was considered to be designed by Empress Tayitu.
- At Adwa, again, Ethiopian forces led by Emperor Menilek, Empress Taiyitu and war generals like Ras Mikael, Ras Makonnen, Ras Alula, Ras Mangasha, Fitawrari Gebeyehu, and Negus TaklaHaymanot defeated the Italian brigades.
- Italy recognized the independence of Ethiopia with the signing of the Addis Ababa treaty in 1896.
- Japan also used Ethiopia's experience when it fought against Russia in 1904.

Italian Occupation (1936-41) and the Patriotic Resistance Struggle

- Following their defeat at Adwa in 1896, the Italians suspended their expansionist colonial policy in north east Africa for a short time.
- To achieve their goal of occupation of Ethiopia, they raised two significant policies as they tried to use before the battle of Adwa. These were „subversion“ & „rapprochement“.
- The policy of subversion which aimed in deteriorating unity of the empire via sowing dissatisfaction in Tigre, Begemidir, Gojjam and Wallo and this was made the responsibility of Corrado Zoli who was the governor of Eritrea
- the Italian legation in Addis Ababa, headed by Guiliano Cora led the policy of „rapprochement“, a pseudo reconciliation tactic which was trying to persuade the Ethiopian government about the establishment of cordial relations between the two countries.
- the signing of the 1928 Italo-Ethiopian Treaty of Peace and Friendship was the manifestation of the success of the rapprochement policy.
- the Fascists were also able to get indirect diplomatic support from Britain and France for their colonial interest in Ethiopia.
- although it is difficult to pin point one particular year when the decision was made by Mussolini to launch the intended invasion, 1932 appears to have been crucial year.
- The Walwal Clash (5 Dec. 1934) was the result of the post-Awa boundary agreement limitations: lack of demarcation on the ground & lack of effective administrative control on the frontier regions.
- the Italians refused to give back Walwal and even attacked the Ethiopian soldiers who were stationed nearby. Thus, this situation gave birth to the so called Walwal Incident.
- Then Ethiopia which refused to accept Italy's demand took the matter into the League of Nations and a period of useless process to resolve the conflict followed.

The 1935 Invasion and After

- The Italians executed their aggression via two major fronts: The Northern and the eastern Front.

- The war was started in the Northern Front when the Italians crossed the Mereb River on 3 Oct. 1935 and launched a three pronged invasion and controlled Adigrat, Adwa and Mekelle.
- Until 1936, Ethiopia did not make actual resistance for two reasons: to expose the Italian aggression to the world and to stretch enemy"s line of supplies by dragging them into the center.
- In January 1936, Ethiopian counter offensive marched north through three fronts. Ras Emiru H/Selasie led the western front, Ras Kassa Hailu (also commander of the entire front) and Ras Seyum Mengesha led the Central front and Ras Mulugeta Yigezu (War Minister) led the eastern front.
- Ethiopians failed and this battle historically known as the **First Battle of Temben** (20-24 Jan. 1936)
- On 20 January 1936, the Ethiopian army launched a major offensive against the Italians seeking to isolate Meqelle, but failed to realize its objective
- The Italians scored yet another decisive victory in which the commander of the Ethiopian army, Ras Mulugeta Yigezu, lost his life.
- the forces of Ras Kassa & Ras Seyum who were outnumbered by the Italian troops lost the Second Battle of Temben (27-29 February 1936). Ras Kassa & Ras Seyum narrowly escaped from the battlefield and joined the Emperor at Korem.
- On the western front, the Ethiopian army under Ras Emeru put strong resistance against the advancing force of the Italians.
- The series of battles between the Ethiopian and Italian forces in the Northern Front culminated in Maychew on 31 March 1936.
- the Italian forces controlled Desie and Addis Ababa on 4 April 1936 and 5 May 1936 respectively.
- Ras Desta Damitew (in the south) and Dejazmach Nesibu Zamanuel (in the southeast) were leaders of the Ethiopian troops in this Front. The Ethiopian army lost to the Italians at two major battles in the Southern Front: **Qorahe** (November 1935) and **Genale Dorya** (12-14 January 1936).
- In the ensuing battles, the Italian Askaris (recruited from Eritrea) deserted the Italians and joined the Ethiopian force which boosted the moral of Ras Desta"s defeated troops.
- Ras Desta continued to challenge the Italians until he was captured and executed in early 1937.
- Badoglio entered Addis Ababa before Graziani even crossed Harar.
- On 2 May 1936, the Emperor fled the country and on 5 May 1936 the Italians entered Addis Ababa.
- after their control of the capital Marshal Badoglio immediately reported the situation to Mussolini. Benito Mussolini on the other hand announced to the people of Italy and the world about their control of Ethiopia using the phrase "Ethiopia is Italian!"
- The Italians immediately merge Ethiopia with their colonies of Somaliland and Eritrea. Then they named the combination of their colonies as Italian East Africa (IEA).
- Eritrea (including Tigray) ◇ its capital was Asmara; Amhara (including Begemidr, Gojjam, Wallo & Northern Shewa) ◇ its capital was Gondar; Oromo & Sidama (including Southern & Southwestern provinces) ◇ its capital was Jimma.; Harar ◇ its capital was Harar; Somalia

(including Ogaden) ♦its capital was Mogadishu; Addis Ababa (later changed to Shewa) ♦it was capital of the entire colony.

- During the 5 years Italy's control of this colony the following Italians were appointed as governors consecutively: Marshal Badoglio (till the end of May 1936), Marshal Graziani (till Feb. 1937), and finally Amadio Umberto d'Aosta (the Duke of Aosta).
- the last governor of IEA, the Duke of Aosta himself characterized 50% of his officials as inept & 25% as thieves.
- In the economic respect, the Italians weakened & destroyed non-Italian foreign firms & replaced them with governmental enterprises that controlled the industry, trade & agriculture.
- the Italians planned to settle Italian farmers in selected Ethiopian areas such as Wegera, Chericher & Jimma. However, their agricultural plan was failed (they only accomplished 10%) due to the Italians incapability to secure the rural arable areas from the patriots.

The Patriotic Resistance and Liberation

- The resistance was handicapped by the Ethiopian collaborators called the Banda.
- they got external support from Britain in 1941. Ethiopian struggle for independence merged with World War II, when Italy declared war on France and Britain on 10 June 1940.
- On 12 July 1940, London recognized the Emperor as a full ally.
- The British launched a three pronged attack on the Italians. In the north, General William Platt led the forces that attacked the Italians in Eritrea.
- In January 1941, Colonel Sanford and Major Wingate accompanied the Emperor from Sudan into Gojjam at the head of British and Ethiopian troops called the Gedeon force.
- General Cunningham led the attack from Kenya.
- Emperor Haile Sellassie entered Addis Ababa on 5 May 1941.