



☞ **Dear students:** - Copy the note and do the given homework on your exercise book!

Subject: **History**

Grade & section **11A**

Unit: **7**

Main topic: **Muslim States in Ethiopian region and the horn of Africa up to 1529 A.D.**

Sub topic/s: **The features of Muslim Sultanates**

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7.2. Muslim States in Ethiopian region and the horn of Africa up to 1529 A.D

- Like Christian highland kingdom there were several factors which identified for the emergence of Muslim sultanates. It was Trade and Islam that became the main factor for the emergence of Muslim sultanates.
- Islamic religion introduced to Ethiopia and the horn of Africa peacefully by merchants (missionaries for the expansion of the religion).

The Two main gates of Islamic religion in Ethiopia and the horn of Africa are:

- **The Dahlak Islands in the Red sea:**-occupied by Arabs in 702A.D. Because of strong resistance which came from Christian community, Islam could not able to penetrate to the interior. It limited to the Red sea coastal territories.
- **The port of zeila on the Gulf of Aden:** - most important gate for the spread of Islam into the interior. Under this Arabian merchants play vital role for the introduction of the religion. Through this port Islam peacefully expand to Eastern Shewa, Wollo, Bale, Arsi and other regions.

Common features of Muslim Sultanates:

- ❖ Most of them were followers of Islamic religion.
- ❖ Their rulers exercised both religious and political powers.
- ❖ Their economies mainly depend on Trade than Agriculture.
- ❖ Most of sultanates were located in the southeastern lowlands.
- ❖ NB: - Most of Muslim Sultanates geographically are located along the port of Zeila on the Gulf of Aden.

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Sultanate of Hadya :

- it was tributary of Christian during the reign of Amide - Tsion.
- Geographically located west of Gibe River and south of Lake Awash.
- It includes peoples of Burji, Kambata ,Timbaro and Alaba.
- Economically depend on mixed farming and Trade.
- Hadya was the source of slave for Christian kingdom which their sultans used the title called garad.
- Most of Christian kings made political marriage with garad of Hadya such as Zarayacob ,Baidmariam and Libne Dingel.
- NB: - Queen Elleni the daughter of garad of hadya and the wife's of Zarayacob who played prominent features in Ethiopian politics during medieval period.

Sultanate of Bali and Sharka:

- Both were Muslim sultanates which emerged in Ethiopia and the horn during medieval period.
- Economically depend on trade.
- Sultanates of sharka include the present day Arsi which it controlled by the forces of Imam Ahmed.
- The same is true for sultanate of Dawro which it considered as neighbors of sharka and incorporated by the forces of Imam.

Sultanate of Dera

- it was the smallest Muslim sultanates that most of Christian kings use it as refugees to prevent themselves from external enemy.

Sultanate of Fatagar :

- it was geographically located in eastern shewa particularly in present day Bishoftu.
- Most of kings of Christian use it as a mobile court.

Sultanate of Adal:

- Emerged towards the end of 14thc.
- Sultanate of Ifat and Adal ruled by walasma dynasty.
- With its occupation by Christian highland kingdom, the peoples of Ifat divided into two groMuslim States in Ethiopian region and the horn of Africa up to 1529 A.D.
- Later on the militant wing found sultanate of Adal in 1380A.D. in Eastern lowlands around Harar.

- The first political center of sult.of Adal was Deker, then Ausa(Afar) and finally established at Harar.
- The rulers of Adal such as Haqadin2 and saadadin rebelled against sayfa Arad (1434-1468).
- Ahmed Badly was strong sultan of Adal.But his forces finally defeated by Zarayacob in 1445A.D.
- Sultanate of Arbabani was one of Muslim sultanates which emerged in Ethiopia and the horn up to 1529A.D.

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7.3. Omotic States in Ethiopian region and the horn of Africa up to 1529A.D

- Like the other States which emerged during medieval period in Ethiopia and the horn, omotic States have their own common features.
- Common features of omotic States :
 - ✓ Most of them geographically located in omo river basin.
 - ✓ They are speakers of omotic family languages.
 - ✓ Known by traditional culture.
 - ✓ Belief in traditional religion before the introduction of Christianity and Islamic religion to the region.
 - ✓ Ruled by kings under monarchical systems of government.
- Omotic States include, the kingdom of Damot, kingdom of Kaffa, Kingdom of Wolayita, kingdom of Yama, kingdom of Bizamo and etc.

Kingdom of Damot :

- ✓ It was the oldest strongest state in Ethiopian region.
- ✓ Geographically located western and southwestern part of Ethiopia.
- ✓ It was the sources of gold for Aksumite kingdom. On other hand it was the only state which resists the forces Aksum in Ethiopia during ancient time.
- ✓ Economically Damot depend on Trade which it had commercial relation with Arabia,Persia, India,Egypt and Greek.(export trade items such as gold ,ginger and slaves.)
- ✓ Politically Damot reached its boom point during Motolomi (the founder of kingdom and the one who converted to Christianity by Yekuno Amlak).
- ✓ In 1316 Amde Tsion controlled and made it tributary of Christian kingdom. Finally with the arrival of Mecha oromo, Damot evacuated to southern Gojjam.

Homework Questions

1. Explain the main features of Muslim sultanates.
2. Describe the difference between Walasma and Mahkzumite dynasty.
3. List the two main gates of Islamic religion in Ethiopian region and the horn of Africa.
4. Explain economic and political condition of sultanate of Dahlak and Ifat.
5. Why peoples of Muslim sultanates preferred trade than Agriculture?
6. Explain factors for the shift of political center sultanate of Adal from Deker to Ausa(Afar).
7. Explain the main factors for the success of the forces of Amide Tsion to control over different Muslim sultanates.
8. What is the difference between garad and sultan?
9. Why kings of Christian highland kingdom such as Zarayacob ,Baidemariam and Libne-Dingel made political marriage with garad of Hadya?