

UNIT 7

THE ETHIOPIAN REGION AND THE HORN OF AFRICA

7.1. "Restoration" of the Solomonic Dynasty and the Christian Highland Kingdom

- ❖ The major rivals of the *Zagwe dynasty* came from the Amhara region.
 - ✓ Amhara local ruler called *Yekuno-Amlak* 'founded' the Solomonic dynasty in 1270.
 - ✓ He defeated the last king of Zagwe dynasty Yitbarek at the battle in 1270.
 - ✓ Yekuno -Amlak linked his descent to the family of Menelik I. Menelik I was the son of Queen of Sheba (*Nigste Saba*) of Ethiopia and king Solomon of Israel.
- ❖ **Yekuno Amlak (r.1270-1285)**
 - ✓ He said I restored the lost power by Dilnaod, the last king of Aksum and hence the 'restoration' of the Solomonic dynasty.
 - ✓ From about 1270 until the fall of Emperor Haile Selassie I rule in 1974 (solomonic dynasty continued)
 - ✓ Yekuno Amlak success based on economic *and military strength*.
 - ✓ The Amhara land played a role of middlemen in the trade. So Yekuno Amlak monopolized the profit of trade.
 - ✓ Using the income from the trade Yekuno Amlak, built an effective army to against any one.
 - ✓ The new dynasty established its center around *Tegulet*, later on royal court shifted from region to region on the eastern foothills of the *Shewan plateau*.
- Yekuno Amlak died in 1285, and then dynasty faced internal political instability.
- The problem related with succession.
- All the descendants of *Yekuno Amlak* were detained at a royal prison at *Amba Gishen* after he came to the throne.
- The passes and foothills of the mountain were guarded by loyal warriors.
- This measure solved the problem of succession and strengthened the power of the Christian highland kingdom.
- During the reign of Yekuno Amlak the kingdom had peaceful relations with all its neighbors of different states and people.
- ❖ **King Amde Seyon (r.1314-1344)**
 - He was the grandson of Yekuno Amlak.
 - He began to disturb the balance of power in favor of the Christian kingdom
 - He was the *most expansionist king* of the medieval period

- ☞ In the early period of the Solomonic dynasty the economy mainly depended on agriculture which dominated by mixed farming.
- ☞ Trade becomes important after the conquest of the Muslim sultanates in the south on parts of the region.
- ☞ During the period Zeila had completely *overtaken Dahlak* as important gateway of internal and external trade.
- ❖ Developments during the reign of Yekuno Amlak, AmdeSeoyen and his successor
 - I. Expansion of Orthodox church.
 - II. Monopolization of trade routes.
 - III. Consolidation of the feudal mode of production.

Gult system was an important economic institutions .Because it connected state, religion and cultivators.

Gult system remained to be the main feature of the Ethiopian feudalism up to the 20th century.

Gult was a right to levy tribute on the owners of rest and produce of rest land.

Rest was hereditary right *to land use*

Bala Gult is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in region.

- ❖ The Gult system had served two very important purposes in the medieval Christian kingdom
 - o It replied the kingdom to maintain large territorial army during the period
 - o It greatly simplified the tasks of administering the vast Christian kingdom

The mobile *royal court*

- ❖ There was no permanent capital city(Temporary settlement).
- ❖ During the period the monarchs and their dignitaries lived in tents .
- ❖ The mobile court was moving on the Eastern foothills of the Shewan plateau.
- ❖ Emperor Zara Yacob(r.1434-1468)
 - ✓ He founded Debre Berhan in 1454
 - ✓ He stayed 14 years at the city.

7.2. Muslim States in the Ethiopian Region and Horn of Africa up to

1529

- Trade and Islam were the main factors for the emergence of the Muslim states in Ethiopian region and the horn Africa.
- Islam entered the region through two main gates:
- Dahlak Island in the Red sea and
- The port of *Zeila on gulf of Aden coast*.

The Muslim Sultanates Shared common Features

- o Their population made up of Muslim communities
- o Their rulers exercised both religious and political powers

- o Islam and trade were the main factors for their emergence
- o Most of the sultanates were located in the southeastern lowlands of Ethiopia
- o The communities practiced mixed farming. But the economy mainly depended on trade

A. The sultanate of Shewa

- The oldest Muslim state in Ethiopian region
- The ruler came to power in 897 AD
- The ruling dynasty of this sultanate was Makhzumite. It claimed to have *descended from the Makhazumi clan of south Arabia.*

B. The Sultanates of Dahlak

- Dahlak is a common name for a group of island in the Red Sea. Not far from Massawa
- The Arabs established their settlement on the Dahlak Island after they had attacked and destroyed Adulis in 702.
- The economy of the sultanates based on trade and piracy

C. The sultanate of Ifat

- It was emerged in the mid of 13th century
- The founder was Umar Walasma(From Walasma family).
- During the reign of Umar Ifat subdued and incorporated the Muslim sultanate of Shewa
- Ifat monopolized Zeila trade routes

The Christian king Amde Seyon against Ifat.

- o During that time the ruler of Ifat was very strong sultan Sabredin .But at last the Ifat ruler defeated by Christian force and become Christian tributary.
- o To regain their independence and control Zeila trade routes Haqadin II and Saadadin retreated to Harer plateau and setup a new muslim resistance base .

D. The Sultante of Hadya

- It was one of the oldest Muslim states in Ethiopia. But we do not know when the sultanate came to power.
- The sultanate first mentioned during the reign of Amde Seyon
- The sultanate occupied the most Westerly territory of Ethiopian region. It touched in the west of Gibe river, in the south stretched up to lake Awasa, and north of Lake Zeway
- The economy of the kingdom was based on mixed farming
- The royal title of Hadya was Garad
- The well-known Hadya Garad daughter married to Emperor Zar'a

Yae'qob and become Queen Illeni

E. Sultanate of Bali

- There is no evidence when the sultanate was emerged. The sultanate first mentioned during the time of Amade Seyon
- The rulers used royal title of garad like that of Hadya
- The sultanate includes present day Sidama ethnic groups and Oromo people

F. The Sultante of Sharka

- The present-day Arsi oromo was part of the territory of the medieval sultanate of Sharka
- We do not know when the sultanate was emerged .But the sultanate was the tributary of Christian high land kingdom in the 14th century
- In the first quarter of 15th century the area controlled by Imam Ahmed Ibrahim
- The settlers of medieval Sharaka consisted Alaba and Oromo people.

G. Sultante of Dawaro

- It was situated south of Shoa ,border of Ifat on the right of Bank of Awash, south ward as far as Webi border of Bali
- It corresponded present Arsi,Sidama and Dawaro.
- They were moved to Omo river valley because of Ahmad Ibrahim war.

H. Sultanate of Dera

- It was small sultanate located east of Awash between Dawaro and Bali
- The Christian kingdom used Dera as a place of exile for unruly monks ,who were forced to reside amid a hostile Muslim population

I. sultanate of Fatagar

- It was emerged by the mid of 13th century
- The sultanate located between lake Zeway in the south and Debre zeit(Bishoftu) in the north
- It included the present districts of Minjar,Shenkora,and Ada'a in Shewa
- It was the tributary of Amade seyon

J.Sultante of Arbabini

- The Arab historian Al-Umari explained about this sultanate According to al –Umari the sultanate existed south of Awash river between Hadya and Dawaro.He was Arab historian.

K. Sultanate of Adal (founded 1380-Harer)

- Once Ifat was conquered by Christian kings ,its ruling class began to divided in to two groups

- The merchant class recognized the authority of the Christian kingdom over Ifat
- The 2nd group, the militant wing opposed the Christian domination and determined to regain the lost independence of Ifat
- The militant group decided to establish a new base in the low lands of Harar and formed Adal. Its first center was Deker, southeast of Harar. The successor of Umar Walsama Haqadin II and Saadadin rebelled against Amde Seyon's son Sayfa Arad (r. 1344-1371)
- Sultan Ahmed Badlay (r. 1433-1445) of Adal led military campaigns against Christian king Zar'a Ya'eqob (r. 1434-1468). But Ahmed Badlay was defeated by Christian force in 1445.
- The war of Christian highland kingdom and Adal was continued for a long period of time.

7.3. The Omotic States in the Ethiopian region and Horn Africa up to 1529

o These states include:-

A. The kingdom of Damot

- ✓ It was the oldest and strongest state in the Ethiopian region
- ✓ The Eastern part of this kingdom probably included today's Beni-Shangul-Gumuz.
- ✓ Northern part include Shewa and south of Abay Gorge was part of Damot
- ✓ There is no evidence when the kingdom came into existence. But the history of this kingdom goes back to the history of Aksum.
- ✓ Damot was known by Gold, Ginger and Slave trade. Trade partners are Arabia, Persia, India, Egypt, and Greece
- ✓ The dominance of Damot continued during the time of Zagwe period
- ✓ Zagwe kings and Damot fought each other but the king of Damot defeated the force of Zagwe kings.
- ✓ The known king of Damot *was Motalami*. He was fought with Yekuno Amlak. The cause of the struggle to control Shewa.
- ✓ The force of Yekuno Amlak defeated the force of Motalami. After its defeat Motalami accepted Christianity. But Damot continued its resistance in the south of Gojeb river until 1316, when Amde Seyon finally annexed the kingdom.

FANA EDUCATION

- ✓ Damot becomes the tributary of Christian kingdom .The Mecha Oromo arrived in the area in the 16th century.
- ✓ Damot population fled across the Abbay River to south Gojjam.The district they settled at the time is still called Damot.

B. The Kingdom of Kafa

- It located south of Gojeb river
- The people of Kafa call themselves Kaficho
- They traced origin to a people called Minjo
- The royal title of Kafa was *Tato*
- The crown of Kafa was based of hereditary of Minjo clan
- ❖ The administration of Kafa kingdom was divided in to provinces which were ruled by provincial governors
- ❖ The king was assisted by seven council called Mikrecho
- ❖ Kafa was known by defense system .All along the territory watch towers were erected at high point to watch the enemy approach
- ❖ The economy of Kafa depended on trade and agriculture.
- ❖ Kafa was incorporated in to Ethiopian empire in1897 during the time of Menelik II
- ❖ The last king of independent Kafa was Tato Gakisharochi

C. Kingdom of Enarya

- It was located north of Gojeb river and west of the upper course of the Gibe river
- Enarya was the tributary of Christian high land kingdom during the time of Amde Seyon
- The source of income for the kingdom was trade
- The Mecha clan of Limu Oromo defeated Enarya.
- The conquerors took the name Limu-Enarya ,signifying a complete assimilation of the people of Enarya to Mecha Oromo

D. The Kingdom of Bizamo

- It was existed on the southern bend of the Abbay river just the opposite to the present districts of Wambarma in southern Gojjam
- Medieval population of Bizamo consisted the speakers of Omotic language family of Shinasha.

E. The kingdom of Welayta

- It was located south of sultanate of Hadya
- Its origin may have derived from ancient kingdom of Damot
- During the reign of Amde Seyon Welayta was the tributary of

Christian

- The king of Welayta used the royal title Kawo. The area was very fertile.
- The first dynasty came to power towards the end of the Zagwe period.
- The founder of the dynasty was Motalami. He founded Walayita Malla dynasty.
- The second dynasty was Kucha until 1550
- The economy of Walayita depended on agricultural products.
- Walayita was finally conquered by Menelik II force in 1894
- The last king of independent Walayita was Kawo Tona

F. The Kingdom of Yama

- ✓ It existed between the Gibe river and upper course of Omo river
- ✓ The kingdom first mentioned during the reign of the Christian kingdom king Yeshaq. Yama paid tribute in horses
- ✓ The first king of Yama belonged to a dynasty called Halmam Gama. Later this dynasty overthrown by Mwa dynasty
- ✓ The economy of Yama depended on agriculture
- ✓ Trade also supported the economy of Yama.
- ✓ The kingdom was one of the source of slaves for the Ethiopian region

7.4. Hegemony of the Christian Highland kingdom in the Ethiopian region and the Horn of Africa up to 1529

- ☞ From 1270-1529 the Christian kingdom was in constant war, particularly with the Muslim states.
- ☞ The cause of the conflict was to *control trade routes*
- ☞ 1270-1529 Christian Highland Kingdom was dominant
- ☞ 1529-1543 the sultanate of Adal under Ahmed Ibn-Ibrahim was dominant.

The war of Expansion

- ✓ The war of expansion of the Christian highland kingdom were initiated by Amde Seyon
- ✓ He was the most expansionist king in the medieval period
- ✓ First he against Damot, Flasha and Gojjam between 1316-1317
- ✓ He also against the Muslim states like Ifat, Dawaro and other.
- ✓ Ifat was the most powerful Muslim sultanate. But defeated by King Amde Seyon 1332.

- ❖ The sultan of Ifat Haqqedin provided pre text by arresting a commercial agent of Amde Seyon towards the end of 1325.
 - o The Christian army easily defeated and plundered and burnt Ifat.
 - o To avoid the danger of Christian army Haqqedin's successor called Deradir ,who opened a massive offensive on the territory of Christian kingdom
 - o At the beginning Ifat strongly defeated Christian army .But finally the Christian army defeated Ifat, Deradir himself was captured and killed.
- ❖ By 1317 Amde Seyon conquered Hadya.After conquest, Hadya paid tribute to Christian highland kingdom. But effective Christian rule was not established in the area
- ❖ The Hadya Garad Amano rebelled. Amde Seyon reacted immediately and led a strong army to Hadya.The re-conquers of Hadya seriously damaged the economic interest of the Muslim merchant who traded the slaves.
- ❖ They reacted by forming a united Muslim front against Amde Seyon .The leader of the front was sultan of Ifat Sabreddin ,who launched his attack in 1332.But Amde Seyon defeated them.
- ☞ Amde Seyon continued his campaign
 - to Dawaro ,when he succeeded in capturing Sabreddin who was imprisoned subsequently.
 - Amde Seyon also conquered other Muslim states
- ☞ Amde Seyon died in 1344 by natural death.
- ☞ The superiority of Christian over Ifat did not last long.
- ☞ The militant wing opposed the Christian domination and determined to regain the lost independence of Ifat.
- ☞ They established a new sultanate called Adal around 1380AD.

➤ **Sultan Haqqeddin II(r.1363-1374)**

- He started against the Christian rule around Harer
- He was against Christian King Dawit(r. 1382-1413)
- o At the beginning the Muslim army was effective .But later in 1387 Haqqeddin was killed in battle place. Christian army defeated the army of Adal
- o The successor sultan Sadaddin, who were engaged guerilla fighting .But killed in Zeila in 1403.

➤ **Ahemed Badelay(r.1433-1445)**

- o He was one of the most powerful sultan of Adal against the Christian force.
- o He defeated the Christian king Yishaq in 1430.

- **King Zar'a Yae'qob(r.1434-1468)**
 - He killed sultan Ahemed Badlay and his collaborator Mahigo of Hadya killed in the battle place in 1445.
 - The reign of Zar'a Yae'qob marked the peak of the dominance of the Christian kingdom in Ethiopia and horn.
 - King Zar'a Yae'qob died 1468
 - **King Ba'ida Mariyam(r.1468-1478)**
 - He was not powerful
 - During his reign Christian army faced serious defeat
 - It marked the end of Christian domination in Ethiopia region and the horn
 - **Emir Mahfuz (r.1488-1517)**
 - He was the other powerful Emir of Adal launched a series of attacks of the reigns of Eskindir (1478-1494) & Na'od (1494 – 1508)
 - Finally he was killed in a battle place by Christian leader Lebne Dengel in 1517
 - **Ahmed Ibn Ibrahim al Ghazi (Ahmed Gragn) (r.1517-1543)**
 - He was born to a clan called *Balaw in Hubat* a place located between Harar & Jijiga.
 - He served cavalry officer of Mahfuz.
 - He was married Mahfuz daughter Bati Dilwambara.
 - He strengthened his army by instilling the spirit of Jihad in to conflict.
- ☞ In 1529 at the battle of *Shimbra Kure* the force of Ahmad defeated Lebne Dengel.

Factor for the victory of Adal

- Christian army undermining Adal force
- Ahmed organized new force from Afar , Argoba, Harari and somalia .He led united force and defeated Christian army. 1529-1543-the domination of Adal.

UNIT 8

Major events of the 16th Ethiopian region and the horn of African and their impacts

Conflicts Between the Sultanates of Adal & the Christian Kingdom.

After Zar'a Ya'eqob's victory over the army of **Ahmed Badley** in 1445, the sultanate of Adal was reduced to tributary status.

Merchants, Imams, sheikhs emirs oppose the Christian kings

Emir Mahfuz was the other powerful Emir launched a series of attacks during the reigns of

Eskindir (1478-1494) &

Na'od (1494 – 1508) finally he was killed in a battle place by **Lebne Dengel** in **1517**.

The next successor was **Ahmed Ibn Ibrahim al Ghazi (Ahmed Gagn)**.

According to his chronicle, He

was born to a clan called **Balaw in Hubat** a place located between **Harar & Jijiga**. served as a cavalry officer of Mahfuz.

was married Mahfuz daughter **Bati Dilwambara**.

strengthened his army by instilling the spirit of Jihad.

Degelham was the governor of Bali during the time of medieval age.

In **1529 at the battle of Shimbra Qure** (near Modjo) the force of Ahmad defeat Lebne Dengel. His command centers were Debre Berhan, Waj & Dawaro.

In 1535 **Libne Dengel** sent **John Bermudez** to Europe with two letters addressed the pope of Rome & the king of Portugal. In 1541, Bermudez arrived with 400 soldiers led by **Christopher da Gama**. The younger **son of famous sailor, Vasco da Gama**.

Lebne Dengel

did not see the arrival of military assistance from Portugal.

was died in 1540 in Debre Damo.

His wife was Sabla Wengel.

was succeeded by his son **Gelawdewos** (r.1540- 1559).

Ottomans send 900 infantry men to Imams of Adal. The Portuguese camped in **wafila** waiting Gelawdos. In the battle the Portuguese suffered a crushing defeat.

Christopher de Gama was **captured & killed**.

In 1543, the combined force of Gelawdewos & Portuguese defeated the force of **Ahmad Gagn** at the **battle of Waynadega**. The Imam was shot by one of Portuguese soldiers.

NB. The battle of WaynaDega brought to dominance of sultanate of Adal in the Ethiopia region to an end.

The Consequences of the war between Christian Highland Kingdom and the Sultanate of Adal

Churches, monasteries & Mosques burnt and looted

the death of many people/lose of human life.

The intermixing of different Ethnic & religious groups.

The end of the Sultanate of Adal

The death of Ahmed Ibn Ibrahim al Ghazi

Portuguese & Ottoman Turkish Rivalries in the Ethiopian Region & the Horn of Africa

The legend of Prester John of Indies was important for the revival of the foreign relations of Ethiopia with Christian Europe.

Who was Prester John of Indies?

The legend was developed during the **time of Crusade**.

The main aim was to develop the moral of Christian Europe to against Muslim power.

The legend was about the existence of an extremely wealthy & powerful Christian king somewhere in the East.

European Christian said that the strong Christian king prester John of **Indies was marching from India to meddle East** in the support of Christian & fight against Muslim.

In the 14th century, the country of Prester John come to be identified with the medieval Christian kingdom of Ethiopia.

In 14th century the **king of England Henry IV** wrote a letter to the Christian king of Ethiopia by **addressing him as the Prester John**.

In this letter the Christian king to provide a military help to liberate the Holy land from Muslims.

Portuguese, the superpower of the time search the country of the Prester John and send delegation to Ethiopia in 1494. Egyptian sultans who did not want to see the rise of a Christian power in the horn of Africa. Put pressure on Christian kings.

The early attempts of **king Yishaq & Zar'a Ya'eqob** to establish contact with Europe failed by Egyptian influence. The Portuguese sailors succeeded in discovering new sea routers in east by Vasco da Gama 1498 who reached India.

Portugal launched huge naval expedition to the Red sea & Indian Ocean.

The Middle East trade controlled by Ottoman Turks. The Arabs were agents during the time.

The venetian (Italian) merchant buy goods from Egypt and sold to Europe at high price

Turks immediately challenged the Portuguese. Turks used **Egypt as a base to attack** Portuguese naval force in red sea & Indian Ocean.

In 1517, Turks defeated Egyptian Mamluks and extended their power over the whole country.

The Portuguese during the search for a new sea route to the far east. A Portuguese named, **Pedro de Covilhao** reached the court of the Christian kingdom of Ethiopia **1494**. But he was not successful to establish closer relationship between Ethiopia & Portugal.

Queen Elleni (1450-1522), the wife of Zar'a Ya'eqob & the regent ruler of the Christian kingdom, sent a Mission to Portugal in 1512. The mission was led by an Armenian Merchant called **Matthew**.

Elleni requested the Portuguese government for military help against the sultanate of

Adal.

In 1520 Portugal sent an official diplomatic Mission to Ethiopia but after 6 years left Ethiopia except **Bermudez**

King Lebne Dengel (r.1508 – 1540) was the son of Naod .His force killed Emir **Mahfuz** in 1517.

Portuguese supported **Christian Ethiopia**
Ottoman Turkey support Adal sultanate.

Oromo Population Movement

The **Oromos** are one of the **indigenous & oldest** peoples of Ethiopia & the horn.

8.3.1. Original Homeland of the Oromo.

According to Oromo oral tradition, the original homeland of the Oromo people is the highlands of present day Bale & Sidamo provinces. Either one of the following places: -

Harro Walabu, Tullu Qurqur, Tullu Walal and Harro Girja.

The ritual & political centers known as **Madda Walabu**

8.3.2. Oromo Institutions & social organization.

On the eve of the 16th century movement, the Oromo was organized in to two separate confederacies called

Borena & Barentu. confederacy

Borena Confederacy includes: - Macha Tulama Guji & Southern Borana clans	Barentu confederacy includes: - Karayu, Ittu, Akachu, Marawa, Warantisha, Humbana and Ittu
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Religion

Before their conversion to Christianity or Islam, the Oromo worshipped their own traditional religion.

Waqqa:- the Oromo believed to be supreme God. It refers to the sky God.

The ultimate power in the universe & it is also the source of life & nature.

The power of waqa is manifested through a spirit called **Ayana**.

Ayana intermediary between **waqa & Oromo people**.

Qallu:- The spiritual leader in the Oromo traditional religion.

It was highly respected by the people and can exercise great influence beyond the spiritual sphere in economic, political social life of the people. Young and adult men vested the Qallu to get his blessing.

Qallu was also called Abba Muda the father of anointment. He got the name from the ceremony of **muda**. It celebrated once in 8 years in the honors of the

Qallu.

The Qallu blessed Gada officials to govern Oromo for Eight years

The Gada System.

Gada system: - was

the Oromo developed a democratic socio –political structure.

arrangement of Social categories' usually called **grades**.

arrangement of men into groups usually called parties or "sets".

an arrangement of tasks or work to be performed & it mainly focused on an arrangement of ideas, principles & rules.

The groups of men are called parties or classes or age sets (**Misensa or gogesa**).

The stages or Categories, 8 years long periods through which all parties must pass is known as **Grade**.

Full Gada cycle 40 years

The five commonly used party (group) names used in the Gada system are

Birmaji

Bichile

Horata

Duulo &

Robale

A man and all his brothers are in the same party regardless of the differences in their ages.

Grade	Number of years in the Grade	Age of Individuals
Iti-Mako	0-8	8-16
Daballe	8-16	16-24
Folle	18-24	24-32
Qondalla	24-32	32-40
Luba	32-40	40-48

Five parties operated at one time in 40-year cycle. Each group assigned by the rules of Gada to take responsibility

By the end of his life every man in Gada had held every major position in the system.

At the Luba grade the party takes the responsibility of governing the nation for 8 years.

After performance in public office all men of the party were automatically retired or made **Yuba**, celebrated as a **Chaffe** of completion called **Gadamoji**.

The main functions at each Gada stages

I. Iti-mako

Serve as messenger

Looking after the calves
Doing errands close to home

II. Daballe

Herding
Locating trade opportunities
Making decisions safeguarding the societies & live stock.

III. Folle

Warriors
Abba -Dula elected from this rank

IV. Qondala

Transition grade
Reserve arms

V. Luba

The ruling grade
All male Oromo joined the Gada system at their **birth**.
The Gada political – military structure excluded women.
The Oromo women had parallel institution known as **Siqqee**.
The official of Gada were elected on the basis of their merit & ability.
The highest authority was vested upon Abba Bokku or Abba Gada (father of gada,i.e spokesman)

Abba sera → **Chief of judge**.

Abba Dula → Commander of the army.

Shanee or salgee → **Council**.

The political **philosophy of the Gada system** was embodied three main principles:

-

Terms of eight years
Balanced opposition between parties &
Power sharing between higher & lower
These principles help to prevent misuse of power.
Corrupt or dictatorial leaders would be removed from the power through the process called **Buqisu (Recall)** before the official end their term
External & Internal Factors for the fall of the Gada system

Frequent wars

Emergence of powerful war leaders **Abba Dulas** who gradually emerged as "Motis" or (kings)

The development of long distance trade

The Introduction of Islam

The Influence of the hierarchical system of Ethiopian Empire.

Cause & Directions of the Oromo Movement

Causes for Oromo population movements were
Different suggestions, but generally believed that was Human and demographic factors. It included

war & disturbance of 2nd half of 15th & early 16th century change the environment of Oromo

Climate change might have forced to move out

Population increase (aggravated the need of land)
Growth of the number of their cattle (grazing lands) and
breathing space for themselves (excessive land)

These resulted in a dramatic and large scale population movement in 16th century in the horn of Africa.

The movement mainly focused on search of grazing land for their cattle & breathing space for themselves.

Between 1550 – 1580 there was a rapid Oromo population movement in to Central, Western, South eastern, Southern & north regions of Ethiopia and also moved to the present day **Kenya & Somalia**.

The 16th century Oromo movement initiated by the Tulama & Mecha pastoralist according to Abba Bahrey.

Abba Bahrey was Orthodox Monk who lived in the 16th century in Gamo which located 60 km to **Harro Walabu**.

Oromo launched a number of attack on the states of Hadya, Bali, Sharka, Dawaro and Fatagar

Gelawdewos(r.1540-1559) king of Christian highland kingdom failed to stop the Oromo rapid movement.

By 1560 the Oromo established center in Fatagar “**Oda Nabi**” in Dukam. 30km south east of Addis Ababa.

Oromo launched periodic campaigns in the western direction against **waj, Bizamo, Damat & Gafat**.

Sarse Dingil (r.1563- 1597) Christian highland kingdom king

He scored a victory over the Oromo warriors

But the temporary success did not stop Oromo

About 1580s Bizamo ,Damot and Enaraya conquered by Oromo.

The two Omotic states **Kaffa and welayita** resisted Oromo population expansion.

Oromo Population Movement Direction

Arsi who left the highlands of Bale & move towards the North west to their present territory around lake Zway.

The Southern Borena who left there center in North Western Bale & Moved Southwards to their present territory.

The Karrayyu who lived in the upper course of Wabe shebele.

Ittu & Humbana clans left Bale & moved to Harar.

Guji around lake zeway

The movement of Oromo began at **about 1522**& subsided around **1604**.

Enarya resistance lasted up to **1710**.

There are two reasons for the success of the Oromo population movement.

1st - Strong nature of Oromo Socio-politico military organization and

2nd – The civil war of Christian kingdom & Muslim sultanates

Consequences of Oromo population Movement

The Movement took various Oromo Clans to faraway place in Ethiopia.

The movement brought the Oromo contact with various people of the Ethiopian region.

The movement equally affected both Oromo & other states.

walayita & Kafa survived because of heroic resistance & scarifies.

Oromo took various Socio-cultural elements.

The movement affected the gada system.

Oromo involved in the long distance trade.

The Oromo borrowed some elements of kingship from neighboring peoples.

Formation of monarchical states in Gibe basin

Limmu-Enaraya, Jimma, Goma, Guma & Gera

The other states in wallaga like **Leeqaa Qellem, Leeqaa Naqamtee & Horo-Guduru**

Today many peoples of Ethiopia share several common social & cultural values.

This is one of the consequences of the Oromo population Movement in the 16th century.

Questions

1. Who was Prester John of Indies?
2. Why Portugal and Ottoman Turks involved in the conflict of Christian highland kingdom and Muslim states conflict?
3. Mention the result of the battle of Waynadega in 1543?
4. What was the political philosophy of Gada system?
5. List the members of Barentu and Borena confederacy
6. Explain the consequences of Oromo population movement

UNIT 9

THE ETHIOPIAN CHRISTIAN HIGHLAND KINGDOM(1543-1855)

9.1. Attempts to Consolidate and Shift the Political Centre of the Highland Christian kingdom

After the death of Imam Ahmed at the battle of **Weyna Dega** in **1543**, the rides from Adal did not cease immediately.

But the Oromo population movement affected the Christian kingdom

The other main treat of the kingdom the Ottoman Turks involvement in the **Red sea coast**

King Gelawdeos(r.1540-1559)

He was the first to confront the rides of Adal and Oromo incursions. Before that he had to

consolidate his northern provinces: **Dembya, Gojjam, Begmdar, Lasta, Semen, and Tigray.**

Later Gelawdeos established his center south of Abbay at waj(*Debrezeit.*)

From this center he attacks Adal in the East and Oromo in the south.

The Christian army cursed the Muslim forces of Adal.

Gelawdeos struggle with Oromos. The tactic of Oromo warfare was hit – and run type

The Muslim army fought on conventional war.

In 1559 Gelawdeos led his army in a fatal campaign against Adal .

In the hit of the battle that followed the army of Adal which was led by **Emir Nur Mujahid**, scored a sparkling victory over the Christian army.

Finally, Gelawdeos himself killed and beheaded, and **his head was taken to Harer as war trophy.**

Emir Nur Mujahid(r.1550-1567)

He defeated Christian army in 1559 AD.

He did not pursue their victory over Christian force & reconquering the kingdom.

His force was defeated by Oromo forces on their **way to back to Harer**

He did not save the sultanate from Oromo attack

He built the great wall of Harer to check Oromo assault by the mid of 16th century.

Jan Amora

He was powerful Christian army leader

He was driven out of Fatagar in the war with Oromo

Fatagar became the new base from where the Oromos launched their next attacks on the Christian kingdom & the neighboring provinces

King Minas (r.1559-1563)

He was the brother of Gelawdeos and his succeeded him.

Minas changed the Christian center from Shewa to north of Abbay. The place called *Mengiste Semayat.*

The court established near lake Tana at a place called *Guba'e Enfranze*

He also encircled by tensions of Oromo movement and **Adal war**

Then he decided **not to make any attempt to regain the Christian provinces** in the south of Abbay.

King Sarsa Dingil(r.1563-1597)

He was the son of Minas

He came to **power at the age of thirteen(13)**

His first year of reign a period of political instability that caused by rebellion of old generals against the young king.

For example **Hamalmal** who defied the authority of the king and settled with his large army in ***western Shewa***.

In 1566 another rebellion from **Fasilo**. Fasilo even attacked ***Sarsa Dingil*** who narrowly escaped from death.

In the late 1570's the attention of Sarsa Dingil shifted towards encroachments of Ottoman Turks on the northern provinces of his kingdom.

Ottoman Turks **occupied port of Massawa** and advanced to Dabarawa.

The area was ruled by Yisaq(he was Bahre negash governor).

Sarsa Dingil cursed the rebellion of Yeshaq ,although he did not dislodge the Ottoman Turks from coastal territories.

Sarsa Dingil marched across the Abbay to the south

To stop **Oromo advance and regain the former provinces** of the kingdom.

He got the submission of Enarya in 1568

He got victory only in one battle 1572 over the Oromo warriors

He also made another campaign to Enarya in 1597 ,but he fell ill and died in the district of **Shat, near the Gibe river**

After the death of Sarsa Dingil power struggle between

Yacob,

Za Dingil and

Suseniyos were enthroned and dethroned one after another 1597-1601.

Finally, **Susenious** became effective. He was assisted by Oromo warrior.

9.2. Catholicization and Civil Wars

In 1535 Libne Dengel ***sent Bermudez with a letter to Portugal to get support*** and to fight with Ahmed Ibrahim.

In 1541 Portugal sent soldiers to Christian kingdom.

Following the Portuguese military assistance, Catholic missionaries (Jesuits) came to Ethiopia, who sought to convert the **Orthodox Christian** of Ethiopia to Catholic.

Bermudez claimed that in return for military assistance, ***Libne Dengil had promised*** to give a third of his kingdom to the king of Portugal and had to converted, together with the subjects, to Catholicism.

In 1541 Bermudez heard of the death of the king while still in Goa. Bermudez made himself Patriarch of the Christian kingdom. He was not ordered by the Pope. Then he asked Gelawdewos to accept Catholicism. Bermudez began try to force Gelawdewos to fulfill the alleged promises of his father.

Gelawdewos knew that Libne Dingil did not promise to convert to Catholicism.

He rejected Bermudez proposal.

The king of Portugal, John III, also refused to recognize **Bermudez as patriarch** of the kingdom .

Society of Jesus was the outcome of the reaction of Catholic against protestant reformation

It was founded by *Ignatius Loyal of Spain* in 1540.

Gelawdewos wrote a letter to the king of Portugal to send catholic priests who could render religious services for the Portuguese soldiers.

But the king **John III of Portugal** misunderstood because he thought that Gelawdewos wanted to convert to Catholicism.

So the king and the pope, decided to send one patriarch and two bishops who were selected and ordained from among the Jesuit.

Glawdeos heard about the arrangement made in Europe for his conversion, he wrote a letter of objection to the Portuguese governor of India.

The governor sent young catholic priest called **Rodriguez** to convince the king to accept the patriarch and become catholic.

The young Jesuit priests openly criticized the orthodox Christian traditions

Such as circumcision, food taboos, fasting and observance of Saturday as heresies. At the beginning he tolerates the priests because he needed the **Portuguese army** supports.

Gelawdewos rejected the demand and **Rodriguez** returned to Goa (India).

The governor of India sent again another bishop called Andre de Oviedo to convince Gelawdeos.

Then a bishop came to Ethiopia in 1557 to convert king. But Oviedo failed to convince the king.

Gelawdewos wrote a book called **Confessions of Gelawdewos**.

In which he defended the practice of orthodox faith of the kingdom against the criticism of Catholic Priests

Ovideo isolating Portuguse army from Gelawdeos In **1559 Gelawdewos died in the war** with Emir Nur because the portuguse solidirs refused to fight on the side of Gelawdeos, while Emir Nur got support from Ottoman Turks

After Oviedo died two other bishops, *Pedro Paez* and *Alfonso Mendez* came to Ethiopia. Paez came 1603 and died 1622

Paez successful in converting many influential dignities of the kingdom, including Susenyos (r.1607–1632). Alfonse in 1622 arrived in Ethiopia and stay until 1632.

After the death of *Sarsa Dingil* political disorder as a result of an acute power struggle started because:- All Jesuit bishop know about the situations

Paez arrived at Massawa in 1603. By the civil Za Dingil killed (1604) After the death of Za Dingil, Ya'icob was again put on the throne. Paez continued the same deal with Ya'icob, who agreed to accept Catholicism.

Before the agreement was implemented Ya'icob was killed in the battle place in 1607. Ya'icob succeeded by Suseniyos.

Suseniyos then allowed the Jesuits to preached Catholicism

Si'ilkerstos the brother of Susenyos, was the first person who converted to Catholicism. But re-baptized in 1611.

Since 1612 public debates on catholic principles were held in the palace, chaired by **Suseniyos**. In the debate Catholic represented by **Si'ilkerstos**.

The Catholics condemned the Orthodox Church **practice of circumcision, fasting**

on Friday and Wednesday and the observance of Saturdays as he rises.

- All measures lead to peasant rebellion against Susenyos started in 1617 supported by the clergy.

Susenyos himself became a catholic and declared *Catholicism a state religion in 1622.*

Susenyos fought many battles between 1626 and 1632.

Susenyos came to understand that he could not suppress the staunch opposition of church and peasants militarist.

Finally after the battle of Denqez in 1632, Susenyos decided to withdrawal from the experiment with Catholic. So he decided to abdicate in favor of his son, Fasiledes(r.1632-1667)

Catholic missionaries

Bermudez

Roderiguz

Ovideo Mendez

Paez-he was successful to convert suseniyos

9.3. The Gonder Period (1636-1769)

The main provinces of the kingdom were Gojjam, Begemdir, Simen ,Tigray and Gonder

King Fasiledes (r.1632-1667) founded a permanent capital city at Gonder in 1636.

The period between (1636-1769) is known as the Gonderine period because Gonder was political, economical and cultural center.

Large imperial quarter was built,

Magnificent castles and palaces for kings, residences for the Abun and Echegge and churches were built in Gonder.

The Churches became centers of education, music and poetry for which Gonder become famous and *the center of Excellency.*

Gonder was also center of an active trade, the trade route from the southwestern part of Ethiopian entered Gonder. Then it branched out into two **Massawa on the Red sea coast and Metemma on the Sudan border.**

The trade was mainly dominated by the Muslims, who also took part in weaving

The **Felashas** engaged in masonry, pottery, basketry and metal Works

The Muslim communities, the Felashas and other foreigners (Armenian, Indian and Persian merchant) **were not allowed to live in the city.**

They lived in the separate quarter in the outskirts of the city at **Addis Alem.** It helped for the expansion of Gonder.

By the late 18th century Gonder had about 70,000 inhabitants who belong from different religious and cultural groups.

The ruling class who led luxurious life in the splendid palaces and castles.

The prosperity of Gonder did not last long and it was far from the center of the kingdom

This led to growth of regionalism and increasing independence of the great regional lords.

Gonder experianced a period of Glory and splendor only during the reign of **Fasiledes(r.1632-1667),**

**Yohannes I (r.1667-82) and
Iyasu I(Iyasu the Great) (r.1682-1700)**
I. Fasiledes (r.1632-1667)

He established Gonder city center for agricultural and market town.

He organized strong central government

He restored the orthodox faith

He expelled the Jesuit missionaries from the country

Many catholic converters were killed.

He established Gonder a permanent capital of the kingdom in 1636.

He introduced a *close door policy which isolated the country from Christian Europe for about 200 years.*

He made an alliance with the Imams of Yemen and the pashas of *Swakin and Massawa*

in order to stop the coming of Europeans.

II.Yohannes I (r.1667-1682)

He was the fourth son of Fasiledos

He segregate the inhabitants of Gonder

He also against **Agaw,Angot ,Lasta and wallo** for submission.

He also work hard to strength central Government

I. Iyasu I(r.1682-1706)

His nick name **Iyasu the great**

He was the most powerful king.

He was the last strong king before the period of political disorder started

Iyasu collected annual tribute from Shewa .Since the establishment of Gonder no Christian king ventured southward across the Abay river to regain the Christian kingdom, but Iyasu apply it.

During his reign a traditional civil code and Fitha Negest was revised

Land laws also amended and Taxes and customs were reorganized, which promoted trade. He strength relations with Egypt.

He also violated closed door policy .A French physician called **Jacque's Poncet** cured Iyasu from skin disease.

-Two Jesuits also visited the kingdom which aroused suspicion among the clergy. The king also sent a delegation of seven young Christians to the pope of Rome.

- In 1704 earthquake, considered by the clergy as **God expression of anger against** the Jesuits presence. Then Iyasu fled to Lake Tana. Where he pursued by assassins who murdered him in 1706.

NB. Jacques Poncet (French physician) and **James Bruce Scottish** traveler (to discover the source of Blue Nile) came to Ethiopia in this period of isolation

After Iyasu death his son Teklehaymanot took the throne, but not effective.

The death **of Iyasu I** opened period of political upheaval.

Five kings were struggle to control power

Bekkafa (r.1721-1730) was relatively peace

His consort Etege Mintiwab. She was mother of Iyasu II

He admired for his efficient administration

During his reign Shewa began to be autonomous
He was succeeded by his son Iyasu II

Iyasu II (Iyasu the little r.1730-55)

He came to power under the regency of his mother Etege Mintiwab ,came from Quara

Mintiwab controlled the power and assigned her brother ***Welde leul as Ras bitweded***.

Iyasu wanted to avoid the domination of Quara family .So he decided to create alliance with Oromo Lords and he married Wabi from Wallo Oromo.

Bakaffa had earlier spent some of years of exile with the Wallo Oromo **chief Amezo**

The daughter of Amezo called **Wabi** who was baptized as **Bersabeh** and married Iyasu II. Therefore the influence of Oromo's increased.

The successors of Iyasu II was his son Iyoas

Iyoas (r.1755-1769)

He was born from Bersabeh and Iyasu II

The growing threat from Amhara chiefs to his power forced the young king want support from Oromo.

He ***invited Lubo and Birile the*** brother of Bersabeh who came to Gonder with 3000 cavalry men.

The influence of Wallo Oromo in Gonder grew strong.

Iyoas **grandmother Mintiwab** took part in the opposition to against her grandson. She asked the help of the powerful Tigrean lord Ras Michael Sehul because her brother Ras Bitweded welde leul died in 1767

Ras Michael arrived in Gonder in 1768 and took the title ras bitweded and became guardian of the king.

Unfortunately, in the intrigue that followed Ras Michal got Iyoas murdered in 1769 and put on the throne 70 years old Yohannes II to the throne.

The death of **Iyoas 1769 which marked** the beginning of **Zemene Mesafint**

9.4. The Zemen Mesafint(Era of Lords) (1769-1855)

It was a period in Ethiopia history started with the death of Iyoas in 1769 and lasted 1855.

The characteristics of Zemene Mesafint

Civil war

Social instability and political fragmentation.

Gondarine king virtually lost their supreme power & authority

Many regions became semi-autonomous.

Absence of rule of law

Shewa became completely independence from the central government

Orthodox Church suffered doctrinal difference.

Weak national power

Different lords became powerful and adopted the title of "Ras".

The peasantry was forced to fight the endless wars of the provisional lords.

It caused decline in agricultural product , stagnation of trade and the collapse of handcraft.

Zemene Mesafint started after the erosion of the traditional power of the

Christian monarchy.

First factors led to the erosion of power and authority of the monarchy had their origins in the war of **Ahemed Ibrahim**.

Before **Imam Ahmed**, the Christian kings **Amade Seyon and Zare Yacob** were renowned for their military and political exploits.

After Imam Ahmed defeated the Christian king the image of the Christian kings destroyed. The first victims were Libne Dengel who lived fugitive life more than a decade after the **battle of Shimbra kure in 1529**.

The other factor for the erosion the traditional power was the establishment of Gonder as a capital. Before its establishment the Christian kings used mobile capital to administer vast area

The kings neglected the provinces is the meantime the regional lords built up their power.

So powerful lord of **Tigray Welde Silassie and Shewan powerful lord Shale Selassie** oppose the central government even made their regional power hereditary.

Several regional lords were involved in the struggle of for the title of Ras Bitweded.

The first **ras bitweded** after the death of **Welde leul** was ras **Michael Sheul** of Tigray.

After the downfall of **Michael Sheul** in the early 1770s the position was monopolized by the Yejju Oromos, who set up **Yejju or Warasheh dynasty in 1786**.

The founder of this dynasty was **Ali Gwangul(Ali the Great or Ali I)** who became the first Yejju Oromo to take the title, Ras bitweded .Six of his family took the title of ras after him for example ,Ras Gugsa and Ras Ali Alula(Ali II) and so on.

The political units during Zemene Mesafint in the different direction were

North:-**Tigray**

Center :-**Simen, Dembia, Begemdir, Lasta, Amhara, Yejju and Wallo**

South:-**Gojjam and Shewa**

The main powerful regions conducted their own foreign relations independently.

For example **Tigray used port of Massawa** and **Shewa conducted their own foreign relation through Awsa and Tajura**

During Zemen Mesafint a foreign threat to Ethiopia came from **Egypt in the Ethio – Sudanese border**.

This came from Egypt after the rise of Mohamed Ali who extended Egypt rule Sudan in 1821.

From Sudan conquered the Ethiopian territory in the west direction. The local nobles who fought with Egypt were **Dejazmach Wube of semen, Dejazmach Kinfu of Quara, and Kassa Hailu**.

Kassa fought with Egypt at the battle of **Debarqi 1848**.

At the time of Zemene Mesafint many people abandoned their profession and become **bandit(shiftas)**.

Kassa Hailu, before, he became Tewodros II fought with regional lords at different battle place,for example

Nov, 1852 at the battle of **Gura Amba**, he defeated Dejach Goshu of Gojjam.

April, 1853 at the battle of **Gorgora Bichen**, he defeated four vassals of Ras Ali II

June 1853 at the battle of **Ayshal**, he defeated Ras Ali himself &

Feb, 1855 at the battle of **Derasge**, He defeated Dejach Wube of semen & Tigray.

Kassa Haylu, took throne name Tewodros considering a prophecy contained in the medieval book Fekare Iyasus.

In this book, it was prophesied that a king by the name ***Tewodros would come to rule & bring peace*** to the people after a period of troubles. Then he crowned king of kings of Ethiopia in **Feb, 1855, by Abune Selama at Derasge** Mariam

The rise of Tewodros to power led to the end of Zemene Mesafint

The two policies of Tewodros II (r. 1855-1868)

Political –re-unification and

Modernization

Questions

1. Who established Gonder as a permanent seat of political power?
2. Mention the major developments of the Gondarian period
3. List the missionaries who tried to convert the Ethiopian kings to Catholicism.
4. Explain about the political center of Gelawdeaw, Minas and Sersa Dengil.
5. Mention the features of Zemen Mesafint

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ከ9-12 ላላችሁ ተማሪዎች

እንደሚታወቀው ከ2015 ዓ.ም ጀምሮ የዩኒቨርሲቲ መግቢያ ፈተና ከ9ኛ-12ኛ ክፍል ያለውን የሚያጠቃልል ነው። ይህም ተማሪዎች ላይ ጫና መፍጠሩ የማይቀር ነው። እኛም ከ2015 ዓ.ም የት/ት ዘመን ጀምሮ በነፃ Mathematics ትምህርትን ከ9ኛ-12ኛ ክፍል ላላችሁ ተማሪዎች Example & Exercise Solution ጨምሮ ቀለል ባለ እና በሚገባችሁ መንገድ ለየት ያሉ YouTube video እያዘጋጀን የምናግዛችሁ መሆኑን ስናሳውቃችሁ በታላቅ አክብሮት ነው።

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Thank You

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