

History Grade 11th unit 7

The Ethiopian Region and the Horn of Africa up to 1529

**Prepared by: Addis Ababa Education
Bureau**

After the end of this unit you will be able to:-

- ❖ Explain about the “restoration” of Solomonic dynasty and Christian highland kingdom
- ❖ Describe about the formation of Muslim states in the Ethiopia region and Horn of Africa
- ❖ Compare the peoples and states in the southern ,eastern and central region of Ethiopia.
- ❖ Explain Ethiopian as a multi-cultural country and land of diversity

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 Amalk.
- 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
 - It replied the kingdom to maintain large territorial army during the period
 - It greatly simplified the tasks of administering the vast Christian kingdom

IV.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

- Their population made up of Muslim communities
- Their rulers exercised both religious and political powers
- Islam and trade were the main factors for their emergence
- Most of the sultanates were located in the southeastern lowlands of Ethiopia
- 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 **Aduils 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.
- 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.
- 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 established new base in the low lands of Harar and formed Adal. Its first center was **Deker** ,southeast of Harar. The successor of Umar Walsama **HaqadinII and Saadadin** rebelled against Amde Seyon's son **Sayfa Arad**(r.1344-1371)
- ❖ Sultan Ahemed 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

□ These states include:-

A. The kingdom of Damot

- ❖ It was the oldest and strongest states in Ethiopian region
- ❖ The Eastern part of this kingdom probably included today's Beni-Shangul-Gumuz,
- ❖ The 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 partner 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 Motalimi accepted Christianity.
- But Damot continued its resistance in the south of Gojeb river until 1316,when Amde Seyon finally annexed the kingdom.
- ❖ 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 in 1897 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 ,signifiying 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 destricts of Wambarma in southern Gojjam
- Medival population of Bizamo consisted the speakers of Omotic language family of **Shinasha**.

E. The kingdom of Welayta

- Ψ It was located south of sultanate of Hadya
- Ψ Its origin may have derived from ancient kingdom of Damot
- Ψ During the reign of Amde Seyon Welayta was the tributary of Christian
- Ψ The king of Welayta used the royal title **Kawo**.The area was very fertile.
- Ψ The first dynasty came to power towards the end of the Zagwe period.
- Ψ The founder of the dynasty was **Motalami**.He founded **Walayita Malla** dynasty.
- Ψ The second dynasty was Kucha until 1550
- Ψ The economy of Walayita depended on agricultural products.
- Ψ Walayita was finally conquered by Menelik II force in 1894
 - Ψ 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

Ψ 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 AmdeSeyon 1332.

Ψ The sultan of Ifat Haqqedin provided pre text by arresting a commercial agent of Amde Seyon towards the end of 1325.

- The Christian army easily defeated and plundered and burnt Ifat.
- To avoid the danger of Christian army Haqqedin's successor called **Deradir** ,who opened a massive offensive on the territory of Christian kingdom
- 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-conquest 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 Sabredden , 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.

Ψ Sultan Haqqeddin II(r.1363-1374)

- He started against the Christian rule around Harer
 - He was against Christian King Dawit(r. 1382-1413)
- 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
- The successor **sultan Sadaddin** ,who were engaged guerilla fighting .But killed in Zeila in 1403.

✌ **Ahemed Badelay(r.1433-1445)**

- He was one of the most powerful sultan of Adal against the Christian force .
- 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**

Ψ **Ahmed Ibn Ibrahim al Ghazi** (Ahmed Gagn) (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 Qure*** the force of Ahmad defeated Lebne Dengel.
 - ✚ Factor for the victory of Adal
 - Christian army undermining Adal force
 - Ahemed organized new force from Afar , Argoba, Harari and somalia .He led united force and defeated Christian army. 1529-1543-the domination of Adal.

Thank you
presented by:-
Getahun Fenta Belay