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History

Lesson Note

for Grade 10

UNIT THREE

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA FROM MID-19th C. TO 1941

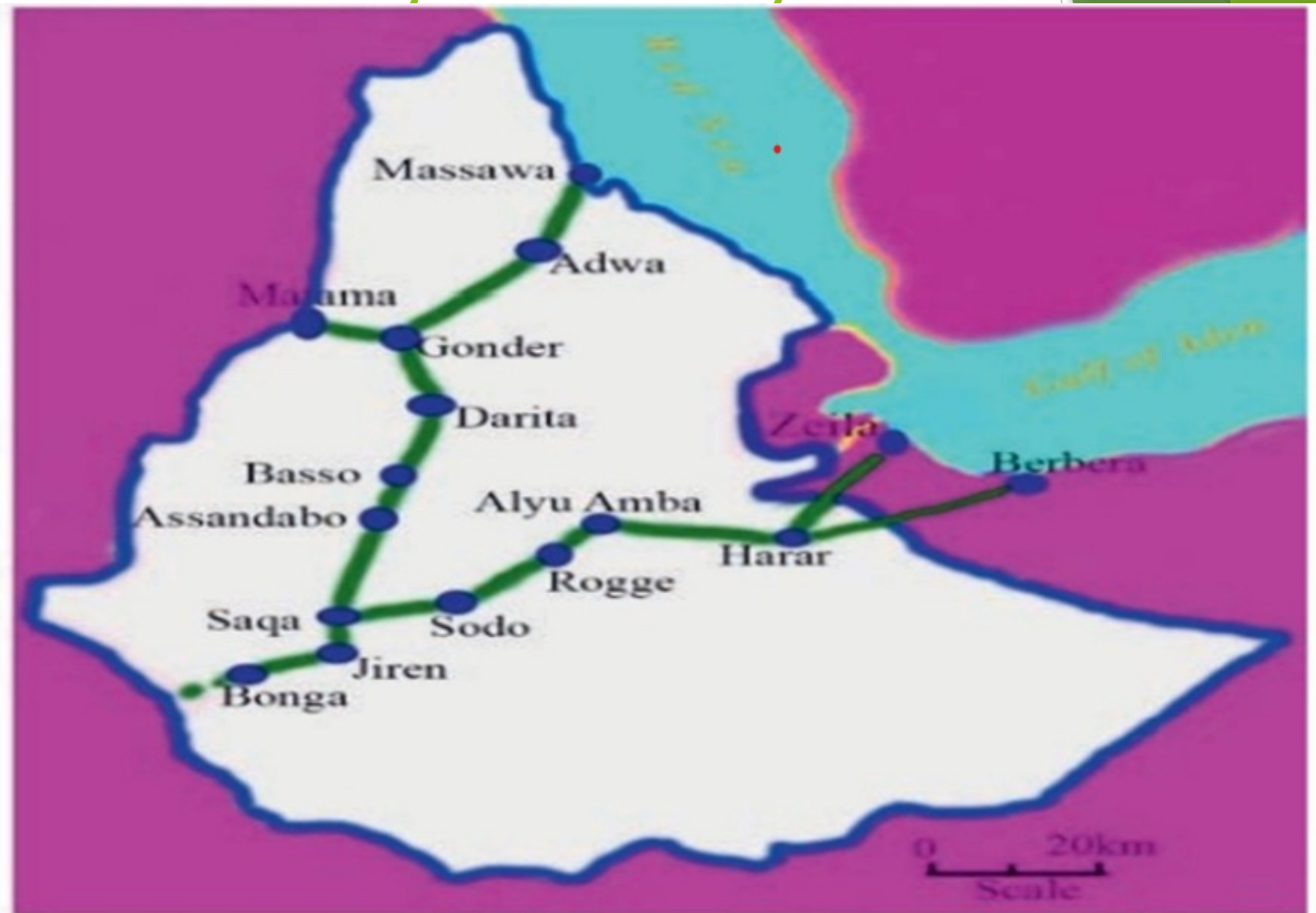
2024/25 Academic Year Second Quarter Lesson Note 1 for
Grade 10

Unit learning outcomes

At the end of this unit, the students will be able to:

- Examine the interactions among people and states in Ethiopia in relation to the long distance trade;
- Identify major socio-economic and political reforms of the period;
- Describe the causes of external aggression and its consequences;
- Recognize the unity of Ethiopian people against foreign aggression.

3.1 Long Distance Trade In 19th Century and The Cottage Industry



Map 3.1 Trade routes of 19th C. Ethiopia

The Trade Routes, People's Interaction, Major Market Centers, The Medium Of Exchange, And Trade Items

- In the 19th century, the southern, northern and eastern parts of Ethiopia and the Horn were connected by ***two major trade routes*** that started from **Bonga**, the **capital of the Kafa Kingdom**.
- The **first trade** route started from **Bonga** and passed through the famous market centers of the century like **Jiren** in Jimma, **Hirmata, Saqa** in **Limmu-Ennarya**, **Assandabo** in Horro-Gudru,

At **Gondar** it branched into two:

- The first went **westward** through **Chilga** to **Matamma (Gallabat)** to **Ethio-Sudanese border** and the other route passed through **Adwa, Asmara** and terminated at **Massawa** on the **Red Sea coast**.
- The **second major trade route** also started from **Bonga** and passed through the famous market centers of the century like **Hirmata** in Jimma, **Soddo** in southern Shewa, **Rogge** at the foot of Yarar Mountain, **Aliyu Amba** in northern Shewa and **Harar** in eastern Ethiopia.
- At **Harar** the route branched into two:
 - the first route went to **Zeyila** and the second to **Berbera**, both on Coast of the **Indian Ocean**.

Principal commodities

- ▶ Ivory, civet musk, salt bars (amole) and slaves.
- ▶ The main medium of exchange were Amole (salt bar) and Maria Theresa Thalers (MTT).
- ▶ MTT was a coin introduced from Austria



Participant in the long-distance trade

At each market center, **local peoples** were active traders.

- **Muslim merchants** were the dominant group that traveled from the interior to the coast.
- **Jabarti** the northern Muslim merchants (Agow, Amhara and Tegre)
- **Afqala - southwest Muslim Oromo merchants.**
- **Argoba** from the **kingdom of Shewa** were also active merchants in the trade between **Harar** and the **Northern Somali coast.**

The Role of Cottage Industries

- ▶ The **Cottage industry** and **handicraft technology** existed in Ethiopia since time immemorial.
- ▶ The most **common cottage industries** were **metalworking, pottery, tannery, carpentry, masonry, weaving, jewelry** and **basket making**.



Figure 3.1 Local professional's different handicraft product

Exercise 3.1

1. Identify the main export items of the 19th c. long-distance trade in Ethiopia and the horn of Africa.
2. Identify the main import items of the 19th c. long-distance trade in Ethiopia and the horn of Africa.
3. ----- was the title given for the head of caravan merchants.
4. Identify the major market centers where the LDT routes bifurcated.
5. What is cottage industry?
6. _____ and _____ were the dominant medium of exchange in the 19th c. LDT in Ethiopia and the Horn.

3.2. The Making of Modern Ethiopian State

3.2.1. The Rise of Kassa Hailu

The making of modern Ethiopia involved:

1. The **unification** of **northern and north-central** parts and;
 2. **Territorial expansion** into the **southern** half of the country.
- ▶ The **first emperor** who attempted to unify the country was **Kassa Hailu of Quara**.
 - ▶ Kassa became prominent when he was serving his half-brother, **Dejjazmach Kinfu of Dembya** and helped him in defeating the Egyptians at the battle of **Wad Kaltabu in 1837**.

EMPEROR TEWODROS II (1855-1868).



TEWODROS II AKA THEODORE II

Original caption: "Emperor Theodore giving an Audience." Depicts Ethiopian emperor Tewodros II, 1818-1868. Image published: 1901.

- ▶ Following the death of Dejjach kinfu in 1839, Ras Ali II refused to give Kassa Qwara or Kinfu's governorship of Ye Meru-Qemes. Kassa therefore went to **Qwara as a Shifta** (bandit), where he was extremely successful.
- ▶ Yeju (Warra-Sheh) lords gave him Tewabech, the daughter of Ras Ali II in 1847.
- ▶ He was also appointed as the governor of **Quara**.
- ▶ In 1848, Kassa (in his shifta life) fought

...Continued

► The major regional lords defeated by Kassa Hailu before his coronation were:

1. Dejjach **Goshu Zewde** of Gojjam at **Gur Amba** on November 27, 1852.

2. **Birru Aligaz** and the four other Dejjazmachs at **Gorgora Bichen** on April 12, 1853.

3. **Ras Ali II** of Yejju Dynasty at **Ayshal** on 29 June 1853. It symbolized the end of the **Yejju dynasty**.

4. Dejjazmach **Wube** of **Semen** and **Tigray** at **Deresge** on 8 February 1855.

... continued

- ▶ **Kassa Hailu** was anointed by **Abuna Salama** at **Deresge Mariam** on 9 Feb. 1855 and became **Tewodros II, King of Kings of Ethiopia**.
- ▶ Tewodros II envisioned to **create territorially united, militarily self-dependent and strong**.

THE MILITARY EXPEDITION

1. March to Wello

- ❖ Started in March 1855. Ended following the **capture of Maqdala** on 12 Sep. 1855.

2. March to Shewa

- ❖ **Efrata, Gidem and Menze** peacefully submitted.
- ❖ **Negus Haile Melekot** died in the middle of the fight.
- ❖ At the **battle of Bereket** in November 1855, the Shewa resistance was crushed and **Menelik** was taken as hostage.

Tewodros II and Modernization

Military Reforms

- ❖ Introduced national and modern salaried armies.
- ❖ Introduced military titles like **Yasir Aleqa** (commander of ten).
- ❖ Build modern military technology & arms manufacturing at Gafat.

❖ Socio-economic Reform

Abolish slavery, banditry and looting of peasants

- ❖ Tried to stop polygamy
- ❖ Taking away church land and distribute to the landless
- ❖ Encouraged the use of Amharic in place of geez

Religious reform

Sebastopol was among the many cannons produced at Gafat.



Figure 3.2 Tewodros's mortar, Sebastopol

Obstacles Facing Tewodros II's Modernization and Unification

Internal opposition

- ❖ The reunification process threatened the power of **regional lords**.
- ❖ His policy on church land brought the emperor in direct conflict with the **church**.

External obstacle

- ❖ **Lack of foreign assistance.**

Tewodros II arrested European missionaries and consul and forced them to produce weapon and ammunitions.

➤ The British army led by **Napier** stormed **Meqdela** on **April 13 1868**.

...continued

- ▶ Following the death of Emperor Tewodros, **three contenders** to the throne emerged;
 1. **Wagshum Gobeze of Lasta,**
 2. **Kassa Mircha of Tigre, and**
 3. **Menelik of Shewa.**
- ▶ **Gobeze** came to power immediately after Tewodros as **Emperor Tekle Giyorgis II (1868–71).**
- ▶ **Adal Tessema** and **Menelik** recognized the over lordship of **Tekle Giyorgis II.**
- ▶ **Kassa Mercha** initially accepted and latter refused the over lordship of the Emperor.
- ▶ At the battle at **Assem** (near Adwa) in July

Classwork

1. Who was the first emperor that started the (re)-unification process of modern Ethiopia?
2. What were the four major battles that Dejjazmach Kassa Hailu fought that led him to be an emperor of Ethiopia.
3. Why did Tewodros II conducted military operations against Wollo and Shewa?
4. Discuss at least three reforms taken by Tewodros II that impressed you most.
5. What would happen if Tewodros did not start the reunification of Ethiopia?

Emperor Yohannes IV Reign (1872-1889)

Yohannes IV (1872-1889) attempted to:

1. **Introduce a decentralized system of administration** permitting regional rulers to exercise a great deal of autonomy.
 - ▶ He **recognition of Menilek as Nigus of Shewa** in 1878 by the **Liche agreement**.
 - ▶ He **designated Ras Adal Tesema of Gojjam as Nigus Tekle-Haymanot of Gojjam and Kafa** in 1881.
2. Yohannes IV **achieved unity** among the **predominantly Christian provinces**, including **Wag and Lasta, Semen, Begemidr, Amhara Saynt, Gojjam, Wollo, Shewa, and the Mereb Milash** for quite some time.

3. Yohannes IV declared **Turubale** as the capital



- ▶ Ethiopian Muslims, especially those of Wollo, were forced to be converted to Orthodox Christianity.
- ▶ Some **superficially converted** while others **preferred migration** to other areas like Arsi, Gurage, Jimma and Sudan. The notable converts were:

1. **Mohammed Ali - Ras Mikael**

Class work

1. Who were the three contenders to the throne following the death of Tewodros II.
2. _____ was the successor of Tewodros II who later named Emperor _____.
3. at the battle of _____ Kassa Mercha defeated the then emperor.
4. Mention the reforms introduced by Yohannes IV.
5. Describe Liche agreement.

Territorial Expansion to The South

The **process of territorial expansion** carried out by **Menelik II** can be categorized into **three phases**.

1. THE FIRST PHASE (1875-1889)

- It was made when he was king of Shewa (1865-89).
- **Ras Gobana Dache played a pivotal role in the territorial expansion and the creation of the modern Ethiopian Empire.**
- The expansion was facilitated by:
 - ❖ The **Liche agreement-** enabled Menelik to concentrate on expansion.
 - ❖ The **battle of Embabo-** Menelik eliminated strong rival of his expansion.
 - ❖ **Relation with the Italians-** enabled Menelik to get fire arms.
 - ❖ The expansion was concluded **both peacefully and forcefully.**

... continued

- ▶ South of the Abay River, particularly **Horro-Guduru** was **controlled by Ras Adal (Negus Tekle-Haymanot)** for some time **up to the time of his defeat at Embabo.**

Peaceful submission

- ▶ In this phase **Christian Gurage, Illubabur, Wollega** and most of the **Gibe states** were incorporated **peacefully** by **promising local autonomy.**

Forceful submission

- ▶ **Muslim Gurage**, led by **Hassan Enjamo of Qebena**, strongly resisted Menelik's force until **Ras Gobana defeated them in 1888.**

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Arsi

- ❖ After **six different campaigns** from **1882 to 1886** the **Arsi resistance** was **suppressed** by the forces of **Ras Darge Sahla Selassie** at the **battle of Azule** on **6 September 1886**.

Hararghe

- ❖ The **Harari** and the **Oromo** attempted to **resist Menelik's expansion**. The resistance was crushed at the **battle of Chelenqo** on **6 January 1887**.
- ❖ **Dejjach (later Ras) Mekonnen Welde-Mikael** was **appointed** as governor of the province.

2ND PHASE (1889-1896)

- This was an expansion after Menelik II became an emperor up to the battle of Adwa.
- This phase was facilitated by: **The Great Famine or Kefu-Qan (1888-92)** and **War with Italians**
- Starting from 1889 up to 1894, areas like **Dawuro, Konta, Kambata, Bale, Sidama, Gamo Gofa and Wolaita** were incorporated.
- **Wolayta** was incorporated after bloodiest war with the last king of Wolayta called **Kawo Tona** in 1894.

3RD PHASE (1896-1900)

- The regions of **Gedio, Konso, Benishangul, Gambella, Kefa** and **Borona** were incorporated in this stage.
- In 1897, Kefa was incorporated after the forces of **Tato Gaki Sherocho** (the last king of Kafa) were **defeated**

Exercise 3.2

1. What are the factors that facilitated the three phase territorial expansion conducted by Menelik II?
2. Who was a childhood friend and military commander of Menelik that helped Menelik incorporate Shewa Oromo and Gibe Oromo states?
3. identify the states and people that submit to Menelik peacefully.
4. The last ruler of the kingdom of Wolaita and Keffa were _____ and _____.

Boundary Delimitation

- ❖ On **20 March 1897** the boundary between Ethiopia and **French Somaliland (Djibouti)** was delimited.
- ❖ In **May 1897** delimitation with **British Somaliland**.
- ❖ On **10 July 1900**, delimitation with **Italian Eritrea**.
- ❖ On **15 May 1902** with **Anglo-Egyptian Sudan**.
- ❖ In **1907** with the **British East Africa (Kenya)**.
- ❖ In **1908** with **Italian Somaliland**.
- ▶ The **delimitation** on the map was **not followed by demarcation** on the ground.

Administrative Reforms and Technologies introduced by Menelik II

- ▶ Bank of Abyssinia in 1905;
- ▶ Menelik II school in 1908;
- ▶ modern postal system,
- ▶ signed the agreement and initiated work that established the Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway with the French in 1894,
- ▶ introduced electricity, telephone, telegraph, motor car, modern plumbing.
- ▶ He also started to mint a coin to replace the Maria Theresa Thaler.



Emperor Menilek II



Ras Gobana Dache



Figure 3.7 Abba Jifar II of Jimma



Figure 3.8 Kawo Tona



Figure 3.9 Gaki Sherocho

External Aggressions and the Unity of Ethiopian People in Defense of National Sovereignty, 1871-1896

Tewodros II

- Tewodros II seeks technical support of Europe, particularly that of Britain so as to defeat the Egyptian and modernize Ethiopia.
- In 1862, Tewodros sent a letter to Queen Victoria of Great Britain requesting military assistance through Consul Cameron.
- Cameron came back to Ethiopia via Egypt without any response.
- Tewodros held Cameron responsible and arrested other Europeans.
- The British send military expedition to get the release of captives and punish Tewodros II.
- At the battle of Aroghe, in April 10, 1868 the British force led by colonel R. Napier defeated Tewodros II's army led by Fitawrari Gebrye.
- On the next day, April 11, 1868 he released European captives.
- Three days later British stormed Meqdela and the emperor took his life instead of surrender.

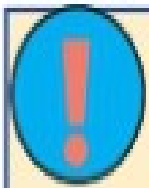
Yohannes IV and Egypt

- ▶ The Egyptians had the ambition to control the source of the Blue Nile.
- ▶ In 1875, Khedive Ismail Pasha, the Egyptian leader, sent his troops to invade Ethiopia in three directions.
- ▶ **The First** was the Zeila front led by Mohammed Rauf Pasha which resulted in the occupation of the Harar Emirate (1875 to 1885).
- ▶ **The second front** was led by Werner Munzinger started from the direction of Tajura (Djibouti) to control Shewa. But, Egyptians were annihilated by the Afars.
- ▶ **The third front** Colonel Arendrup and Arakel Bey led another 2,000 well-armed troops through Massawa.

- ▶ Emperor Yohannes IV and his **General Ras Alula** mobilized about 20,000 troops.
- ▶ At the **Battle of Gundat** (16 November 1875), the **Egyptian** troops were severely **defeated**.
- ▶ The army was composed of 15,000 troops under the command of **Muhammad Ratib Pasha**.
- ▶ Yohannes IV mobilized around 50,000 troops under the command of **Ras Alula Aba Nega**.
- ▶ At the battle of **Gura** (7–9 March 1876), Ethiopia once again defeated Egypt.
- ▶ The military victory was not followed by **peace and restoration of invaded territories**.

YOHANNES IV and ITALY

- ▶ Italian private shipping company (Rubatino) bought the port of Assab from the local chiefs in 1869.
- ▶ The port was transferred to the Italian government in 1882.
- ▶ Great Britain secretly transferred Massawa from Egypt to Italy in 1885.
- ▶ Using these bases as a springboard, Italy began penetrating northern Ethiopia, Mereb Melash.
- ▶ At the battle of Dogali on January 26 1887, Italians were defeated by Ras Alula Aba Nega.
- ▶ To stop the Italian incursion in the north, Emperor Yohannes made a national call.



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Literally, Oh! The people of Ethiopia,
The country called Ethiopia is firstly your mother, secondly your crown, thirdly your wife, fourthly your child, fifthly your grave. Accordingly, rise understanding the love of a mother, honor of a crown, the goodness of a wife, the delight of having a child, and the shelter of a grave.

Hence, on 9 March 1889, the Emperor marched to Metemma where he died fighting the Mahdists. Internal divisions and hostilities among rulers would result in a huge cost to the country and its people. Among others, Maqdala and Metemma are very good testimonies.

YOHANNES IV and MAHADIST SUDAN

- ▶ The Mahdist drove Egyptian occupiers out and encircled the remaining Egyptian troops in the Kassala area of Eastern Sudan.
- ▶ The British brokered a treaty known as the Hewett Treaty (Adwa treaty) between Ethiopia and Egypt on Oct. 1884.

According to the Hewett Treaty:

- ▶ Ethiopia agreed to facilitate the evacuation of Egyptian soldiers.
- ▶ British agreed to let Ethiopia use Massawa to import commodities including firearms.
- ▶ It was the main cause for the clashes between the Mahdists of Sudan and Ethiopian forces

- ▶ At the battle of Kufit in September 1885, Ras Alula Engeda defeated the Mahadist force led by Utman Digna.
- ▶ In January 1887, Nigus Tekle-Haymanot of Gojjam repulsed the Mahdist.
- ▶ A year later, the Mahdists led by Abu Anja, defeated Nigus Tekle-Haimanot's troops at Sar Wuha in Dembia.
- ▶ Menelik repulsed the Mahdist at the battle of Gute Dili (Wollega) in 1888.
- ▶ At the end of his reign, Emperor Yohannes faced with triangular tension.
- ▶ On March 9 1889, the emperor marched to Metemma where died fighting the Mahdist.

Exercise 3.3

1. _____ and _____ were the last places remembered with the history of Tewodros II and Yohannes IV?
2. Italy used _____ and _____ ports as a springboard to penetrate in to the heartland of Ethiopia.
3. Who was the prominent military commander during the reign of Yohannes IV who defeated Emperor Tekle-Giyorgis, the Mahdist and Egyptians.
4. _____ and _____ were battles that emperor yohannes IV defeated Egyptians and led to the end of Egyptians ambition to control the source of the blue Nile.

MENELIK II AND ITALY

WUCHALE TREATY (2 May 1889)

- ▶ Signed between Ethiopia (Negus Menelik) and Italy to promote friendship and trade between the two countries in the town of Wuchale (Wollo).
- ▶ There was slight, but crucial difference between the Amharic and Italian version on Article XVII of the treaty.
- ▶ Menelik II unilaterally abrogated the treaty in 1893.
- ▶ the Italians crossed the Mereb River, arrived at Adigrat, and proceeded to Amba-Alage.
- ▶ Following this, Menelik II call for a mobilization.

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- ▶ About 100,000 troops from every part of the country gathered at Were-Illu (in today's South Wollo).
- ▶ A force led by Fitawrari Gebeyehu Gurmu defeated the Italians at Amba-Alage and forced them to retreat to Mekelle.
- ▶ In January 1896, under the leadership of Ras Mekonnen, the Ethiopian forces defeated the Italians at Mekelle.

The Siege of Mekelle

- ▶ At Mekelle, they came under siege that prevented their access to a stream, which they used for drinking.

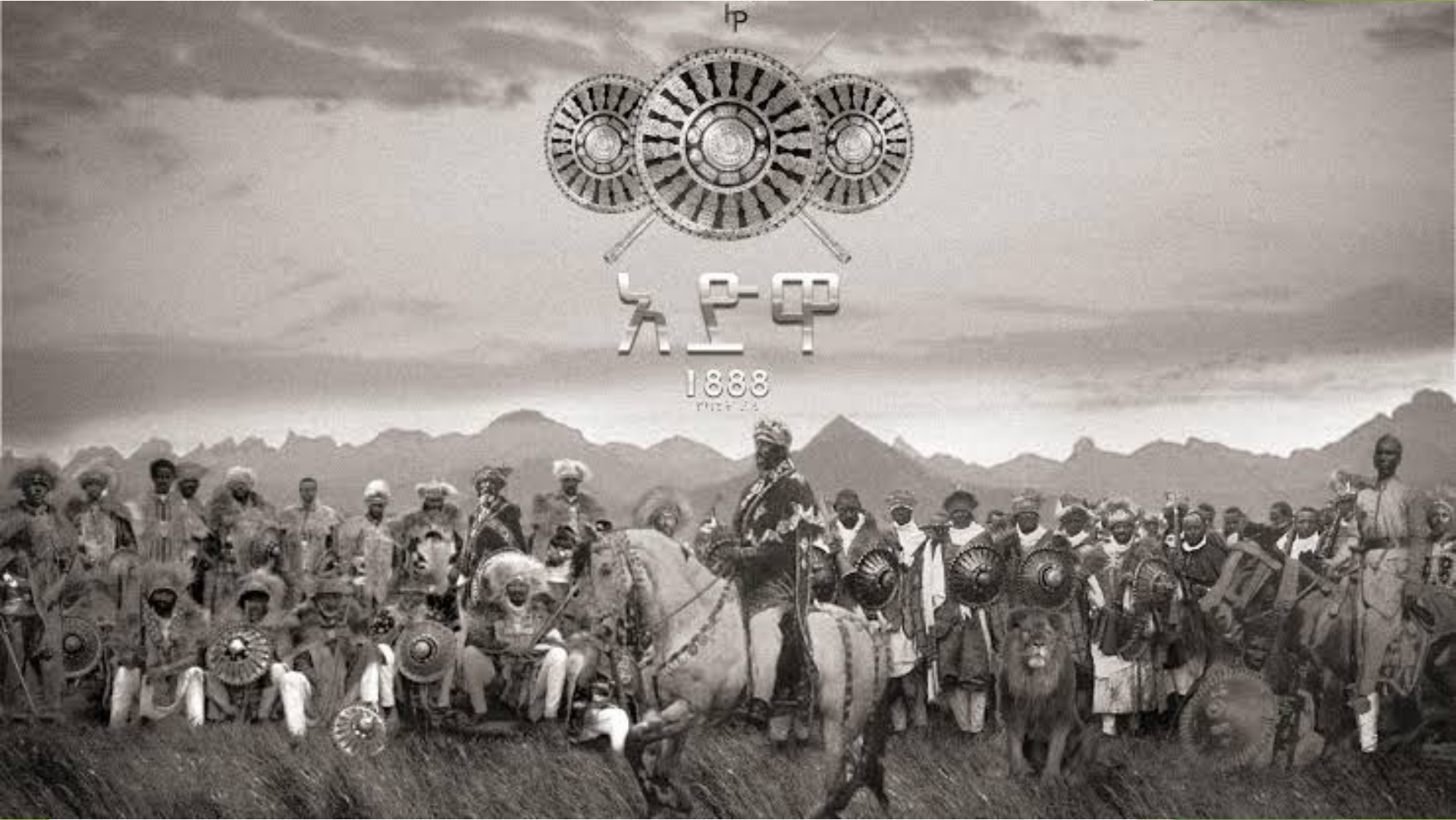
- ▶ The strategy was commonly called the "siege of Mekelle" and was designed by Empress

Etege Taytu (berhan ze-Ethiopia)



The Battle of Adwa

- ▶ The last and decisive phase of the war was fought at Adwa on March 1 1896.
- ▶ The Ethiopian forces were led by Emperor Menelik II, Empress Taytu and war generals like Ras Mikael, Ras Mekonnen, Ras Alula, Ras Mengesha and Nigus Tekle-Haymanot.
- ▶ The result of this battle was a remarkable victory for Ethiopians.
- ▶ At this battle, about 8,000 Italian fighters were killed, 1,500 wounded, and 3,000 were captured.
- ▶ On the Ethiopian side, about 4,000-6,000 troops are said to have been killed.



The Consequences Of Adwa

- ▶ Italians retreated and cleared from all Tigre territory.
- ▶ The great powers of the world recognized Ethiopia as an independent and sovereign state.
- ▶ The first country to do so was Italy itself.
- ▶ By the treaty of Addis Ababa signed on October 26, 1896, and which concluded the war, Italy recognized the independence of Ethiopia.
- ▶ Following the footsteps of Italy, other great powers including France, Britain, Turkey, Russia, USA and other accepted Ethiopia's sovereignty and opened their locations in

- ▶ For black people who were fighting for their freedom and independence across the world, Adwa served as a source of pride and motivation
- ▶ In Italy, too, the defeat led to the collapse of the government of Premier Francesco Crispi.

The Inception of Power Struggle Among the Ruling Elites 1906 to 1935

Ethiopia entered the 20th century politically stable and victorious over colonial aggressions.

Historical problems of the 1906 were:

1. **Menelik's illness.** In 1906, Menelik suffered a stroke and unable gave effective leadership.
2. **The death of Ras Mekonnen Welde-Michael;** cousin of the Emperor and the would be successor.

These created

- I. the issue of succession has arisen, and
- II. revival of foreign threats.

Tripartite Treaty

- ▶ The United Kingdom, France, and Italy, signed a **Tripartite Treaty in 1906**, assuming that Ethiopia would fall into disorder if Menelik II died.

According to the pact

1. British interest and her sphere of influence was the Nile basin
2. French deepened her Interest in Djibouti Addis Ababa rail way.
3. Italian Interest was to construct a railway that links her colonies of Eritrea and Somaliland.

Menelik II's response

Menelik II take the following measures to address these problems.

1. He **wrote a letter to the signatories of the Tripartite Treaty** in which he underlined the need to maintain the unity and independence of his country.
 2. He established **Council of Minister**, in 1907 with the aim of ensuring the normal running of his government.
 3. In **May 1909 Menelik II** officially announced **Lij Iyasu as his heir** under the **regent of Ras Tessema Nadew**.
- **This** condition **created power struggle** between Taytu, Emperor's wife, and the **Shewa nobilities**. Taytu need Zewditu to be the successor than Lij Iyasu.

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Lij Iyasu and Ras Tessema Nadew



Lij Iyasu, Modernization, Reformation and End of His Reign

- ▶ Addis Ababa's first police force (**Trumbulle**)
- ▶ He tried to **reform property ownership and taxation**,
- ▶ Outlawed **lebashay** and **Quragna**.
- ▶ He introduced an "**Auditing System**" meant to protect public property.
- ▶ Lij Iyasu was deposed on September 27, 1916.
- ▶ Iyasu headed towards the capital but his opponents and Iyasu men met and he was defeated at Mieso, near Asebe Tafari (Chiro) town.
- ▶ **Ras Michael fought at the battle of Segele**, near Sheno town with the central government.
- ▶ But he was defeated by **Ras Teferi** and capture, on 27 October 1916.
- ▶ He died in prison two years later.

The Reign of Empress Zewditu (191



Cliché D'Anelli

12 - L'Impératrice Zéouditou

The Reign of Empress Zewditu

The characteristics of Zewditu's reign

1. **Diarchy** - the period of dual rule between 1916 and 1930. Princess Zewditu Menelik was crowned Empress of Ethiopia on February 11, 1917 and Dejjach Teferi Mekonnen (now Ras) named **successor** to the throne.
2. An ongoing dispute between **conservative** (represented by Zewditu) and the **progressive** (led by Ras Teferi Mekonnen).
 - I. The **conservatives** consisted of the old nobility including Fitawrari Habte Giyorgis, Abune Matheos and Balcha Safo.
 - ▶ The aim of this group was to defend the old social, economic, political and religious order.
 - II. The **progressives** consisted of the **commercial strata**, the **young and educated** as well as the **enlighten nobility**.
 - ▶ Criticized a feudal order, heavy taxation, corruption and slavery.

3. Ras Teferi eliminated his opponents

- ▶ The **expulsion of members of the council of ministers in 1918**, with the exception of Habte-Giyorgis Dinagde.
- ▶ **Habte Giyorgis Dinagde** and **Abune Matheos** died peacefully **in December 1926**, putting an end to their silent struggle.
- ▶ **Balcha Safo removed from Sidamo in February 1928** following his refusal to accept orders from the center.
- ▶ On **September 1928** **aba Wuqawe rebelled** and fortified on the palace ground. The **mutiny was crushed** through **Zewditu** interference.
- ▶ Zewditu promoted Ras Teferi to kingship status on **September 22, 1928**.
- ▶ **October 6 Ras Teferi** was **crowned** as **Negus** with full power.
- ▶ **Ras Gugsu Wolle** was **defeated by Ras Teferi Mekonnen** at the Battle of **Anchim in 1930**. **Two days later empress Zewditu died.**

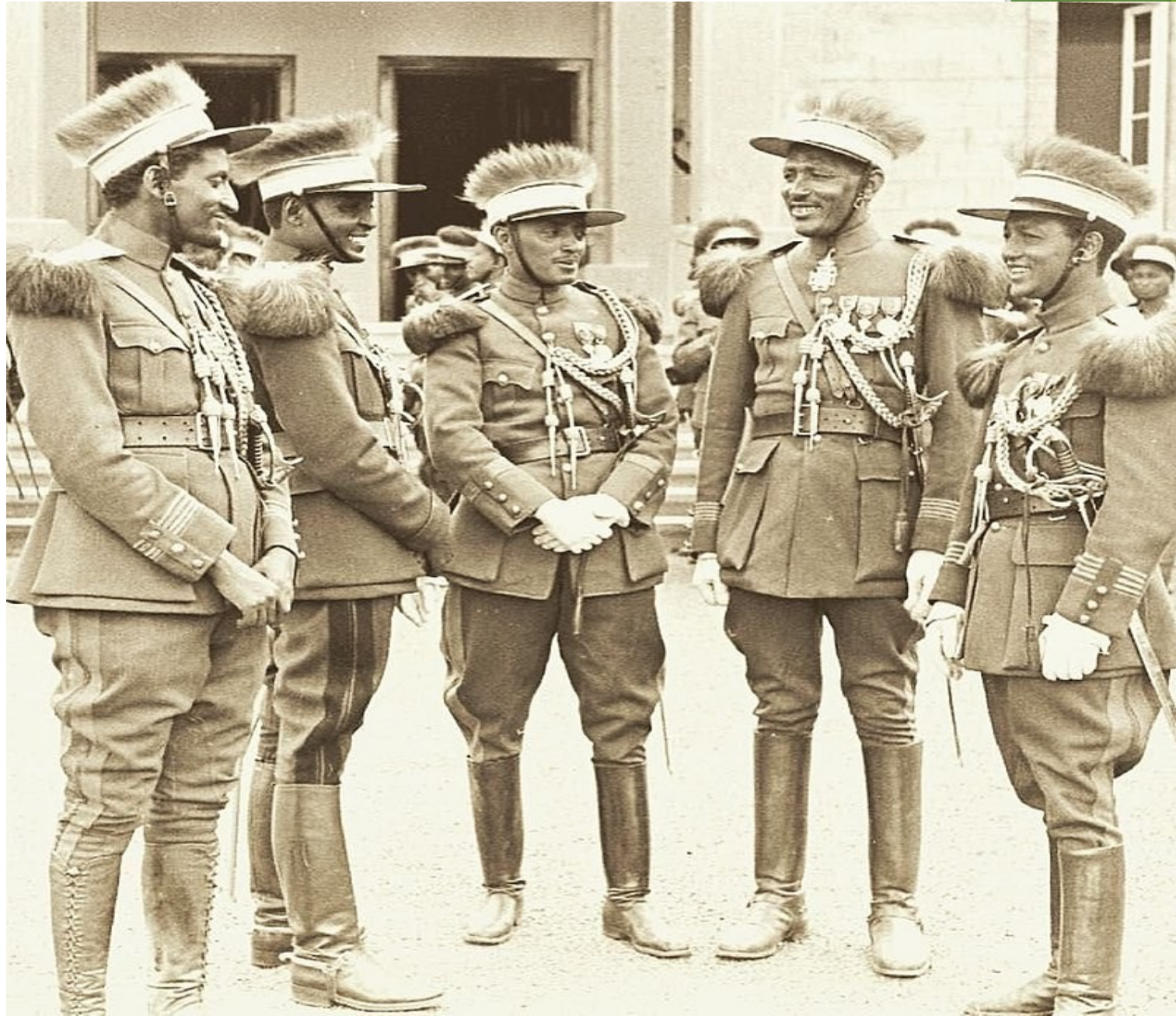
The Reign of Haile-Selassie I



Reforms and modernizations introduced by Emperor Haile-Selassie I (1916-1935)

1. He imported 2 printing machines (Birhan ena Selam).
2. Modern education was expanded.
3. In 1923, Ethiopia became the member of the League of Nations.
4. Slavery and forced labour was abolished in 1924.
5. The rail way and air plane was introduced in 1917 and 1929 respectively.
6. The formation of National Army
 - ▶ In 1930, the Belgian officers began training the Imperial Bodyguard.
 - ▶ In 1934, the first officer training school was established at Holeta, west of the capital, by a Swedish military mission.

Imperial Bodyguard



7. The promulgation of the 1931 constitution

The reason for the Introduction of The first written constitution in the history of Ethiopia was:

1. Regulating the relation between the monarchy and nobility;
2. To demonstrate interest to modernization.
3. To establish friendly relations with foreign powers
4. To keep" fair rule" and guarantee" justice" for the people

The features of the 1931 constitution

1. The constitution granted the emperor **the power to make appointments and dismiss officials, administering justice, declare and end wars, and grant lands and honors.**
2. Centralized administration. All provinces lost their autonomy one after another (except Tigre, Sevuom

Italian Aggression and the Patriotic Resistance (1935-1941)

The **basic causes** of the second Italo-Ethiopian war (1935-36) were:

1. The battle of Adwa.
 2. The propaganda of fascist party.
- Mussolini came to power in 1922.
 - He stimulated the colonial ambition of Italy.
 - He promised Italians to bring the glory of ancient Rome by revenging their defeat at Adwa.
 - He wanted to divert the attention of the people affected by the economic crisis hitting Italy.

Immediate cause

- **Walwal incident.** Walwal was a place in Ogaden region about 100 km inside Ethiopia's territory. The Italians illegally controlled the area.

Benito Mussolini



- ▶ On December 5, 1934, the Italians opened a fire on Anglo-Ethiopian border commission passing through the area.
- ▶ Italy lost 30 soldiers while about 90 soldiers killed in Ethiopian side.
- ▶ Italy wanted reparation and apology.
- ▶ Ethiopia took the case to the League of Nations.
- ▶ The League of Nations failed to give a fair solution.

The course of the second Italo-Ethiopian war

- ▶ Italy, by crossing Mereb river invaded

The Italian front

1. Northern front

- ▶ Launched from Eritrea.
- ▶ Led by Emilio De Bono and later by Pietro Badoglio.
- ▶ Italy used 300 airplanes to shower Ethiopians with internationally outlawed poisonous gas and bomb.
- ▶ Ambaradom, Temben (1st and 2nd) and Maichew were the main battles where Italy defeated Ethiopia.
- ▶ Pietro Badoglio controlled Addis Ababa on May 5, 1936.

2. Southern front

- ▶ launched from Italian Somaliland.
- ▶ **Led by** Marshal Rodolfo Graziani.
- ▶ Italy used 100 airplanes to drop mustard gas and bomb.
- ▶ Graziani controlled Harar on May 8, 1936.



Map 3.3 Italian advances, (source: world War II wiki-Fandom)

The Ethiopian counter offensive

► Ethiopian counter offensive came too late because:

1. Ethiopia trusted the LN & the international community and hoped fair justice against Italy.
2. Stretching the Italian line of supply.

Ethiopia's plan of counter offensive was organized in two fronts:

North front

► Commanded by Ras Kassa Hailu.

It was organized in three directions;

1. East direction-commanded by Ras Mulugeta Yigezu, who later defeated at the battle of Amba-Aradom.

2. Central direction- commanded by Ras Kassa and Ras Seyoum Mengesha, who later defeated at the battle of Temben

... continued

3. West direction- commanded by Ras Imiru Haile-Selassie, whose army won temporary victory at the battle of shire.

- ▶ Emperor Haile-Selassie and his better army was involved in this direction. The imperial bodyguard was defeated at the battle of Maichew on March 31, 1936.
- ▶ After this battle the emperor with some notable nobilities fled to Europe to continue their struggle diplomatically.
- ▶ The exiled government was assigned at Gore under the viceroy of Ras Imru Haile-Selassie (the leader of Black Lion Patriots Association).

Southern front

Commanded by:

- ▶ This front was well organized than the northern but, was easily defeated by Rodolf Grazziani.

Reasons for Italian success

- Italian military superiority
- The use of poison gas
- The arm embargo of the LN
- The collaboration of Banda' including Dejjach Haile-Selassie Gugsa of Tigre.
- Italians had well-experienced and professional army commanders and troops
- The numerical superiority of Italians
- The lack of coordination, military skill and organization among Ethiopians.

The Period of Italian Fascist Rule in Ethiopia from 1936-1941 and Patriotic resistance

- ▶ The Italians established Italian East Africa (IEA) encompassing Eritrea, Somalia and Ethiopia as one colonial units.
- ▶ IEA was governed by initially by Badoglio, then by Grazziani, and lastly by Amadeo Umberto D'aosta.
- ▶ The IEA Empire had six administrative divisions, namely:
 1. Ogaden and Somalia with the capital Mogadishu;
 2. Eritrea and Tigre with capital city Asmara;
 3. Begemedit, Gojjam, Wollo and North Shewa with the capital Gonder;
 4. Shewa with the capital Addis Ababa;
 5. Oromo and Sidamo with the capital Jimma;
 6. Harar and Dire-Dawa with the capital Harar.

Ethiopian Patriots



Ras Desta Damtew
(1892 - 24 Feb 1937)



Ras Mulugeta Yigazu



- ▶ The Ethiopian patriotic resistance against the Italian rule had two phases:
 1. The first phase of patriotic resistance (1935-1937)
 - ▶ The continuity of the major war and it lasted up to 1937.
 - ▶ Led by upper nobilities like: Ras Emiru Hail-Selassie (the designated viceroy of the emperor, in exile after 1936, which was founded in Gore, Illubabur and the leader of Black Lion Organization)
 - ▶ This organization was founded in 1936 and consisted of graduates of the Holeta Military Academy and some other civilians.
 - ▶ In 1936 Ras Emiru attempted to liberate Addis

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- ▶ the 2nd attempt to liberate of Addis Ababa was organized by Dejazmach Abera, Dejach Asfawossen Kasa, Dejazmach Balcha Safo, Ras Abebe Aregay, and Dejazmach Fikremariam was failed.
- ▶ The unifying figure of the attack, Abune Petros was caught and executed in Addis Abeba;
- ▶ Moges Asgedom and Aberham Deboch attempted a failed operation to kill Grazziani. In response to this operation Grazziani killed 30,000 Ethiopians.
- ▶ The massacre targeted chiefly educated Ethiopians and church leaders.

2. The 2nd Phase of the Patriotic resistance (1937-1941) :

- ▶ Led by lesser nobilities and local notables, like Abebe Aregay of Shewa, Gresu Duki of Shewa, Bekele Weyo of Gojjam, Amoral Wubeneh of Gonder, Haile Mariam Mamo of Shewa, Belay Zeleka of Gojjam, etc.
- ▶ The resistance was strong in the region of Shewa, Gojjam and Bagameder;
- ▶ It was characterized by guerilla warfare, surprise attack and sometimes direct confrontation.
- ▶ Prominent examples of women in the patriotic resistance movement were:

- ▶ **Yewust Arbegnioch-** (inner patriots) Peoples who lived with the Italians as a spy to pass use full information to the patriots in the fronts.
- ▶ They collected arms and rations and deliver to patriots.

The Liberation of Ethiopia and the Restoration of the Monarchy

- ▶ The liberation of Ethiopia was achieved by the combined efforts of internal and external forces.
- ▶ In June 1940, Italy entered World War II on the side of Germany.
- ▶ This incident led to the British military

- ▶ Britain believed that military involvement would defend her colonial interest in Africa. So the Anglo-Ethiopian liberation campaign was launched from the following three directions:
- ▶ **Eritrea:**-the British army in this direction was led by the **General William Platt**.
- ▶ **Sudan:** -in this direction the two British officers **Major General Orde Charles Wingate and Brigadier General Daniel Sanford**, led a joint army known as the "**Gedeon Force**" with emperor Hail Selassie that entered Gojjam in April 1941.
- ▶ **Kenya:**-in this direction the British force was led by L.General **Sir Allan Cunningham** and controlled Addis Ababa on 6 April, 1941. On

Ethiopian patriots



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