UNIT THREE

THE MAKING OF THE MODERN ETHIOPIAN EMPIRE, 1855-1935

3.1. Rise of the Modern Ethiopian Empire

3.1.1. Attempt at Reunification Through the Use of Force, 1855-1868

- The period of national crisis/ Zemene Mesafint/ Era of Lords came to an end with the rise of Kasa Haylu who was crowned Tewodros II in 1855.
- As a child he grew up in the care of his half- brother **Dejazmach Kinfu**.
- As a young man he was denied governorship over his family fief the district of Quara.
- Following the death of Kinfu, Kasa became a bandit on two occasions in the same region where he later fought against Egyptian troops. In 1848, at the battle of **Debarqi**, Kasa Hailu suffered the only serious defeat in his early career.
- This defeat in the hands of Egyptians shaped the attitude of the future Tewodros with regard to foreign policy, discipline and modern firearms.
- His persistent challenges to the regime in Gondar resulted in a political marriage with **Tewabech Ali,** daughter of the guardian and the last of the **Yeju Oromo Ras-Bitwodeds**. .
- He was followed forceful measurements to unify Ethiopia. The first military expedition for political reunification was directed against the region of **Wollo l**asted for six months and it was too harsh.
- The campaign in Wollo was followed by another serious war with the autonomous **Kingdom of Shoa**, which lasted for **five months**.
- In November 1855, Tewodros returned to Maqdala with the belief that he had settled matters in Shoa. However, local rivals rebelled against a hand-picked appointee of Tewodros, Meridazmach Haile Michael, and from 1865 onwards Shoa regained its independence with King Menelik, who had escaped from Maqdela in that year.
- The initial military victories of Tewodros did not result in **political stability and effective, central control**.
- Local dynasties did not want to lose their traditional economic, military and political autonomy.
- He treated rebellious regions very **harshly, punishing most commonly with the cutting off captives' limbs, burning houses and harvests to ashes and looting the local people**.
- The cumulative effect of which was a complete failure of his policy of unification.

Fall of Tewodros II: reasons for his fall were:

1. **Opposition from the church:**
    - Due to reduce the number of priests and deacons to two or three.
    - Due to reduce the church land
    - Due to increase the taxe
    - Prisoned Bishop Abune Selama who died in prison three years later.
2. **Opposition from regional lords**
3. **His desire to build modern arm made reviled with the British**: he gathered the European missioners to build modern army and they tried to build like Sebastapol found in Gafat.

- The british sent their military expedition led by Sir Robert Napier to Meqdella in the last of 1867 and fought at the battle of Eroge in April 1868 and Ethiopians defeated in the battle as a result Emperor Tewodros committed suicide on 13 April 1868.

- **Reforms of Tewodros II**
    1. He tried to stop divisions within the church
    2. Stop the slave trade
    3. Banditry and looting of peasants by troops
    4. Tried to stop polygamy and other social evils.
    5. Tried to build modern army

3.1.2. New Approach to Building Imperial Power, 1872-1889

- ✓ Emperor **Takla- Giorgis (1868-71)** had control of the central Amhara regions, but he did not exercise power over the rival regions of Tigray and Shoa.
- ✓ His attempt to extend his control over Tigray ended in his own defeat at the battle of **Assam in July 1871**. He was defeated and captured by **Kasa Mercha** later crowned as Yohannes IV in 1872.
- ✓ He tried reunification by directing military expeditions against the regions of Gondar, Gojjam, Yeju, and Hamasen but got only temporary the submission
- ✓ Yohannes was flexible/**followed pseudo federalism** and did not often fight repeated wars with the same regions and he made peace with Adal and recognized his authority over Gojjam. By so doing, the emperor turned an enemy into a friend. Adal was rewarded by being crowned as King of Gojjam and Kefa, with the name Takla Haymanot in January

1881.

- ✓ He was ready to share power with regional lords, in as far as they recognized his over lordship example with Menelik of Shoa.
- ✓ Menelik was calling himself king of kings, expanding his territories towards Wollo and contacting foreign countries independently. He also did not pay tribute to the emperor.
- ✓ Yohannes and Menelik was resolved by the **Leche Agreement of 20 March 1878**. That deals about:

1. Menelik agreed to pay tribute to Yohannes
2. drop the title king of kings and to use only the title king of Shoa
3. to stop his independent dealings with foreigners
4. Menelik to rule Wollo and Shoa
5. To help each other against common enemies. By this peaceful arrangement

- ✓ However, Yohannes was not able to win the absolute loyalty of Menelik prepare himself to take the imperial throne for himself. Even Takla- Haymanot did not remain loyal to Yohannes throughout his reign.
- ✓ In 1888 both Menelik and Takla- Haymanot plot against the emperor. That was at a time when the emperor was troubled by the double threat of Italian aggression and Mahdist hostility in the north and North West respectively.
- ✓ Yohannes got permanent control over Shoa through his proxy, Menilik and control, of territories as far as the southwestern provinces of present-day Ethiopia, in addition to the old central and Northern provinces.
- ✓ But Yohannis was harsh in religious issues.

1. He declared orthodox as stated religion at the Borumeda Council in May 1878.

2. He ordered all Muslim to convert into Christianity under the threat of persecution and confiscation of property.

3.1.3. Resistance to Egyptian and Mahdist Aggressions

- It came from several directions; Egypt, Mahdist Sudan and Italy.
- Egypt embarked on a vigorous expansion into the Horn of Africa, which included Ethiopia as the source of the Blue Nile.

- Thus in 1821 Egypt occupied Sudan.
- As the source of the Blue Nile, Ethiopia was also victim of Egyptian expansion
- Ethio-Egyptian conflicts were intensified during the reign of Emperor Tewodros. In 1865 the Egyptians took over the possession of the port of Massawa from the Ottoman Turks on the basis of a lease contract. The Egyptians then began to collect heavy taxes from Ethiopian merchants and blocked the import of firearms. Even worse, from 1872 onwards Egyptian troops began to advance into and control other Red Sea ports and coastal regions, as well as the border provinces of **Matamma and Bogos**.
- The then ruler of Egypt, Khedive Ismail (1863-79), intensified the traditional Egyptian expansion to a more aggressive attempt at occupation of all Ethiopia.
- Khedive Ismail was able to get **support from European powers** using these arguments. Indeed, the strategic significance of Egypt, due to the newly opened Suez Canal in 1869, was more attractive to Europeans than Christian Ethiopia.
- The ports of the Gulf of Aden and Massawa served as launching pads for the three-front invasion of Ethiopia by Egyptian troops in 1875.
- An Egyptian army commanded by **Mohammed Rauf Pasha occupied the Muslim City State of Harar in October 1875** with very little difficulty.
- A Swiss- German named **Werner Munzinger**, often referred to as the architect of Egyptian aggression in Ethiopia, advanced to the center from the direction of **Tadjura**. However, Munzinger and his army of about 500 men, were ambushed and destroyed by the Afar people on their way to Shoa.
- Another very well armed Egyptian contingent led by a **Danish colonel, Arendrup**, moved into the interior **Mereb Melash** region from the port of **Massawa**. By late October 1875 his army had reached the banks of river Mereb.
- Yohannes wrote a letter to Egypt and other European countries to withdraw the Egyptian troops from the Ethiopian borders but no one can respond positively.
- On 23 October 1875, he issued a mobilization order. In command of 20,000 troops, Emperor Yohannes crossed the River Mereb. On 16 November he fought with the Egyptian army at the battle of **Gundet**. About two hours of effective attack on the encircled Egyptian troops resulted in an instant victory for Ethiopians. **Colonel Arendrup and about 1320 Egyptian troops were killed in the** battle.
- **Khedive Ismail** began preparations for another attack on Ethiopia to avenge his earlier setback. The following year, about 15,000 well-armed Egyptian troops under the command of **Mohammed Ratib and the American General Loring** invaded Ethiopian territories in the north. Thus the second Ethio-Egyptian battle was fought on 7-9 March

1876 at a place known as **Gura,** not far from Gundet. The battle of Gura resulted in heavy losses on both sides, but once **again victory went to Ethiopians**. With the loss of about 3500 dead and 2500 taken as prisoners, the surviving Egyptian troops retreated.

- From the early 1880s, however, **Egypt sought a diplomatic alliance with Ethiopia**. Two events accounted for this change of stand.
    - Firstly, **Egypt fell to British occupation in 1882**.
    - Secondly, the **rise of a religious revivalist and nationalist movement in the Sudan by the, Mahadists**, began to dismantle Egyptian control of that country.
- To this end a British envoy**. Rear – Admiral Sir William Hewett signed a treaty, later called the Hewett Treaty, with Yohannes on 3 June 1884**. The Hewett Treaty is also known, from the name of the place where it was signed, as the **Adwa Treaty**. It ended the Ethio-Egyptian conflict through British diplomatic intervention. The first two major articles of this treaty promised to **Ethiopia free-transit via the port of Massawa and restoration of occupied regions to Ethiopia following the withdrawal of Egyptian troops**. By the third article, **Ethiopia promised to facilitate the evacuation of the Egyptian troops from their encircled position in eastern Sudan, through Ethiopian territory to Massawa, and then to Egypt.**
- It promised restoration of occupied regions and opening a sea outlet. Yohannes thus chose to become an ally of Egypt. But this earned Ethiopia a serious enemy, Mahdists of the Sudan. For Yohannes, what he needed further was British diplomatic support to restore the port of Massawa to Ethiopia. Yohannes wrote to Queen Victoria of England to help him get back Massawa.
- Yohannes ordered **Ras Alula** to rescue the Egyptian army trapped in the Sudan.
- Ras Alula accomplished his mission fighting with Mahdist troops at the battle of **Kufit** in January 1885.
- Egypt only partly fulfilled her promise. **Bogos** was returned to Ethiopia, **but Massawa was handed to Italy**. Egyptian troops also **withdrew from Tajura, Zeila and Berbera**.
- The British, who had already been in control of **Aden since 1839**, occupied the ports of **Zeila and Berbera**. They expanded into the interior and created their colony of British Somaliland. The French did the same and formed their colony of French Somaliland by expanding from their 1862 possession of **Obock**. The port of Assab which was purchased by a private Italian Shipping Company (the Rubbatino Company) in 1869 had already been taken by the government of Italy in1882.
- Against the claim of Yohannes and in violation of the Hewett Treaty, the British government secretly invited Italy to occupy Massawa. Italy took control of Massawa when the Egyptians left it on 5 February 1885. Even worse, it blocked import of arms to

Ethiopia, collected heavy customs duties and began to expand into the highland region of **Mareb, Melash** of present day Eritrea.

- But, in **1888 the Mahdists**, again, started attacks through the western borders. The danger intensified in 1889. And Yohannes turned towards the Mahdist threat and marched to **Matamma**.
- War became inevitable, and on **9 March 1889 the Ethiopian army and the Mahdist troops or Ansars fought at the battle of Matamma**. Despite initial success the **Ethiopians lost the battle, because Yohannes was fatally wounded and his army retreated**. **Yohannes died the next day**.

3.2. Imperial Expansion to the South, South-West and South-East

- Both Tewodros II and Yohannes IV used different approaches to achieve their goals of national reunification. **While Tewodros failed, Yohannes was relatively successful in building an empire with regional dynasties enjoying internal autonomy.**
- The process of Ethiopian empire formation was however, **completed under Emperor Menelik II.**
- Menelik's expansion was directed against independent peoples and states in the area of present **southwestern, southern and southeastern Ethiopia**.
- As a contender for the throne for two decades, Menelik needed to build up his military muscle through conquest of the prosperous regions of southern Ethiopia, which possessed valuable items of trade.
- The process of Menelik's expansion began when he was King of Shoa. First, he subdued the Oromo of Shoa in the early 1870s. Then, his army got the peaceful submission of the northern Gurage people known as the Kistane.
- The situation in southern Gurage, more properly the Silti, was, however, different from that of the north. Here, Menelik's army faced fierce resistance from the Muslim Gurage organized under a local leader known as **Hassan Enjamo**.
- The regions beyond the Gibe basin were a bone of contention between the rival troops of the two kings, **Menelik of Shoa and Takla-Haymanot of Gojjam**. As a result the southwestern regions became a battle ground for the two rival kings. After a minor clash between their troops in **Limu**, a decisive battle was fought at **Embabo** (in Wallaga) on 6 June 1882 and Tekle Haymanot defeated at the battle.

- **Aba Jiffar II of Jimma, Jote Tulu of Leqa Qellam and Kumsa Moroda of Leqa Naqamte** belong to the list of local rulers who **submitted peacefully** with their local autonomy respected, in the years 1882-84.
- On the contrary, the campaigns of Menelik's army in the **south and southeastern regions were very costly and bloody**. The region of **Arsi** was subdued in 1886 after four years of struggle, during which six unsuccessful military expeditions were sent against that region.
- The final battle of **Azule** was won by the army of **Ras Darge**, the cousin of Menelik, due mainly to its superiority in the possession of modern firearms.
- The fate of the Emirate of Harar was no exception. It was subdued after the bloody battle fought between the army of Menelik and Emir Abdullahi at **Chalanqo**, early in January 1887.
- Expansion to the south was also sought as a solution to the devastating **Great Famine (1889-92) also known by the name Kefu Qan,** which had seriously afflicted the northern and central regions of Ethiopia. The immediate cause of the famine is attributed to a cattle disease, called **rinderpest**, imported with infected cattle from India.
- The conquest of **Wolayta** in 1894 was one of the bloodiest of the campaigns of Menelik under their king **Kawo Tona**, defended Wolayta from the combined army of notable war leaders of Menelik such as **Ras Michael, Fitawrari Gebayehu, Liqa Makwas Abate, Dejach Balcha, Ras Wolda-Giorgis and Aba Jifar II**. Kawo Tona was wounded and captured to become a prisoner for the rest of his life.
- In 1897 the old Kingdom of Kaffa was incorporated after great bloodshed in the war between the local people, under their ruler **Tato Geki Serecho**, and the army of Menelik under Ras Wolde Giorgis.
- The support of local rulers of newly incorporated regions in the following conquests of Menelik was also evident in the conquest of **Assosa, Beni Shangul and Komosha** areas along the Ethio-Sudanese border.
- The incorporation of the southern, southwestern and southeastern regions involved both **peaceful submission through persuasion and devastating wars of conquest**.
- The political stability that followed the establishment of an expanded empire facilitated the revival of local and foreign trade.
- **Addis Ababa was founded by Empress Taytu in November 1886**, and became the centre of government and economic activities.

3.3. Italian Aggression against Ethiopia and the Battle of Adwa

3.3.1. First Strongholds of Italy in Ethiopia

- The Italian Government took control of **Assab from the Rusbatino Shipping Company in 1882**. Then, in **1885 Italy occupied Massawa**, and began attempts to penetrate into the interior from the coast.

- On **26 January 1887 Alula, at a place called Dogali**, crushed an Italian contingent consisting of about 500 Italian soldiers, which were going as reinforcements to the **Saati** fortress that he had attempted to attack.

- Within a few weeks, about 80,000 men followed Yohannes on his march across the Mereb river to fight the Italians at their fortress of **Saati in March 1888**. The Saati confrontation did not turn to actual fighting, however, because the Italians refused to come out of their fortified position and meet the Ethiopian army in the open field. A deadlock was created that lasted for a month.

3.3.2. The Birth of the Italian Colony of Eritrea

- **Treaty of Wuchale**, signed between Emperor Menelik and the Italian envoy **Count Pietro Antonelli on 2 May 1889**

- **Treaty of Commerce and Friendship was signed between King Menelik and Antonelli of Italy in October 1883**.

- The third **Italo- Shoan treaty came in 1887, following the Dogali Incident** when Italians needed the help of Menelik more than he needed theirs.

- The **Wuchale Treaty was drafted by Antonelli** and signed by Menelik and Antonelli in May 1889, in Menelik's current camp, in Wollo. The Treaty of Wuchale had **twenty articles, but the two very significant ones in terms of their contribution to the subsequent Italo-Ethiopian conflicts were articles III and XVII.**

- Article III, **delimited the boundary** between Italian-occupied regions of Mereb Melash and the rest of Ethiopia. The villages of **Arafaili, Segeneiti, Asmara, Adi Yohanis-from east to west-served as a boundary line for the Italian possessions and Article 17 was another issue while translating to Amharic**.

- Indeed, against the protest of Menelik, the Italians occupied the whole region as far as the Mereb river, which they declared as their colony of Eritrea on1 January 1890.

3.3.3. Italian Ambition over the Rest of Ethiopia

- They used a calculated contradiction in the **Amharic and Italian version of Article XVII** of the Wuchale Treaty. The Amharic version of this article reads that **Ethiopia can use the help of Italy in her diplomatic relations with other European powers. However, the Italian text contained an obligatory commitment of Ethiopia to use the good offices of Italy for her relations with Europe; and thereby it denied Ethiopia her sovereignty.**

- In April 1891 he dispatched a circular letter to all European powers. He informed them

about Italian diplomatic dishonesty and that he had no obligation to respect Italian protectorate rights.

- In February 1893, Menelik **abrogated (cancelled**) the Treaty of Wuchale.
- The first significant blow to the subversive plan of Italy came in June 1894, when Ras Mengesha and Ras Alula renewed their loyalty to Menelik. Even worse for the Italians, in December 1894, Dejazmach Bahta Hagos, their former collaborator and governor of Akale Guzay in Eritrea, started a peasant rebellion against the Italians. This rebellion was suppressed, but it gave the spark to an armed resistance that followed against Italian colonialism.
- Ras Mengesha and Ras Alula crossed the river Mereb and fought the Italians at **Qoatit and Senafe early in 1895**. As a revenge, the Italian army invaded the whole of Tigray, in September 1895. Italy openly began to use military means to realize the dream of becoming a colonial master over Ethiopia.
- On **17 September 1895**, **Menelik issued a mobilization** order in which he stated the Italian unlawful invasion of his country. He got a positive response from his people which enabled him to lead an army of about 100,000 recruited from all clauses, ethnic groups and regions including the newly conquered areas of south, southwest and southeast.

3.3.4. The Battle of Adwa

The Battle

- ✓ Before the final decisive encounter at Adwa, the Italian and the Ethiopian troops fought at **two places**.

    1. The first battle was fought on **7 December 1895 at Amba Alage, in southern Tigray**, between a contingent of the Ethiopian vanguard force led by **Fitawrari Gebeyehu and an Italian force under the command of Major Toselli. The Italians were completely defeated** and lost about 2000 troops, including Major Toselli himself, from the total of 2350 Italians troops. Local sources suggest 286 dead and about 300 wounded on the Ethiopian side. Thus, the Italians were forced to retreat northwards to their strong fortification at Mekelle which was defended by 4 cannons.

    2. From 7-21 January 1896, Mekelle was under siege. The Italian army stationed there suffered a great deal from shortage of water. The Italians were forced to surrender the fortress. Menelik allowed the Italians a safe evacuation.

- ✓ About 20,000 troops formed into four brigades, under the supreme command of General Oreste Baratieri, were ready for war. Half of the Italian troops consisted of askaris from Eritrea. Three Italian brigades were led by **Generals Albertone, Arimondi and Dabormida** respectively. **General Albertone** was in charge of the rearguard.

- ✓ **Sunday March 1, 1896, the day of commemoration of St. George**, was selected as the date of the major battle, after two weeks of tension and confrontation between the Ethiopian and the Italian troops. An extremenly bloody battle was fought until mid-afternoon. **The Ethiopian army fought bravely and scored a smashing victory.**

Reasons for the Ethiopian victory of Adwa were:

1. Italian faulty reading of maps,
2. false information from local "spies" called double agent **Basha Awalom**,
3. underestimation of Ethiopian unity,
4. wrong military strategy and poor leadership
5. topography of Adwa

The Consequences and Historical Significance of the Adwa Victory

- ✓ The sovereign status of Ethiopia got international recognition. This recognition was expressed in two ways.
    1. Firstly, different powers opened their **legations**/ Embassy in Addis Ababa: Italy (1896), Britain and France (1897), the USA (1903), Germany (1905), etc.
    2. Secondly, European powers possessing colonies adjacent to Ethiopia **delimited their respective common boundaries between Ethiopia and their colonies**, in the years from 1897-1908. This gave birth to the present shape of Ethiopia.
- ✓ Become the victory of blacks against the white. Therefore, the Adwa victory has been a symbol of national pride.
- ✓ In consequence, Crispi resigned immediately. Baratieri had to leave the army and ended up in prison.
- ✓ An Italian diplomatic mission came to Ethiopia and **signed the Treaty of Addis Ababa with Emperor Menelik on 26 October 1896.** Aimed at:
    1. The treaty concluded the Italio-Ethiopian dispute.
    2. Italy agreed to the cancellation of the Wuchale Treaty and recognized the complete independence of Ethiopia.
    3. Ethiopia, too, agreed to the continuation of Italian colonial control over Eritrea and the release of Italian prisoners of war.
        - ✓ Britain was forced to revise her former policy of wait and see with regard to

Mahdist Sudan (1885-96). As a result the British government hastened to conquer Sudan in the name of Egypt, and a joint army of Britain and Egypt invaded the Sudan in 1896. The Battle of **Omdurman (1898**) marked the fall of the Mahdist state and the establishment of the so-called **Anglo-Egyptian Condominium** rule over the Sudan.

- ✓ A small French force under Marchand and a large British force faced each other at a place called **Fashoda in the Sudan in 1898**. Bloodshed at Fashoda and war between Britain and France were avoided by the withdrawal of the French.
- ✓ Another expression of the value given to Adwa victory as a torch-bearer of **Black Nationalist struggle was the emergence** of religious separatist movements collectively known as Ethiopianism.

3.4. The Ethiopian Empire State in the Post-Adwa Period, up to 1935

3.4.1. Socio-Economic Conditions

- Relatively there was better socio-economic developments
- The **gebbar system** was developed which was a **land holding peasant who had to pay gibir or tribute to the state** paid in kind.
- The introduction of **land measurement known as qalad** in the southern Ethiopia aimed to **not only in the appropriation of much land by the state, but also facilitated privatization of land**. The cumulative effect of the exploitative nature of the modes of surplus appropriation was negative on the economic development of the country. It, seriously affected agricultural productivity.
- **Slavery was continued in Ethiopia**.
- As a result of slavery and gebbar system, both internal and external opposition was outbreak. And this led to abolition of slave trade while Ethiopia becomes a member of League of Nation on 31 March 1924 and payment in kind changed into cash
- Trade becomes an important source of economy in Ethiopia.
- The Empress Taytu also opened the first hotel in Addis Ababa, **Itege Hotel** in 1907.
- Most of the royal class becomes busy in business.
- Urbanization relatively becomes fast developed.

- Djibouti-Addis Ababa railway, which reached Addis Ababa in 1917 this also led for the formation of new cities like Dire Dawa, Nazreth and Modjo ,
- Modern novelties introduced in the early 20th century included the motor car (1904), printing machinery (1912) and the aero plane (1929). Telegraph and postal services were introduced before the close of the 19th century. A hospital was founded in 1910.
- In 1908, the **first modern school, Menelik II School, was opened in Addis Ababa**. It was staffed by Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Christian teachers. **In 1925, the Tafari Mekonun school was founded by Ras Tafari Mekonnen (later Emperor Haile Selassie I).** That was led to for the creation of scholars and skilled manpower in Ethiopia.

3.4.2. Political Conditions

Consolidation of Political Power

- Between 1896 and 1909, the ruling class of Imperial Ethiopia, headed by Menelik II, enjoyed the triumphant mood the Adwa victory created. It was secure in its position
- **Ethiopia's boundaries with neighborly countries were delimited by boundary agreements** with the European colonial powers that were in control of those colonies. The boundary with the Italian colony of **Eritrea was delimited by a series of agreements concluded with Italy in 1900, 1902 and 1908**. Similarly, by the agreement with **France in March 1907 the boundary with French Somaliland (Djibouti)** was delimited. The boundaries with **Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and British East Africa (Kenya)** were delimited by a series of agreements with Britain in **1902 and 1907**, respectively. In **1908 the boundary with Italian Somaliland** was delimited by an agreement with Italy. Therefore, Ethiopia had secured her borders and gained international recognition for them.
- **Addis Ababa founded as capital in 1886**, as indicated above, **got permanence due** to the following factors:

1. **Issue of land charters**, to land owners in Addis Ababa by the state starting from 1970 guaranteed security of tenure..
2. **The introduction of the eucalyptus tree from Australia** helped to solve the problem of the shortage of fire wood in Addis Ababa.
3. **The railway connection between Addis Ababa and the outside world since 1917**

gave Addis Ababa great importance as a center of commerce, new ideas, etc.

4. The **residence of foreign merchants** in Addis Ababa also helped in the increased importance of the city.
5. The **opening of foreign legations in Addis Ababa** increased Addis Ababa's importance as a diplomatic center for the country.

Inception of Political Rivalry and Foreign Threat

- Following the **illness of Menelik in 1906 power succession struggle led to the political instability of Ethiopia** and Menelik no longer exercised his usual political authority until his final death in 1913.
- The **Tripartite Treaty** was signed **by Britain, France and Italy in December 1906** so as to partition Ethiopia. By this treaty:
  1. **The railway line passes was given for France.**
  2. **The Nile basin and its source came under the influence of Britain.**
  3. **Italy was allowed to construct a railway connecting her two colonies - Eritrea and Italian Somaliland.**
- Emperor Menelik set two solutions during that time:
  1. Firstly, in October 1907, he established the **first Council of Ministers** consisting of nine ministries for War, Commerce and Foreign Affairs, Public Works, Agriculture, Finance, Justice, the Pen, the Palace, and the Interior to stabilize the political instability of the country.
  2. Secondly, in May 1909 Menelik **designated heir to his throne and a regent aiming** at a **smooth power transition upon his death to Lij Eyasu but opposed by Empress Taytu, and the Shoan nobility**.

The Challenge of Taytu

- ✓ Empress Taytu hoped to have political power for her family through political marriage. Example, Mentwab Wolle, to Ras Mekonnen but Ras Mekonne died, Gugsa Wolle, to the daughter of Menelik, Zewditu,.
- ✓ In 1909 Menelik designated his grandson, **Lij Iyasu Michael the son of Shewareged**, (Menilik's daughter), as heir. Iyasu was **only 12- years old**, Menelik

also appointed **Ras Bitwaded Tessema Nadew as regent**.

- ✓ The **Shoan nobility were not happy with Iyasu**, as he was the son of the strong regional lord of Wollo. They feared that Ras Michael might use the position of his son, who was still a minor, for his own political ascendancy.
- ✓ Against the interest of the Council of Ministers, Taytu behaved as an actual head of state making decisions on behalf of her sick husband and followed **shum-shir (promotion and demotion)** included the old nobility like **Fitawrari Habte Giorgis and Negadras Haile Giorgis, Ministers of War and Commerce respectively**.
- ✓ In March **1910 Empress Taytu was removed from government affairs**, she was restricted to taking care of her dying husband. And since **1910 she was exiled** to the **Church of St. Mary at Entoto**, where she stayed until her death in 1918.
- ✓ The second phase of power struggle and political instability in the leadership was while **Lij Eyasu rejected another agent after the death of Ras Tesema Nadew died in April 1911.**

Lij Iyasu 1913-1916: Reforms and the Coup D'état against Him

- ✓ The death of Ras Tessema gave Iyasu the opportunity to exercise political authority on his own from 1911 to1916. The only serious challenge to his power came from Ras Abate Buayalew, a Shoa noble man later imprisoned at Mekdala and stayed until 1916.

Reforms of Lij Eyasu

1. Practiced **Ethiopian Muslims equal status** through integrating them into his administrative hierarchy and build mosques
2. established a system of **auditing government property**, and formed a municipal police nicknamed **Terunbule**
3. **Attempt at the secularization of modern education in Ethiopia.**
4. Introduce traditional practices of **Leba Shay (method of thief detection)**
5. ended the practice of **Quragna** in which **both the accuser and the accused were chained** together until justice was delivered
6. He introduced **asrat (tithe**), estimated before harvested to stop cheating.

Weakness of Lij Eyasu that led to fall:

1. **Polygamous marriage**
2. **Lack of responsibility**
3. **Strong relation with Ethiopian Muslims and led to quarrel with the Christians**
4. The auditing of government property exposed the **embezzlement carried** on by old officials, who became enemies of Iyasu when they were ordered to pay back what they had misappropriated
5. In 1914 Lij Iyasu **crowned his father as Negus over the northern provinces of Tigray, and Wollo.** In 1915 Gojjam and Begemdir were added to them and quarreled with Shoan Mekwanints (nobility)
6. **He took Sidamo from Dejach Balcha Safo,** and gave it to a new ally and brother-in-law, Negadras Haile Giorgis
7. **Iyasu appeared to become a close friend of Ottoman Turkey and Germany**, who were mortal enemies of the **tripartite powers in the First World War** (1914-18).
8. **The Mahal Sefari acted against Iyasu, and the Abun and the Echege, too, blessed the coup. With all these support, Iyasu was deposed on 27 September 1916.** He made an attempt to reverse the coup but he was defeated at the battle of **Mieso**, located on the way to Harar and imprisoned from 1921 to his death in 1936.

The Diarchy 1917 – 30

- The battle **of Segele,** which claimed the life of more than 12,000 troops from both sides, marked the bloody completion of the struggle against the challenge of Lij Iyasu.
- The fall of Iyasu also **marked the restoration of Shewan political supremacy**. **The coup makers crowned the daughter of Menelik, Zewditu,** as Empress on 1 February 1917. **Ras Teferi Mekonnen was made heir to the throne**.
- **Zewditu and Teferi worked well together**. Zewditu presided over all deliberations in which important decisions were taken.
- The **diarchy or dual rule** marked the unity of Shoan forces in the central government. The Council of Minsters was reorganized under the chairmanship of the Minister of War, Fitawrari Habte Giorgis.
- The conservative led by Zewditu and the progressive led by Teferi Mekonnen.

The chief events in his rise to power were the following, in chronological order.

1. In 1918, twelve members of the Council of Ministers removed from power except Only the Minster of War, Fitawrari Habte Giorgis, accused of corruption and embezzlement* The capture of Lij Iyasu in 1921 eliminated one rival for the throne.

2. In 1923 Ethiopia became a member of the League of Nations under the precondition of abolition of the slave trade and slavery.

3. In 1924 Ras Teferi and some of his nobility made a grand tour to Europe, seeking first hand exposure to western civilization as well as trying to get access to the sea for Ethiopia.

4. The natural deaths of Fitawrari Habte Giorgis and Abune Metewos in 1926 were also a golden opportunity for Ras Teferi, as the two very strong military and religious challengers to his political ambitions were removed in succession. He took over the army of Fitawrari Habte Giorgis and distributed his large tract of land to allies.

5. **In 1927 Ras Teferi succeeded in getting the unconditional surrender of another strong opponent to his growing power, Dejach Balcha Safo,** the governor of Sidamo. That prosperous province was given first to an ally and then to the son-in-law of Ras Teferi, Ras Desta Damtew.

6. **In 1928 Dejach Aba Wuqaw, commander of the Imperial Bodyguard, revolted against Ras Teferi in defence of the decreasing power of Empress Zewditu**. But, he was soon forced to surrender and he was at first sentenced to death, though later this was changed to life imprisonment..

7. In **October 1928 Zewditu formally crowned Tefer Negus**. He was made “king of Ethiopia, Heir to the Throne”

8. On **31 March 1930** the imperial army under the command of the new Minister of War, **Ras Mulugeta Yigezu,** fought the army of **Gugsa at the battle of Anchem, near the Lasta- Begemdir border**. Gugsa died in action. Two days later Zewditu died, reportedly of diabetes.

9. **Teferi was crowned Emperor Haile Sellassie** I of Ethiopia on **2 November, 1930** by an impressive coronation ceremony.

3.4.3. The Emergence of the Absolutist State, 1930-35

1. In 1931 he laid a legal basis for the absolutist state by issuing the **first written Constitution for Ethiopia.**

2. Haile Sellassie completed the process of building centralized administration.

3. The absolutist state worked hard at **fiscal centralization, mainly in customs administration**.

4. The **emerging absolutist state gave due attention** to the **modernization of its army**. Moreover, in 1934 the Ethiopian government opened the first officer training school at **Holeta Gannat** by recruiting its teaching staff from Swedish officers.

Telegram ftps://t.me/fana_education

ከ9-12 ላላችሁ ተማሪዎች

እንደሚታወቀው ከ2015 ዓ.ም ጀምሮ የዩኒቨርስቲ 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።
ከእናንተ የሚጠበቀው በትኩረት መከታተል ብቻ ነው።

Computation የበዛበት ጊዜ ላይ ስላለን ታሪክ ለመቀየር ለስኬት ዛሬ ጀምራችሁ ተነሱ

በትኩረት የምትከተሉን ያለምንም ጥርጥር 100% ብቁ ትሆናላችሁ

ጉዞ ወደ ስኬት

Join አድርጉ ታተርፋላችሁ

Mathematics ይከብዳል ማለት እና አስጠኚ መፈለግ ቀረ



