History for Grade 10

Unit 2

Continued From Previse Lesson

The Battle of Kufit(1885)

- Fought between Ras Alula and the Mahdist
- Alula defeated Mahdist at the battle of kufit
- He enabled the trapped Egyptian troops to evacuate safely through Massawa
- By doing so Ethiopia appeared an enemy to the Mahidst
- Massawa was also never become a free port to Ethiopia though Bogos was returned to Ethiopia
- Rather Massawa was transferred to Italy in 1885
- Britain invited Italy to hold Massawa in order to check (block)the expansion of France in the region.
  • Italy made the port of Massawa as a base to expand into the interior of Ethiopia since its occupation of 1885.
- Yohannis faced to enemies as a result of Hewett treaty:
  a) Mahidst Sudan …… from North Western
  b) Italy …….. from North
- Yohannis gave priority to checking Italians advance from the North
- He gave responsibility to block the Mahidst to Teklehaimanot of Gojjam
- But Teklehaimanot was defeated by Mahidst at the battle of **Sarwuha** in 1887.
- In the mid 1888 both Teklehaimanot and Menelik were rumored to have plotted against the Emperor
- Yohannis found himself between three enemies
- He was forced to postpone his confrontation with Italy and decided to deal with rebel of his vassals

- He got the submission of Teklehaimanot by punishing Gojjam
- Then moved to Mahidst instead of Shewa
- He initiated a peace talk but the Mahidst were unwilling
- The two forces met at the battle of Metema on 9 March, 1889.
- Yohannis wounded and his troops retreated
- He died the next day and the Mahidst captured his dead body and beheaded it

Expansion to the South-West, South and South-East

- It was part of formation of the modern Ethiopian Empire
- Undertaken by Menelik of Shewa
- He used to methods
    a) Peaceful submission
    b) Forceful subjugation
- His expansion passes through three phases

1) **Phase 1(from 1875 – 1889)**
    - Ilubabor, Wellega, the Gibe states and the Christian Guragie submitted peacefully
    - Silti (Muslim Guragie) led by Hassen Enjamo resisted but defeated in 1888
    - Arsi fought from 1882 – 1886, but defeated at the battle of Azule in 1886
    - Harar, led by Imir Abdullahi resisted but subdued after bloody encounter at the battle of Chelenqo in 1887

Factors that helped Menelik's success in his expansion as a king of Shewa

(i) The Liche agreement (1878)
(ii) The battle of Embabo (1882)
(iii) His commercial relation with Italians

2) **Phase 2 (from 1889 – 1896)**

- Coincided with the outbreak of the great famine known as Kifu Qen (1888-1892)
- The famine was caused by cattle epidemic
- Many people moved to South while some joined the army of Menelik
- Walayta, Bale and Sidamo were incorporated
- Walayta, under Kawo Tona made strong resistance though finally crushed in 1894

3) Phase 3 (1896 – 1900)

- It was to create a buffer zone between Ethiopia and the adjacent colonial powers
- Border areas of Ogaden, Borena, Benishangul, Asosa and Kefa were incorporated
- Kefa, under Tato Gaki Serocho made strong resistance against Menelik's army made by Ras Woldegiorgis and finally crushed in 1897
- The formation of todays Ethiopia was completed in 1900

Italian Colonialism in the Horn

❖ **Assab**

- a coastal area served as the first foothold of Italy
- was firs bought by an Italian private company
- later transferred to Italian government in 1882

❖ **Massawa**

- Occupied by the Italians in 1885
- Used as a spring board to invade Ethiopia

❖ **The Italians after controlling Massawa:**

- Blocked the import of firearms to Ethiopia
- Demanded heavy tax from Ethiopian merchants

- Continued their expansion towards Mereb Mellash
- Occupied Saati deep in the interior region of North Ethiopia

❖ **Emperor Yohannis:**

- Noticed the violation of Hewett treaty and Italian occupation of Ethiopian territories
- Required the British to help in restoration of the occupied territories
- But gained unsatisfactory response from Britain

❖ **Ras Alula Engida (governor of Mereb Mellash):**

- Warned Italians to come out of Ethiopian territory
- Italians ignored his warning
- He marched to Saati and attacked their fortress on 25 Jan. 1887
- He scored the victory of Dogali by destroying about 500 Italian troops

❖ **Italians Response to the victory of Dogali**

- They made heavy military preparation
- They recruited collaborators to create internal conflict in Ethiopia

The Italo – Shewan Relation

➢ They started official relation in 1876 with the coming of Italian geographical society led by Antinori
➢ Menelik gave them a camping site at a place called Let Marefia
➢ Their relationship advanced in the following treaties:

a) The treaty of commerce and friendship (1883)

- Signed between Menelik and Count Antonelli
- They agreed upon
  - ✓ Consular exchange
  - ✓ Free movement of people
  - ✓ Free trade and free propagation of religion
- In fact the major objective of the treaty was to strengthen the Assab-Shewan trade

b) The convention of neutrality (1887)

- Signed by Menelik
- Signed on condition that the Italians would not take an inch of land in Ethiopia
- The victory of Dogali increase the importance of Menelik to Italy
- They needed him to fight from South but he refused
- They promised him 5000 rifles and he agreed to be neutral when war broke out between Yohannis and Italians

c) Treaty of Wuchale (1889)

- Signed between Ethiopia and Italy
- Contained 20 articles
- Articles 3 & 17 were controversial
  - **Article 3** – was about boundary delimitation between Ethiopia and Italian that occupied Mereb Mellash
    - ✓ Promised considerable territories in the region of Mereb Mellash as far as Asmara
    - ✓ Yet, Italians were not satisfied with this
    - ✓ Additional convention was signed between Italy and Ras Mekonnen who went to Rome to get the Wuchale treaty ratified
    - ✓ The Italians inserted the clause of "Effective occupation" in the convention
    - ✓ The clause allowed the Italians to occupy more territory and advanced further South to the Mereb river
    - ✓ They named the area Eritrea and declared to be their colony on Jan.1890, hence the birth of Eritrea.
  - **Article 17 –** deals with the role of Italy in the Ethiopia's foreign relation
    - ✓ Italians wanted to use this article as a legal evidence for their claim of protectorate over Ethiopia
    - ✓ Was written in two contradictory version
    - ✓ The Italian version forced Ethiopia to use the Italian agency

- ✓ Based on her notification of 1889 most of the Europeans recognized the Italian claim over Ethiopia with exception of France and Russia who remain reserved.

- Emperor Menelik's reaction
  - Requested the Italian king Umberto to correct the Italian version but the Italians were unwilling
  - Then declared abrogation of treaty of Wuchale in 1893
  - Both countries realized that war between them was inevitable fact
- Italians reaction
  - Used two methods in their reaction to the situation
    - Military preparation
    - Work of subversion: an attempt to separate regional lords from Menelik

      Example- they won a friendship with Ras Mengesha and other Tigrean lords and signed the **Mereb convention** with Ras Mengesha as an Oath of friendship in 1891
  - However Ras Alula and Ras Mengesha renewed their loyalty to Menelik by breaking their allegiance in 1894

The Battle of Adwa

The Road to Adwa

❖ **The battles of Qoatit and Senafe (1895)**

- Fought between the Italians and Ras Mengesha
- Ras Mengesha was defeated and the Italians controlled most of Tigrai

❖ **The battle of Ambalage (Dec, 1895)**

- Fought between the force of Menelik and the Italians in southern Tigrai
- The Italians were defeated and retreated to Mekele

- **The siege of Mekele (1895)**
  - The Italians refused to come out of their fortification of Mekele
  - Based on Taitu's proposal the Ethiopian army besieged the Italians fortification and blocked them from access of water and other provisions
  - Then they surrendered and drive out of Mekele
- **The battle of ADWA (1896)**
  - Fought on March 1,1896
  - Lasted for one full day
  - Ethiopian troops displayed a high degree of courage and unity
  - Local people and former collaborators also actively involved in activities such as supplying misleading maps and information to the Italians
  - Ethiopian women on the other hand played a decisive role in the war
  - The war was concluded with complete Ethiopian victory
  - The Italians were cleared out of all Tigrai and confined themselves to their colony of Eritrea

The consequence of victory of Adwa

- Claimed the life of many on both sides
  - ✓ Italy lost one-third of the total 20,000 troops
  - ✓ 2,000 remained captives
  - ✓ 1500 troops wounded
- Italians were confined to their colony of Eritrea
- The dawn fall of the government of Francisco Crispi (Italian Premier)
- Treaty of Addis Ababa (signed between Ethiopia and Italy) in which Italy recognized independence of Ethiopia
- The victory become a symbol of black dignity and self rule as well as inspired black solidarity
- Emergence of a movement known as Ethiopianism particularly in southern part of Africa
- Inspired the early pan Africanist movement

Review Questions

I. Give your appropriate answer to each of the following questions.

1. What were the contributing factors for the failure of Tewodros in strengthening monarchical power?

2. Compare and contrast the policies and methods used by Tewodros and Yohannis to revive imperial authority.

3. Why did Sudan fall easy prey to Egypt?

4. What were the major factors for Egyptians aggression on Ethiopia?
5. Discuss the consequences of the Hewett Treaty.
6. What was the reaction of Emperor Yohannis to the violation of the Hewett Treaty and the coming of the Italians?
7. What were the major contributing factors for Ethiopia's victory at Adwa?
8. Explain the role of women at the battle of Adwa.