CHAPTER THREE

Modern History of Ethiopia 1855-1906

- Before the coming of Tewoderos II to power there was a period that existed from the death of king Iyoas 1769 to 1855 in Ethiopian history.
- This period was known as Zemene Mesafint or the Era of prince.
- The main features of Zemene Mesafint were:
  - Endless war
  - Decline of central government
  - The presence of strong regional lords
  - Division in orthodox church
  - Economical backwardness
  - Lack of peace and security
- During this period, Kassa Hailu raised from Quara to royal power.
- Kassa hailu was born in 1820 from his father Hailu W/ giorgis and his mother Atitegeb.
- He had an aristocratic background. He grew up with his half brother Kenfu after the death of his father in 1820s at **Quara** district. But Kenfu also died in 1839 and Kassa requested Rass Ali II to take Quara.
- Rass Ali II and his mother Menon refused to take Quara to Kassa Hailu therefore he led bandit life since1840s.
- Kassa was defeated by Egyptian armies at the battle of **Debarki in 1848**. Because the Egyptians had well-equipped and well-trained army.
- But later, he defeated many land lords in Gojam and other provinces of the country. Such as:
  - Rass Goshu was defeated at the **battle of Guramba in 1852**
  - Ras Biru Aligaz and other four lords of gojam were defeated at the **battle of Gorgora Bechin in 1853**
  - Ras- Ali II (the last rulers of Yejju dynasty or Woresheh)was defeated at **the battle of Ayshal** in June 1853
  - Finally Ras- Wube of semen was defeated at **the battle of Deresgie** on February 9, 1855.
- On February11, 1855 Kassa Hailu crowned as Tewodros II by Abuna Salama at Deresgie Mariam Chrch.
- Kassa Hailu used the throne title name Tewodros because he know that prophesied on the religious book (**Fukare Iyasus**) A king by the name Tewadros should come to rule and bring peace to the people after trouble. Therefore he considered himself as this king.
- The two major policies of Tewodros were
  i. **Political re- unification of the state**
  ii. **Modernization Policy**
- To implement this policy, Tewodros launched military expedition to wollo and Shewa provinces in 1855.

The reforms of Tewodros II

Some of the major reforms of Tewodros II were the following

- He tried to stop slavery
- He tried to stop lootings of peasants by the armies.
- He tried to stop polygamous marriage
- He tried to stop the divisions within the church
- He tried to built central administration
- He expelled the leaders of Catholics from Ethiopia.
- He tried to established a national salaried army
- He introduces the new military title
- Amharic language was became the official language.

Conflict and Failure of Emperor Tewodros II

1. Emperor Tewodros II Conflict with the Church and the regional Lords

- The legacies of the Zemene Mesafint did not die out soon and the attempt at centralization proved to be a difficult task to achieve.

- Prominent rebel leaders against Tewodros were Dejach Neguse (relative of Wube) in Tigray, Lij
- Gared and Ginbaro Kassa in Amhara, Abeto Seifu (the brother of Haile-Melekot) in Shewa, and Tedla Gualu in Gojjam.
- Instead of continuing his reform, therefore, Tewodros was preoccupied with fighting the new rebel leaders and increasingly he began punishing his foes with cruelty while causing huge collateral damage to the innocent people.
- Tewodros' dream of reigning over a united and strong Ethiopia and over Jerusalem (one of his motto was 'husband of Ethiopia and fiancée of Jerusalem'.
- 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.
- His cruel actions, thus, gave rise to various organized revolts, this time led by Dejach Bezbiz Kassa (future Emperor Yohannes of Ethiopia) in Tigray; Wagshum Gobeze (later Emperor Teklegiorgis) in Lasta; and Sahlemariam (who managed to escape from Meqdella) in Shewa.
- Thus, a vicious circle was created, the cumulative effect of which was a complete failure of his policy of unification.
- The anti- Tewodros propaganda of the clergy, following their conflict over some issues, harmed the emperor considerably.
  - He actually broke the tradition of exemption of church land from tax.
  - He reduced the number of priests and deacons in each church to a maximum of two and three, respectively.
  - He also reduced the size of church land that used to be exempted from tax by taking away church land that he believed was in excess and giving it to tribute paying peasants.
  - His policy on church land brought the emperor into direct conflict with one of the potential allies of the state in the work of empire building
  - Church-State conflict reached its peak in 1864. In that year the emperor imprisoned the bishop Abuna Salama who died in prison three years later

2. Emperor Tewodros II Conflict with Great Britain

- The diplomacy with the English was severed when Tewodros negatively interpreted the lack of response to his letter written to Queen Victoria.
- The folklore that he asked Queen Victoria to marry him is unfounded and untrue.

The content of his letter in brief was;

"…*because God was displeased by my fathers who reigned before me, our country was divided and a part of it was taken by the colonialists. Thus, he rose me from the ashes and bestowed me power to reunite my country…what is remaining is what is still controlled by the Turks and the Egyptians."*

- By default or by design, this letter did not get response and Tewodros put **Captain Cameron and other English envoys** in jail at Meqdella.
- His action, quite obviously precipitated the Napier expedition from India in an effort to set free the English hostages.
- General Napier brought some four thousand English and eight thousand Indian troops, landed at Zula in February 1867 and headed toward Meqdella.
- By contrast, Tewodros had four thousand armed troops under his command and sixty thousand unconventional fighting and supporting combatants rallied around him.
- Given artillery and other heavy guns, however, the Ethiopian troops were no match to the English.

- On top of this, the Napier expedition enjoyed cooperation from Bezbiz Kassa and Seyoum Gobeze.
- The battle of Meqdella took place in April 1867; the English had the upper hand and in the middle of fierce fighting, the chief commander **Fitwerari Gebrie** was shot and killed; Tewodros became desperate and made an attempt to communicate with the English and even offered them some sort of truce preceded by the discharge of the hostages, but it was too little too late.
- The first and last major encounter between the two forces took place on the plains of Eroge in April 1868
- Meanwhile, some commanders close to Tewodros suggested 'to fight till they die but to finish off the hostages first' but the emperor is believed to have said**, 'I can't do that; I can't see my people pay the price for the wrong that I do**.'
- Near the end of the battle of Meqdella, when it was obvious that the Ethiopian army was in disarray, the English commanders fighting at the forefront attempted to capture Tewodros committed suicide on 13 April 1868.

The reign of Tekle Giorgis 1868-1871

- Wegshum Gobezie of Lasta crowned as emperor T/Giorgis in 1868 after the death of Tewodros II and he ruled until July 1871.
- The Emperor T/Giorgis was defeated at the battle of **Asam** by Kassa Merch in July 1872.

The reign of Emperor Yohannes IV 1872-1889

- After the battle of Asam Kassa Mercha strengthened his power and crowned as Yohannes IV by Abuna Atnatiwos on January 21/1872.
- Emperor Yohannes IV had made military Expedition in the following regions like Hamassen, yejju, Gonder, and Gojjam to have got recognition from the lords.
- The administration system of Yohannes was federalism because he shared his power for the two regional lords (the rulers of Shewa and Gojjam).
- He was flexible regarding his administration.
- The relation between Emperor YohannesIV and Menelik II was not good for about the first five years of Yohannes's reign because:

Menelik

- didn't give his recognition for Yohannes as emperor
- didn't pay annual tribute to Yohannes
- expanded to Wollo
- had a relation with foreign states like Britain, France, and Italy
- used a title of Kings of king

- Yohannes IV didn't take an immediate action to Menelik's refusal, because the emperor was busy for
  - strengthening his power
  - Protecting the state from Egyptians.

The Liche Agreement

- The agreement was held near Ankober in shewa on March 20/1878. Due to this agreement, Menelik Agreed to:
  - dropout the title of Kings of King
  - use only the king of Shewa
  - Stop his foreign relation to Britain, France and other independent countries without the recognition of Yohannes IV.
  - Pay annual tribute to Yohannes IV
- Yohannes IV also gave Wollo to Menelik as a reward. These two kings also agreed to protect the country by establishing a common army.

Foreign aggression towards Ethiopia

- The three major powers came to Ethiopia to occupied the state and enslave the people.
- These were Egyptians, Italians and Mahdists.

- The Ethiopians fought the Egyptians during the two phases.

1. **The first phase of Egyptian expansion** was come from western side of the country1820s-1850.
2. **The second phases of the Egyptian invasion** came from north eastern and south eastern part of the state through Red sea and Gulf of Aden (1850-1884).

- The Egyptians opened three fronts in 1875 against Ethiopia.

1. Egyptians army from Massawa
- Commanded by colonel Arenderop
- The armies were 2500-3000
- Reached at Merb river
- Defeated by Ethiopian army at the battle of **Gundet** on November16, 1875
- They came again for the 2nd time along this front.
- The numbers of the Egyptian armies were 15000.
- The commanders of the army were Genral Lorring (American) and Mohammed Ratip.
- But they were defeated at the battle of **Gura** on March 7-9/ 1876

2. **Egyptians came from Tajura**.
- The number of the armies were 500
- Commanded by Warner Munzinger (he was the architect of Egyptian aggression)
- The Egyptians were defeated by Afar people

3. The Egyptians came from Zeila
- The numbers of armies were Un known
- The commander was Mahammoud Rouf Pasha.
- He occupied Harar in October 1875.
- The Egyptians stayed for 10, years (1875-1885)

- After the battle of Gura, Emperor Yohannes tried to bring a peaceful solution for the existing problem between Egypt and Ethiopia.
- Then Yohannes sent Blata Gebre Egziabhier to Cairo but the Egyptian officers imprisoned him and later they released him in 1876.
- The Egyptians also sent **General Gordon** of Sudan to Ethiopia for peaceful solution.
- The demands of Gordon were the following:
  - Reparation payment
  - Release of prisoners of war
  - Cession of occupied Ethiopian region
- Therefore the peaceful solution was failed.
- The period from 1877-1883 was No war and No peace among the Ethiopian and Egyptians.
- The first three years of 1880s, the Egyptians sought a diplomatic alliance to Ethiopia. Two events accounted for this change of stand. These were
  - **A.** Mahadists movement began to dismantle Egyptians in Sudan in 1881.
  - **B.** Egypt was invaded by Britain in 1882

The Mahadist movement
- It was a religious and political movement in Sudan.
- It was led by Ahmed Iban Abdulahi.
- It was emerged in 1880
- Mahadi means a divine ruler that was chosen by God.
- This movement defeated the Egyptians in Sudan and they encircled some of the Egyptian armies along the Ethio-sudan border.
- Because of this factor the Egyptians and Britain wanted to sign a peace treaty that would end the Ethio Egyptian conflicts and to release the trapped Egyptian armies from Mahadist.
- Both Egyptians and Britain sent a British envoy Rear Admiral Sir William Hewett to sign a treaty with Yohannes. They agreed on the following points at **the treaty Hewett (**called Adwa Treaty by its place) on June 3, 1884.
  1. Free transit for Ethiopians via the port of Massawa
  2. Restoration of occupied region including Bogos , Harar and other coastal Region
  3. Yohannes agreed to facilitate the evacuation of Egyptian trapped armies along Ethio- Sudan border.

- Because of this agreement, Yohannes sent Ras Alula to rescue the Egyptian armies in Sudan. Alula defeated the Mahadists at the battle of Kufit in January 1885.

- The Egyptians also withdrew from all occupied region in Ethiopia including Massawa on February 5/1885.
- But the Italians were secretly invited by Britain and they occupied the port Massawa on February 5, 1885.
- They collected heavy taxes from Ethiopian merchants and blocked the import of firearm to Ethiopia.
- Before The Italians come to Massawa, their private campany occupied Assab in 1869 after the opening of Suez Canal.
- The ports of Assab became the property of the Italian government in 1882.
- Then the Italians entered to Ethiopia and occupied Merb Milash (Eritrea) the then governor of this province was Ras Alula Engda.
- Alula crushed 500 Italian armies at **Dogali** on January 26 1887 which was going as reinforcement to the **saati** fortress.
- Britain intervened as a peace broker even if behalf of Italy sent Gerald Portal to Ethiopia. **The proposal Gerald Portal** were

1. War indemnity for Italy
2. Official Ethiopian apology for Alula's attack
3. Cession of occupied coastal regions to Italy

- YohannesIv organized more than 80000 armies from all parts of the country and launched to north to protect the country from the Italian invasion.
- In 1888 but he returned back to western part to fight with the Mahdists who were became the strong enemy of Ethiopia after the Adwa treaty.

The major factors for the return of Yohannes from north to southwest part of the country were the following.

1. The Italians refused to come out from their fortress at saati.
2. Shortage of supply including food was the problems of Ethiopian army.
3. Yohannes was informed of the distractive invasion of Mahadist troops including Gonder.
4. The rebellions of Negus T/ haymanot and Menelik II against the Emperor.
5. Yohannes heard the secrete agreement of Menelik and the Italians in 1887.

- Because of these major factors Yohannes returned to Gondar and fought with Mahadists on March 9/1889 at Mattama.
- He was fatly wounded and died after a day.
- The Ansars or the Mahadists army came and beheaded his corpse.

Imperial Expansion to South, South east and south west Ethiopia

Menelik Expansion:

- Menelik's expansion was directed against the independent peoples and states in the areas of present south western, southeastern and south Ethiopia.
- The expansion of Menelik was different from that of his predecessors in its **Intensity** and

Unprecedented degree of Success.

The phases of Menelik expansion

I. The 1st phase from 1870s-1889.

- During this phase, the main objectives of Menelik were to occupy resourceful regions and to control the long distance trade route line.
- Some of the following peoples were peacefully submitted and were incorporated by Menelik. These were:

A. Kistane (the northern Guragie people)these people had the following factors:

- They were Christians (co-religionists)
- Geographical proximity(they were near to Shewa)
- They were suffered by the protracted war of Oromo people.

B. The Oromo monarchical states in Gibe region These were Limmu enarya,Jimma, Gera, Gomma, Gumma. The rulers of these states were agreed to Menelik to be autonomous state.

3. **The Oromo monarchical states in Wollega region.** These states were Leqa Qelem and Leqa Neqemet. Menelik respected the local autonomy of the rulers the same as the Gibe states.

- On 6 June 1882 the battle of Embabo (Wallaga) allowed Meneilik (His Army Leader was Ras Gobena Dache) defeated Takla-

Haymanot of Gojjam and to establish a firm control over the southwestern region.

4. The people who lived-in the **Illubabur** also submitted peacefully and incorporated to MenelikII.

- The other peoples and states **forcefully subjugated** were:

1. **The Arsi people**: They tried to protect themselves and fought Menelik from 1882 to 1886. But they were defeated at the battle of **Azule (bloody war)** in 1886 and they were subjugated to Menelik.
2. **The people in Harar**: They were defeated at the battle of **Chellenqo (bloody war)** on January 6, 1887 and they were subjugated to MeneliK. The last Emir of Harar was Emir Abdulahi.
3. **The southern Guragie people**:
   - These peoples were known as the muslim Guragie or Silti Guragie people.
   - They tried to fight the Minelik's army whose leader was Ras Gobana in1888.
   - But they were defeated in this year.
   - The leader of Muslim Guragie people was Hassan Enjamo.

II. The second phase from 1889 to 1896.

- The main objective of Menelik was to give a solution for Great Famine that broke out for four years from 1888-1892 in northern Ethiopia.
- The immediate cause of Great Famine (Kefu Qen) was the cattle disease.
- The name of this cattle disease was called Rinderpest.
- The infected cattle were imported from India and killed hundreds of thousands of cattle.

The emperor took the following measure to save the people from the great famine.

- Recruited soldiers from the famine hit northern region
- He also settled the northerners in the relatively little affected southern Ethiopia
- He also tried to redistributed the cattle from

- States and the people that submitted peacefully were Bale and Sidamo.
- The people and the kingdom of Wolayta was
  - Forcefully subjugated by Menelik in 1894.
  - thelast king of Walyta was KawoTona.
  - He was defeated and captured to become a prisoner.
  - The northerners also looted tens of thousands of heads of cattle from Walayta.
  - The notable war leaders of the combined army of Menelik during the war of Walayta were:
    - Fitawrari gebeyehu
    - Liqa meqwas Abate
    - Ras Michael
    - Dejach Balcha
    - Ras woldgiowrgis

III. **The third Phase from 1896 -1900.**

- The major objective of Menelik was to create a **buffer zone** between the fertile interior and the neighboring European colonies by conquering border lowlands in Ethiopia.
- Therefore Menelik occupied peacefully Borana and Ogaden.
- He forcefully subdued the Muslim states (the sheikdoms) along Ethio- Sudan border.

- These states were Benishangul, Asosa(Aqodi) and Komosha.
- They tried to establish the common army and decided to fight against Menelik's army,
- They were defeated by the army of Ras Mekonnon (the then commander of Menelik's army.)
- Sheik Hojale al-Hassan was the ruler of **Assosa** who defected the united resistance of Muslim state when they fought against Menelik.
- Ras Mekonnon was supported by the rulers of Jote of Qalem and Kumsa of Neqemt when he invaded these Muslim states.

- During Menelik's expansion, the people who submitted peacefully retained their traditional power
- And Continued as Vassals of the Emperor however economic, social and political

oppression was common to all conquered people.

- This oppression manifested itself in different forms. Such as the:
  - The alienation of lands from the local people
  - Inequalities between the local and the settlers protected by **Neftegna.**
  - Lack of respect for the language, religion and culture of the local people
  - The economic exploitation of the local people

Menelik and the Italians

1. **1876:** The official contact between the Italians and Menelik was begun
   - Italians who were led by Antinori came in to shewa.
   - Menelik gave a camp for them at LetMarefia near Ankober for these Italians.
   - The major objective of these Italians was to facilitate their colonial expansion towards Ethiopia but they cover their main objective with **Scientific Study**.
   - On the other hand the objective of Menelik was to obtained firearms from the Italians.

2. **October 1883:** Menelik and the Italians signed a commerce and friendship treaty in October 1883 the two groups agreed on the following points. These were:
   - Free trade
   - Free movement of their nationals
   - Freedom of religious propagations
   - Consular exchange.

3. **1887 the Convention of Neutrality**
   - Menelik and the Italians signed a treaty in October, 1887 after the Dogali Incident.
   - The Italians persuaded him to remain neutral when they fought to Yohannes and they promised to him to give 5000 rifles.
   - Nevertheless these rifles had not reached Menelik.

4. **May2, 1889 the treaty of Wuchale**
   - Menelik and Antonelli signed a Wuchale treaty in May2, 1889.
   - This treaty had 20 articles but among these articles, the two of them ie.
   - Article 3 and Article 17 were the immediate cause of the battle of Adwa in 1896.

I. **Article 3** deals about
   - The boundary delimitation between the Italians occupied regions in Merb Melash and the rest of Ethiopian provinces in north.
   - Because of the agreement the two groups agreed that the village of Arefaili, Segeneiti, Asmara, Adi Yohannes from east to west as a boundary line.

II. **Article17.** Deals about
   - The Amharic version of the article reads that Ethiopia can use the help of Italy in her diplomatic relation with other European countries.
   - The Italian version bounded MeneliK to use the good office of Italy for his diplomatic relation with European countries.

- Italy notified the great power of Europe that by Article 17 of the wuchale treaty, Ethiopia had become an Italian protectorate.
- But France and Russia opposed the Italian interest towards Ethiopia.

Ras Mekonnon

- The cousin of Menelik who went to Italy to get the ratification of the whole treaty was also cheated
- He signed additional treaty in October 1889.
- The treaty was known as Additional convention.
- Then the Italians occupied the whole region as far as Merb River and they declared as their colony of Eritrea on 1, January 1890.

- After the treaty of Wuchale , the Italians used two policies to control Ethiopia as their colony

I. Persuasion:

- The Italians induced Menelik to Accept the Italian Version of Article 17.
- This policy was run by Antonelli. But it was failed. Because:

♍ Aprill 1891 Menelik dispatched circular letter for all European powers which described the independent of Ethiopia and the boundary of Ethiopia was extending as far as the sea.

♍ Finally, Menelik abrogated the whole articles of Wuchale in 1893.

II. Subversion.

- Based on this policy, the Italians organized the dissatisfactory lords from north and agitated them against Menelik this activity was run by Baldasera, the governor of Eritrea.
- Ras Mengesh Yohannes, the person chosen by the emperor as his successor and the Italians agreed to fight
- Signed a treaty was called Merb Convention in December 1891 But Ras Mengesha and Ras Alula renewed their loyalty to Menelik in June 1894.
- This policy of the Italians also failed.
- The above two nobles crossed the Merb River and attack the Italians at Qoati and Senafe in 1895.

The Battle of Adwa

♍ The war preparation with Ethiopia and the Italians were:

From Italian side:

- The number of Italian army was estimated 20.000 – 35000
- The commander of the army was General Barateri
- Using modern firearms and trained armies

From Ethiopian side

- The number of Ethiopian army was estimated 100,000.
- The commander was Menelik
- The armies were mostly peasants who recruited from all provinces in the country
- Tayitu and other women took part in the war.

The course of the war

1. The battle of Ambalage

- The first confrontation was held on December 7 1895.
- The commander of Ethiopian army was Fitawurarti Gebeyehu.
- He defeated the Italian troops which commanded by Major Toeslli
- The remaining Italian army retreated northwards their strong Fortress at Makale.

2. The siege of Makale

- The siege of Makale was took part from January 7-21 in 1896.
- During this war Taytu ordered her 900 armies to control the stream that was found near to the Italian fortress and closed the Italian access to water and provision for two weeks.
- The Italians suffered a lot from Shortage of water and surrendered the fortress to the Ethiopians. Menelik permitted them to drive out from Makale by hopping:
  - The Italian brought peaceful solution
  - To have got great advance in Tigray

3. The final battle of Adwa

- It was the decisive engagement of the Ethiopian armies and the Italians.
- The Italians divided in to three begirds which were commanded by the following generals.
  1. General Armondi
  2. General Albertone
  3. General Dabourmeda

♍ Finally the battle began at day break on 1 march 1896 with the Italian strike on Ethiopian camp and the bloody battle fought until Mid-afternoon.

♍ The Italians were totally defeated at this battle.

Basha Awalom and others Double agents

- Before the beginning of the final war, Double agents played a great role for Ethiopian victory.

- He brought true information for Menelik and gave false information for General Baratari. Among this information, some of them were:
- There was internal conflict in the Menelik's army
- There was the shortage of food among Ethiopian army
- The Menelik's army never fight on the holiday

♍ Because of the above information, the Italians selected **Sunday** march 1, 1896, the day of commemoration of St.George to begin the war against the Ethiopian armies at the battle of Adwa but they were defeated on that day.

Factors for the defeat of Italy at the battle of Adwa were the following:

1. Italians faulty reading of map
2. Italians used false information
3. Italians underestimated the Ethiopian troops
4. Italians had poor leadership
5. Italians used wrong military strategy
6. Italians had poor knowledge of Ethiopian topography
7. Italians had lack of coordination
8. Menelik imported good firearms from France and Russia through Djibouti
9. There was a strong unity among Ethiopian armies
10. The moral supports of women, traditional singers, and clergies for Ethiopian armies.

The consequences of Adwa

The results of Adwa battle for Ethiopia were:

- Italy recognized the absolute independent**.**
- The treaty of Addis Ababa was signed in October 1896 with Italy.
- Italy and Ethiopia agreed the cancelation of all articles treaties of **Wuchale**
- Foreign countries opened their legations in Addis Ababa. Some of them were: Italy in 1896, Britain &France in 1897, America in 1903, and German in 1905.
- Boundary delimitation between the Ethiopian boundaries and the neighboring countries was signed. Such as:

1. The Boundaries of Eritrea and Ethiopia was delimited in 1900, 1902 1908 B/n Ethiopia &Italy.
2. The Boundaries of Sudan and Ethiopia was delimited in 1902 between Britain &Ethiopia
3. The Boundaries of Kenya and Ethiopia was delimited in 1907 between Britain &Ethiopia.
4. The Boundaries of Italian Somali land and Ethiopia was delimited in 1908 between Italy &Eth.
5. The Boundaries of French Somali and Ethiopia was delimited in 1907 between Britain & Ethiopia

The results of Adwa battle for Italy were:

- The government of Crispi was resigned
- Baratari was detained in prison
- Italy was forced to reduce its colonial budget.
- Demonstration was common in Italian cities
- It created shock and anxiety

The results of Adwa battle for Africans were:

- The eco of Adwa inspired the early Pan-African Movement
- It influenced foe Anti-colonial movement in Ethiopia
- Africans established the religious movement in southern part of Africa.
- It sparked the emergence of Religious Separatist. Like Ethiopianism, African churches independent from European Missionary churches.

The socio-Economic Condition of Ethiopia (1896-1935)

♍ **Gebar system**: **-** it was the basic means of surplus appropriation of feudal class during this period.

♍ **Giber**: **-** means a land holding peasant who paid the tribute to the state.

♍ Giber could be paid either in kind or in un paid lobour services.

♍ Slavery and slave trade also practiced in Ethiopia during this period but there was a decree which freed Slaves in 1924 in Ethiopia.

♍ Free labour service also abolished in Ethiopia in 1935. In the same time tribute in cash was introduced.

Outlets (ports): there two major outlets after the battle of Adwa. These were

1. **Gambella** port which was important outlet for exporting of coffee and other exported Items from Ethiopia.
2. **Djibouti** port was played significant role for imported different goods 1896 to1935.

Trade: some of the foreign merchants participated in the trade to import and export goods after the Adwa battle. These were French, Armenians, Greeks and Indians. The local merchants were involved in domestic trade.

- Taytu opened the first hotel in Addis Ababa and local bank.
- Ras Hailu began Cinema and Taxi business
- Ras Desta Damitew was involving in selling water.
- Ras Teferi had a share holder from different company.

Urbanization: some of the garrison centers during MeneliK were grown in to different Towns. Some of these garrisons were Gore and Goba. And there were towns that established due to the line of Railway that reached Addis Ababa in 1917. These towns are DireDawa, Nazerth and Mojjo, Debreziet

Modernization: Menelik imported different types of machinery. Some of the following machines were:

- Printing Machine was imported in 1912
- Motor car was imported in 1904
- Telegraph and telephone were imported 19th c.
- Hospital was opened in 1910

Education:

- The 1st modern School was Menelik II School. It was opened in 1908
- Alliance Francis School was opened in Dire Dawa in 1912.
- Teferi Mekonnen School was opened in 1925.
- The government gave greater emphasis to language in school.
- The medium of instruction of the schools in the country before 1935 was France

Some of the early modern intellectuals were the following:

- Hakim Workneh(Dr. Charles Martin
- AfeWork G/iyesus the Author of the 1st Amharic Noble(**Tobia**)
- Tekle H/wariat Tekle Mariam the man who drafted the **1931 constitution**.
- G/ hiwot Bayikedagne the author of two Amharic books. Such as:
  1. **Ase Menelik ena Ethiopia** in 1912 and
  2. **Mengist ena Yehizib Astedader** in 1919.

The foundation of Addis Ababa:

- It was founded by Taytu Bitul in 1886 when Menelik was expanding in southern Ethiopia.
- The following factors helped the city to be the permanent capital city of the country. These were:

1. The introduction of eucalyptus tree from Australia.
2. The opening of many legation in the city
3. The residence of foreign merchants in the city
4. The rail way connection of Addis Ababa and Djibouti in 1917
5. The land Charter: It leads the owners of land in the city to invest in the instruction of buildings.

Inception of Political Rivalry and Foreign Threat

Two events were happened in 1906 in Ethiopia.

i. The death of Ras Mekonnen. He was the right hand of the king and the expected as the heir of Menelik and
ii. The second event was the Illness of Emperor Menelik II.

- Because of these factors power struggle among the ruling class were begun in the country.
- Britain, France and Italy also equally worried about the problem of Succession in Ethiopia.
- Germany the strong rival of European powers that having colonies adjacent to Ethiopia had come to Ethiopia and opened her legation in 1905.
- This had already upset these three European powers and they signed a treaty was called **Tripartite treaty** in 1906.

Based on this treaty they agreed on the following issues:

- The area through which the railway line passes was given for France
- The Nile basin and its source came under the influence of Britain.
- Italy was allowed to construct a railway line from Eritrea and Italian Somali-lands.

- The main objective of this treaty was to avoid possible conflict of interest among the signatory powers in case a crisis situation in, shut of other rival such as Germany.

The measures of Menelik against the tripartite treaty signatory powers were:

- Menelik established a Council of Menisters to govern the country in 1907. The council had nine members including minster of War.
- Menelik designated his grandson Iyasu Michael as heir in 1909. Lij Iyasu was the son of shewareged Meneliks daughter and Negus Mechael. Menelik also appointed Ras Tessema Nadew as a regent.

Challenge of Taytu to the throne

- Empress Taytu had no offspring's and thus saw future political power for herself and her relatives in the candidate for the throne.
- Because of this, she had already married her niece Mentwab Wolle to Ras Mekonnen even though he was died in 1906.
- The choice of Iyasu by Menelik was a source of anxiety for Taytu and shewan nobility.
- However Menelik appeased empress Taytu by marriage arrangement her grand niece, Romanwork Mengesha Yohannes with Lij Iyasu but this effort bore no fruit and he appointed the regent from Shawan Nobility.
- Finally Tayitu made a shumshir (promotion and Demotion) including Fitawrary Habte Giorgis, the minister of war and Negadras Haile Giorgis, the minister of Commerce.
- Her relatives and related by marital ties were promoted to key position.

- In addition to this the opponents of Taytu obtained the blessing of the then bishop of Ethiopia Abuna Mathewos to remove Taytu.
- Finally in March 1910, Taytu was removed from government Affairs and she restricted taking care of her dying husband.
- The shawan nobility refused Taytu from retire back to her northern kinsmen
- Menelik was died in December 1913 and empress Taytu exiled to Entoto Mariam where she stayed until her death in 1918.

The reign of Lij Iyasu 1913-1916

- Lij Iyasu ruled the country with a regent from 1909-1911 but his regent was in April 1911.
- After this period Iyasu refused to accept another regent and he exercised ful political power from 1911-1916.
- The only series challenge to his power come from Ras Abate Buayallew, a shewan noble man.One upon a time Abate attempted to break the palace but his action was failed was imprisoned at Maqdala.

Some of the personal weaknesses of Ityasu were:

- Lack of responsibility
- Play boy character
- Polygamous marriage
- Led adultery life
- Lack of respection for old shawan nobility members

The reforms of LIj Iyasu

He introduced significant social and economic reforms. Some of them were the following

1. He established system of Auditing government property
2. He established Municipal police **Trinbulle** or **Yarada zebegna**
3. He made the 1st attempt secularization of modern education
4. He improved the traditional practice of **Leba shay**(method of thief detection)
5. He ended the practice of **Quragn system** (both accused and accusers were chained together until justice was delivered)
6. He stopped the abuse of **Asrat Safari** (the amount of the tax to be paid had been estimated by officials before harvesting.
7. He tried to give Ethiopian Muslim equal status by giving financial support for establishing Mosque and made marriage alliance with Muslim. He had a **Pro Muslim policy.**

The fall of Lij Iyasu

- His personal weakness was not the real cause for the conflict with the Shawan nobilities.
- The major causes of challenges were:

1. The giving of high positions for his father Michael. Such as

- Lij Iyasu crowned his father as Negus over the northern provinces of Tigray and Wollo in 1914.
- He added Gojjam and Begimeder to Negus Michael in 1915.

2. He promoted his relatives and friends and those with whom he had marital ties to high positions. such as:

- Iyasu took Sidamo from dejazmach Balcha and gave it to his brother-in-law Negadrass Haile Giorgis.
- He also gave a top rank of chairman of the council of Ministers which had been held by Fitawrari Habte Giorgis
- He removed Teferi Mekonnon from his family fief, Harar.
- And transferred to Kaffa then gave Harar for his Syrian friend **yddlidi**
- Because of these measures of Lij Iyasu, the Shawan nobilities unite to remove the Emperor.
- Another opposition against the king was come the members of tripartite treaty because of the following factors; -

i. Iyasu appeared to become a **closed friend of Ottoman Turkey and Germany** who were the enemy of Britain, France and Italy during World War I.

ii. Iyasu gave both moral and material support the leader of **Somalia nationalist movement, Sayyid Mohammed Abdula Hassan** who fought the members of tripartite treaty in the Somali.

- There for these three powers allied with Ethiopian internal forces against lij iyasu.
- This opposition was supported by Mahal safari, politics military group attached to the palace in charge of both civil and military duties, the Abuna and Ethege.
- As a result of these Iyasu was deposed from his power on 27/ september1916.
- LiJ Iyasu was not ready to defend his power because he was in Jijiga.
- But he tried to reverse the coup but he was defeated at the battle of **Meison** which located on the way of Harar.

The battle of Segele

- The father of Lij Iyasu came to Shawa with 80000 armies to reinstate the power of his son and confronted the shawan army on 17, October 1916.
- Negus Michael was completely defeated and made captive at the decisive battle of **Segele**.
- He was died after two years in 1918 in the prison.
- His son Iyasu led fugitive life until he was captured in Tigray in 1921.

Diarchy Rule

- The term diarchy in Ethiopia n politics was the period of Dual Rule between 1916 and 1930.
  - These were Zewditu and Ras Teferi Mekonnen.
  - Zewditu was the empress and her regent Ras Tafari exercised Extensive powers.
- Zewdit was elected as Empress by the shawan nobility because she was the daughter of Menelik from Shawan nobility. But she has no son.
- To avoid succession disputes, an heir was Chosen by shawan nobility.
- Ras Mekonnen was the best choice as heir shawan nobility because
  - He was the member of the Shawan Nobility.
  - He was active and educated person.
  - Therefore the shawan nobility forced to divorce from her husband Ras Gugsa Walle and brought her to Addis Ababa and she became an Empress.
  - For some years, Zewditu and Teferi worked well together.
  - The council of Ministers was reorganized under a chairmanship of the minister of War Fitawrari HabteGiorgis.

- Gradually Ras Teferi began to exercise the power a Regent, His influence in administration and military affairs and external relations exceeded Empress.

Because of excessive power holding of Teferi the ruling class was divided in to two.

1. The traditionalists:

- This group was led by Empress Zewuditu.
- Was supported by Old Shewan nobility and the bishop.
- This group was known as conservative group

2. The progressive group

- This group was led by Ras Teferi
- The group was supported by European Legation and Young educated Ethiopians.

The struggle between the conservative and the traditional groups came to dominant feature of the diarchy for several years until the balance of power gradually shifted in favor of Teferi.

The chief events for the rise of Ras Teferi as emperor were the following. These were:

1. 1918, the members of the council Minsters were removed from power. They were the most formidable opponents of Teferi. Eliminated one rival for the throne
2. 1921, the capture of Lij Iyasu in Tigray
3. 1923, Ethiopia became the members of League of Nation; it facilitated the extensive diplomatic relation.
4. 1924 Ras teferiwas invited to visit European countries.
5. 1926, the natural death of Fitawrari Habte Giorgis the, minster of war and Abuna Matiwos the then bishop of Ethiopia.
6. 1927, unconditional surrender of Balcha Soffa, the governor of Sidamo.
7. 1928, Aba wuqaw, the commander of Palace guard (the commander of imperial bodyguard) was submitted. He tried to break the palace and he was the 1st to sentence to death but it was changed to life imprisonment.
8. 1928, the Mahal safari pressed Zewditu to crown teferi as Negus and then she formally crowned teferi Negus.
9. March 1930, Ras Gugsa Wolle , the ex-husband of Zewuditu was defeated at the battle of **Anchim** by the armies of Ras Mulugeta (the then war minster of the government).
   - Ras Gugsa was the governor of Begemider
   - He suspected Teferi for the divorce of his wife in 1917.teferiand Ras Gugsa led to conflict over the tax that obtained from the Mattama custom Post.

Teferi Mekonnon

He was crowned emperor Haile sellassie of Ethiopia on 2 November 1930and laying a ground for an absolute state.

He also built his own Autocratic rule.

Some of the significant measures of HaileSellasie were: a

1. He promulgated the first written constitution in 1931.The major emphasis of this constitution were:

A. Building the absolute power of the emperor.

B. Granting the right of succession to the emperor decedents.

The constitution confirmed the emperor his divine right to rule as well as the right to issue laws for his people by his own will.

The constitution established bi-cameral parliament.

- **A senate**: the upper chamber of the noble
  - The members were appointed by the emperor.
- **Chamber of Deputies**: the members were elected from local feudal lords.
  - The members were elected by local notables.

2. Emperor Hailesllasie arranged the central administration system
   - Wollo was given for his son Asfawesson
   - Begemider was given to Ras Kassa
   - Gojjam was under the central government in 1932
   - Jimma was under the central government in 1933
   - Tigray provinces were influenced under the emperor by making marriage ties with the lords in Tigray
3. He worked the fiscal centralization mainly a custom administration.

The emperor eliminated the old traditional **Kellas (costume posts)** and replaced them by the few recognized centrally controlled custom posts.

- The emperor gave attention for modernization army.
- The modern military training was begun in 1920s by sending the youngsters to abroad especially to France.
- The training of Imperial body guard was begun in 1930 by Belgian officers.
- In 1934 the first cadet military training school was opened at **Holeta Genet**.
- The program of this school was for three years from 1934 but it was interrupted by the coming of the Italians in 1935/6.