History Grade 9

LESSON 2

6.4. Peoples and States in the Southern, Western, Central and Eastern Region

Southern State

A. Kaffa

Ruled by Minjo Dynasty

Royal Title Tato

The kingdom of kaffa was highly organized. A council of advisers known as the **Mikrecho** used to control the political authority of kings.

The economy of Kaffa was based on agriculture and trade. Among the trade items were ivory, mask, honey, coffee, slaves and gold.

Moreover, Kaffa had an old tradition of digging trenches to defend itself from foreign attack.

In 1897 Kaffa's last king, Tato Gaki serecho, was captured by the force Menelik II

B. Walayta

It was part **Damot** kingdom.

The founder was **king Motalami**

The ruling dynasty was **Walayta malla**

Royal title Kawo

Its economic foundation was agriculture. Important products of the kingdom were Ensat, wheat, maize, barely, coffee, tobacco and cotton

In 1894 the last ruler of Walayta, **kawo Tona,** was captured by the force of Menelik II after heavy resistance.

Other southern states were **Yem, Dawro, Konta, Gamo, Gofa, and Hadiya.**

C. The Gibe Oromo States

Following Oromo population movement the Gada system began to disintegrate particularly among the Gibe Oromo and Wallaga regions. Powerful leader controlled trade routes gave rise to some influential **Abba dula or war leaders**. These Abba dula began to assume the title of **moti/king.** This process occurred first in the Gibe Oromo region, where five small Oromo states Limmu-Enarya, Jimma, Gumma, Gomma and Gera

I. **Limmu-Enarya**

Earliest among Gibe Oromo state

Its capital at **Saqa**

Located on the long distance trade
The strongest ruler of Limmu-Enarya was **Abba Bagibo/ Ibsa/r**1825-1861

II. Jimma
The strongest among Gibe Oromo state
It became popular under the rule of Sanna or Abba Jifar I. (r.1830-1855)
It depended on the ideological support of Islam and the commercial prosperity from coffee and slave trade
Jimma submitted to Menelik II in 1881 under its ruler Abba Jifar II (r. 1875-1934)

III. **Gumma** emerged in the first decade of the 19thcentury
Its political dominance grew up under its strongest ruler **Oncho Jilcha**

IV. Gomma became important state since 1820
Its strongest ruler was **Abba Mano**
Earliest to accept Islam among Gibe Oromo

V. Gera became well known around 1835 during its strongest ruler, **Tullu Gunji,** who was popular warrior king and good administrator.

Western States

Besides the Gibe states, two Oromo states were also formed in Wallaga region in the early 19th century.

A. Leqa Neqemte; was founded by **Bakare Godana** and succeeded by Moroda and Kumsa (later Dejazmach Gabra – Egziabher)

B . Leqa Qellem; it was founded by Tullu, and consolidated by his son and successor, **Jote**. Their economy was based on agriculture and the Ethio-Sudanese frontier trade

Some foreign merchants from Funj sultanate of Sudan used to visit these two states

A number of small Muslim Sheikdoms were formed on the Ethio-Sudanese border. Small Muslim states called Aqoldi (Asosa), Benishangul and Khomosha were established in these way. They were all incorporated into Menelik's empire in the 1890s

Eastern States

Harar

Harar existed as a center of Islamic studies since 14thcentury. It also served as a political center of the sultanate of Adal up to 16thcentury. The emirate of Harar was established by **Emir Ali Ibn Dawd (**r.1647-1662). They controlled rich trade routes of Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean.

- It consolidated its power over the neighboring Oromo and Somali through Islam and marriage alliances.
- Since 1875 Harar was ruled by Egyptian troops for a decade.
- However **Emir Abdullahi,** revived the Harari dynasty between 1885-1887
- Harar was finally incorporated into Menelik's empire in 1887.

Awsa

It was ruled by Walasma rulers of Adal. These rulers ruled over Awsa after they left Harar in 1577, due to Oromo expansion into much of Harar plateau.

Central State

The kingdom of Shoa

The shoan kingdom emerged in the area of **Menz** around the end of the 17th century and founded by **Negasi kirstos.**

- ❖ During Zemene Mesafint, by safely isolating themselves from the wars in northern Ethiopia.
- ❖ Their capital city at **Ankober**
- ❖ The kingdom reached its heyday under king **Sahle Selassie (r.1813-1847)**
- ❖ Establish independent foreign relations with Britain and France.

Peoples not so highly organized in the Ethiopian region in the 1st half of the 19th century

- Afar- Saho speaking population in southeast
- The Somali were under similar socio- political conditions.

I.These populations were governed by local council of clan elders.

II.They lead pastoral or semi – pastoral way of life.

In southern lowlands

The Oromo's groups of Borana, the Gabra, and the Gari was based the raising of cattle, camel and goats.

In the western lowlands

The Nilo-Saharan communities were Kunama, Berta, Gumuz, Anuack, Nuer, and Majangir.

The small states of Aqoldi, Benishangul and Khomosha were exceptional in this region.

6.5. European Explorers in the Ethiopian Region in the First Half of the 19th Century

In the 1st half of 19th century, Europeans were interested in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.

The reasons behind are stated below.

- The resources as well as its strategic position suitable.
- The Horn of Africa is linked with the Middle East and vital to control the Red sea trade.
- Above all, Ethiopia is the source of Blue Nile River, the river up on which Egyptians life is depended.
  However, this relation was closed since the expulsion of Jesuits in 1632 after nearly two centuries, Ethiopia's relation with Europe was reopened.
  The Europeans used different **pretexts to penetrate into** interior Ethiopia
    - ✓ Scientific mission
    - ✓ Geographical expedition
    - ✓ Commercial expedition
    - ✓ Missionary activity and
    - ✓ Exploration and discoveries

The period of exploration in the region began in 1805 when;

- ❖ A British traveller Henry Salt met with Ras Welde Selassie of Tigrai in 1805.
- ❖ In 1841 Negus Sahle Selassie of Shoa signed treaty of commerce and friendship with Major Harris.
- ❖ In 1830s and 1840s British travellers and envoys, Charles Beke, Walter Plow den, and John Bell
- ❖ French agents and scientific missions; Rochet de Herr court, the D'Abbadie brothers Arnauled and Antoine were in the region
- ❖ The British, French and Italian protestant and catholic missionaries; Samuel Gobat, De Jacobi', Giuseppe Sapeto and Cardinal Massaja
    - ✓ They were serving political interest of their respective countries to developed interest in Ethiopia

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Review questions

1. What initiated the European to come Africa in large number in the 19th century?
2. Describe the type of relationship that existed between Harar and Awsa.
3. What were the economic sources of Leqa Qellem?
4. Explain the main factors for the replacement of the Gada system by the monarchical institution in the Gibe region.
5. Which southern states kept its independence throughout medieval period and lost in the 19th century by the force Menelik II?
6. How the emirates of Harar did consolidated its power over the neighboring Oromo and Somali population?