**Defense university college of engineering Military thought Group Assignment** **Department** Computer information technology

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**Submitted to:**

**L/Colonel Gosaye Desalegn**

1. **In a 1500-word essay examine one war, of which Ethiopia fought. Using the principles of just war you learned; analyze the two cases by addressing these questions:**
2. How did our leaders justify these wars to their people and to the international community? *10 points*

**The war between Ethiopian and Italian**

The battel of Adwa

The year 1896 was a crucial year for Europe as a whole, and for Italy in particular. In that year, Italy was defeated by Ethiopia at the Battle of Adwa, signaling the end of the “might is right” era assumed by the European powers of the day. The defeat of the Italians was a major blow to the industrial world because it heralded the beginning of resistance against the industrial powers and the struggle for independence by the colonized African nations. In the painting shown here, St. George appears at the very apex, a reference to the proverbial Ethiopian belief that the Italians were defeated thanks to divine intervention. The drums used to herald the coronation of the King of Kings here become the battle drum that reverberates through the hills of Adwa, shaking the morale of the enemy.

There are many explanations for how Ethiopia, led by Emperor Menelik II, defeated one of Europe’s major powers in the famous Battle of Adwa. But what is little known is that the victory – in the age of relentless European expansion into Africa – had its roots in the law of contract. In this case, the casus belli (justification for war) was article 17 of the infamous treaty of Wuchale.

At the close of the 19th century most of Africa had been carved up by the European powers at the Berlin Conference, with the exception of the Republic of Liberia, and the Ethiopian Empire. **Italy** had taken control of the impoverished territories of Eritrea and Somaliland, but wanted to further advance its imperial ambitions by taking over adjoining Ethiopia.

The newly installed Emperor (Nagusa Nagast) Menelik was keen to preserve his rule in the face of a full European assault on the continent, and so he agreed to a treaty that ceded some territory in return for a guarantee of his rule, financial assistance and military equipment.

In the eyes of the Italians, the treaty made Ethiopia a protectorate; meaning Ethiopia had surrendered its sovereignty. What they did not appreciate was Menelik’s foresight.

Not so fast! he must have thought. As it turned out later, Menelik had had the wisdom to execute the treaty both in Italian and the Ethiopian language, Amharic. According to the Amharic version, the agreement was just a treaty of cooperation, and not a surrender of sovereignty, as stated in article 17.

Italy, crying breach of contract as per their Italian language version, made that their excuse for an all-out war of annexation. Menelik was not going to roll over. He rallied his empire and fought back tooth and nail, in what has now become the most famous battle involving the defeat of a European power at the hands of an African army – though more importantly, Ethiopia is now in the history books as the only African country to successfully fight off European colonisation.  
 

**Now an enemy that intends to destroy our homeland and change our religion has come crossing our God-given frontiers. Now, with the help of God I will not allow him to have my country. You, my countrymen, I have never knowingly hurt you, nor have you hurt me. Help me, those of you with zeal and will power; those who do not have the zeal, for the sake of your wives and your religion, help me with your prayers.**

**So what are the lessons from Adwa all Africans ?**Indeed, there are still good lessons Africa can learn from the battle of Adwa.

The first is Menelik’s ability to win the loyalty of all the bickering factions in Ethiopia, who in the face of a common enemy, put aside their differences and contributed 100,000 troops. Unity was crucial in the face of a superior force on paper. The Chiefs (Ras) put aside personal animosities and fiefdoms to march in unison to Adwa. Amongst them were Ras Makonnen, Ras Tekle Haymonot, Ras Mengesha Yohannes, Ras Sibhat of Tigray, Ras Mikael of Wollo, Ras Wole of Yejju Oromo, and Ras Gebeyehu, who died fighting at Adwa.

Secondly, Menelik enjoyed the unqualified support of his wife, the Empress Taytu Betul, who personally went to the battlefield in full combat gear as a cavalry commander. She turned out to be a formidable leader, and outperformed some of the male commanders. In a declaration to the Italian envoy Antonelli, prior to marching to war, she drew a line in the sand:  
“We have also made it known to the powers that the said article, as it is written in our language, has another meaning. Like you, we also ought to respect our dignity. You wish Ethiopia to be represented before the other powers as your protectorate, but this shall never be.”

Perhaps the most useful lesson of all is the wisdom of executing such an important treaty or contract in their native language.

After the colonisation of the continent, mainly motivated by the quest for resources, African capital was now housed in Europe. The next stage in modern times was the use of that capital, technical expertise, and the tools of contracts to acquire more resources to create more wealth and capital for the West. The Chinese, spectators in the old game, have now entered as players in the new scramble for Africa.

Menelik’s wife, **the Princess Taitu**, also commands respect in popular memory, and is often depicted as falling to her knees in prostration when the battle began and praying for victory. It was she who warned the Emperor about suspicious activities on the part of the Italian emissaries, scenting out political ploys under the cover of peace negotiations. Most important of all, she played a very strategic role by controlling the sources of water from the enemy.

1. **One of the fundamental criteria is that war must be waged only as a last resort after all non-violent options have been exhausted. In your opinion, what criteria determine when the point of last resort is reached? Did either war meet such a standard? 10 points**

Just war doctrine pivots on six requirements that must all pertain in order to make a moral case for going to war:

a just cause,

the right intention,

conduct by a legitimate authority,

a high probability of success

in accomplishing the intended outcome,

respect for the principle of proportionality

**With these and similar problems, the battle of Adewa filled all the criteria**.We had no other option but to fight and win for the Ethiopians in the Adewa War, because the majority of the power of the union members was right. There was no time for us to submit to anyone. All the countries of the world either prepared to oppress me by force or were submissive.

If there are other means of achieving the same objectives, such as negotiations or economic blockades, they should be pursued exhaustively first. But in ***Adwa* war** no is reached in our opinion. b/c Italians was a major blow to the industrial world because it heralded the beginning of resistance against the industrial powers and the struggle for independence by the colonized African nations

1. **Do you agree with the above just war criteria? How do the two wars you have cited support these criteria, or do your cases offer themselves to other principles? If you think that war is never justified, how would you disprove those who make the case for a just war? 10 points**

**Do you agree with the above just war criteria?**

When Italian army came to invade Ethiopia, it didn't seem to have any requirements, **but for us Ethiopians, we fulfilled more than enough requirements to start the war**።

Yes, because the border of the country should not be violated. For us Ethiopians violating the borders is more than death, and our fathers did not raise us like that. First of all, one country should not violate the sovereignty of another country. Next is when there is a reasonable concern for all countries that support the standards. Countries are more likely to be forced to fight actual wars. It is difficult to say why such countries go to war when they can solve it peacefully.

In general, we Ethiopians had a sufficient reason for the Adewa war. The reason is that no Ethiopian citizen can tolerate an overseas enemy who has come to rob us of our culture, identity, and natural resources.