

## Research Findings: Modern Ethiopia (1855–1974)

### Unification and Modernization (1855–1889)

- **Emperor Tewodros II (1855–1868):**
  - **Overview:** Ended the Era of Princes, reunified Ethiopia, and initiated modernization.
  - **Monuments:** Maqdala fortress (his stronghold).
  - **Government:** Centralized administration, created a professional army, and attempted to reform the tax system.
- **Emperor Yohannes IV (1872–1889):**
  - **Overview:** Defended Ethiopia against Egyptian, Mahdist, and Italian threats.
  - **Monuments:** Yohannes IV Palace in Mekelle.
  - **Government:** Decentralized but unified under his suzerainty; emphasized religious Orthodoxy.

### Expansion and Independence (1889–1930)

- **Emperor Menelik II (1889–1913):**
  - **Overview:** Defeated Italy at the Battle of Adwa (1896), expanded borders, and founded Addis Ababa.
  - **Monuments:** Menelik II Palace (Addis Ababa), St. George's Cathedral, Entoto Maryam Church.
  - **Government:** Established a modern cabinet, introduced the railway, telephone, and postal system.
- **Empress Zewditu (1916–1930):**
  - **Overview:** First female monarch of modern Ethiopia; conservative but oversaw early reforms by Ras Teferi (Haile Selassie).
  - **Monuments:** Continued development of Addis Ababa and religious sites.
  - **Government:** Dual rule with Ras Teferi as Regent.

### The Era of Haile Selassie I (1930–1974)

- **Emperor Haile Selassie I:**
  - **Overview:** Central figure in 20th-century Ethiopia; led resistance against Italian occupation (1935–1941) and modernized the state.
  - **Monuments:** Jubilee Palace, Africa Hall (OAU headquarters), Holy Trinity Cathedral, National Museum of Ethiopia.
  - **Government:**
    - \* **Constitutions:** 1931 and 1955 Constitutions (first written laws).
    - \* **Centralization:** Abolished the gult system, created a modern bureaucracy and military.

- \* **Internationalism:** Founded the OAU, joined the League of Nations and UN.
- **End of Monarchy:** Overthrown in 1974 by the Derg (military junta).