# Objectives of foreign policy

Theodore had clear foreign policy goals.

* He wished to develop close relations with Christian Europe, particularly Britain and France, as he hoped to procure from them the much aspired “technical aid” to modernize his country and the much needed firearms and ammunition to equip his army.
* His another important aim was to check the Turko-Egyptian imperialism that threatened his country’s independence and to carry on it crusade against those Muslim powers to achieve ancient frontiers of Ethiopia. Thus close relations with Europe were fundamental to Theodore’s foreign policy.

FP Objective Tewodros embarked on an ambitious plan to bring his people out of the middle ages. He decided against establishing a permanent capital, choosing to travel around the Empire, collecting his tributes, putting down rebellions and directly administering law and justice as he went. He would however periodically return to Debre Tabor, Gondar and Magdalla. He established a large workshop at Gaffat, south of Gondar, where he had Europeans attempt to make fire arms for his army. He tried to build a boat on lake Tana that was propelled by a pedaling system, and dreamed of establishing European modernism in is country. He had ambitions of building a network of roads to make communications in his mountainous Empire easier and quicker. He befriended two Englishmen, Walter Plowden and John Bell, who encouraged him in his zeal for progress, and told him of the greatness of Britain and assured him that Victoria's England would be a good ally for him to cultivate. Plowden was functioning as British Consul in Ethiopia when Tewodros came to power, and John Bell became a close friend and confidant to the Emperor. When the Emperor's own relatives, led by his rebellious nephew Garrad, ambushed and killed both Bell and Plowden, the Emperor's vengeance was cruel and fast, and he ruthlessly and bloodily avenged them against his own relations, laying waste to much of Kwara in the process. Plowden was replaced by the much less successful Consul Cameron, who arrived with a letter of thanks, a silver platter and two pistols from Queen Victoria. Tewodros, amazed and skeptical that a huge Empire such as the British Empire could be ruled by a woman, was nevertheless very pleased by this gesture. He sent a letter to Queen Victoria asking for artisans and gunsmiths. So one might say the foreign policy objective during Emperor Tewodros`s era was mainly to gain knowledge and utilities to modernize his country mainly by building firearms.