



**SCHOOL OF INDIANA**  
**HOME OF VISIONARIES**

**GRADETWELVE HISTORY LECTURE NOTE      Thursday May 14, 2020**

**UNIT EIGHT**

***Ethiopian from autocracy to popular revolution and military rule (1941-91)***

- ✓ Emperor Haileselassie followed different measures to consolidate the restored absolute monarchy. The main aim was to improving the political, economic, social and diplomatic situation of the country which is ultimately enabled him an absolute ruler of Ethiopia until 1974.
- ✓ The emperor built bureaucratic government which served his interest. The ministerial system reinstated in 1943 it composed of 11 ministers and prime ministers (the first was Mekonnen remained sub-servant and obedient to the emperor. the emperor also established council of minister composed of heredity nobles.
- ✓ The emperor promulgated or ratified the 1955 constitution which was a revision of the 1931. It was aimed to show false image about Ethiopian democratization and to include the issue of Eritrean the main objective was consolidate the emperor's power and concerned about imperial succession. it introduced universal adult suffrage , allowed an elected chambers of deputy but the members were nobilities based property qualification , democratic and human rights also introduced.
- ✓ Military reform was organizing the to put down any opposition to the state
  - ✚ The imperial body guard trained Swedish officers in 1943.
  - ✚ Police force was set up in 1942 under British model
  - ✚ Department of public security set up under minister of interiors
  - ✚ The national army was trained by Britain later USA agreed to give military aid program by organizing MAAG military assistance and advisory group.
- ✓ The economic development showed little progress. However agricultural product had been used for subsistence farming and low export. land privatization land increased at rapid rate land lords evicted the peasants from their land which resulted national economy to grow slowly
- ✓ In 1953 British domination was replaced by USA due to the ethio American agreement Ethiopia allowed America to use kagnew communication station
  - ❖ USA established Ethiopian air line under transcontinental western air lines TWA.
  - ❖ Imperial high way authority was set up in 1957.
  - ❖ The imperial board communication set up under Swedish cooperation
  - ❖ Ethiopian educational curriculum was shaped from American system of education
  - ❖ The peace corps of 1960s and point four program.

## **The 1960s aborted coup'deta**

- ✓ After liberation of the monarchy was opposed by individuals like Dej. Belay Zeleke, Bahta Tekle Wolde Hawarite and Dej Negash Bezabih. Others were from different groups of revolt.
- ✓ It was the first open revolt against the rule of Hailesilassie by intellectuals Geramame Niway the US educated and military officer's brigadier general Mengesitu Niway commander of the imperial body guards. In the course of the coup Asfawosen appointed as head of state and Ras Imiru Hailesilassie as head of government in December 14 1960. It proved the king's power could be challenged
- ✓ After two days of military operation the coup failed. It was because of lack of coordination and unable to include the national army and air force.
  - ❖ The police chief officer Tsiga Dibo and Geramey Niway died
  - ❖ Mengistu Niway wounded and sentenced to death