[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Redirect](/wiki/Template:Redirect) [Template:Pp-move](/wiki/Template:Pp-move) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) [Template:Contains Ethiopic text](/wiki/Template:Contains_Ethiopic_text) **Ethiopia** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:Lang-am](/wiki/Template:Lang-am), [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl), [Template:Audio](/wiki/Template:Audio)), officially known as the **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia** (የኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራላዊ ዲሞክራሲያዊ ሪፐብሊክ, *yeʾĪtiyoṗṗya Fēdēralawī Dēmokirasīyawī Rīpebilīk* [Template:Audio](/wiki/Template:Audio)), is a [sovereign state](/wiki/Sovereign_state) located in the [Horn of Africa](/wiki/Horn_of_Africa). It shares a border with [Eritrea](/wiki/Eritrea) to the north and northeast, [Djibouti](/wiki/Djibouti) and [Somalia](/wiki/Somalia) to the east, [Sudan](/wiki/Sudan) and [South Sudan](/wiki/South_Sudan) to the west, and [Kenya](/wiki/Kenya) to the south. With nearly 100 million inhabitants,[[1]](#cite_note-1) Ethiopia is the most populous [landlocked country](/wiki/Landlocked_country) in the world, as well as the second-most populous nation on the African continent after [Nigeria](/wiki/Nigeria). It occupies a total area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and its capital and largest city is [Addis Ababa](/wiki/Addis_Ababa).<ref name=CIA/>

Some of the oldest evidence for [anatomically modern humans](/wiki/Anatomically_modern_human) has been found in Ethiopia,[[2]](#cite_note-2) which is widely considered the region from which [modern humans first set out](/wiki/Recent_African_origin_of_modern_humans) for the [Middle East](/wiki/Middle_East) and places beyond.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) According to linguists, the first [Afroasiatic-speaking](/wiki/Afroasiatic_languages) populations settled in the Horn region during the ensuing [Neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) era.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Tracing its roots to the 2nd millennium BC, Ethiopia was a [monarchy](/wiki/Monarchy) for most of its [history](/wiki/History_of_Ethiopia). During the first centuries AD, the [Kingdom of Aksum](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Aksum) maintained a unified civilization in the region,[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10) followed by the [Ethiopian Empire](/wiki/Ethiopian_Empire) circa 1137.

Ethiopia derived prestige with its uniquely successful military resistance during the late 19th-century [Scramble for Africa](/wiki/Scramble_for_Africa), becoming the only African country to defeat a European colonial power and retain its [sovereignty](/wiki/Sovereignty). Subsequently, many African nations adopted the colors of Ethiopia's flag following their independence. It was the first independent African member of the 20th-century [League of Nations](/wiki/League_of_Nations) and the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations).[[11]](#cite_note-11) In 1974, at the end of [Haile Selassie's](/wiki/Haile_Selassie) reign, power fell to a communist [military dictatorship](/wiki/Military_dictatorship) known as the [Derg](/wiki/Derg), backed by the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union), until it was defeated by the [Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front](/wiki/Ethiopian_People's_Revolutionary_Democratic_Front), which has ruled since about the time of the collapse of the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union) in 1991.

Ethiopia is a [multilingual nation](/wiki/Languages_of_Ethiopia) with around 80 ethnolinguistic groups, the three largest of which are the [Oromo](/wiki/Oromo_people), [Amhara](/wiki/Amhara_people), [Somali](/wiki/Somali_people), and [Tigrayans](/wiki/Tigrayans_people). Most people in the country speak [Afroasiatic languages](/wiki/Afroasiatic_languages) of the [Cushitic](/wiki/Cushitic_languages) or [Semitic](/wiki/Semitic_languages) branches. Additionally, [Omotic languages](/wiki/Omotic_languages) are spoken by ethnic minority groups inhabiting the southern regions. [Nilo-Saharan languages](/wiki/Nilo-Saharan_languages) are also spoken by the nation's [Nilotic ethnic minorities](/wiki/Nilotic_peoples).

Ethiopia is the place of origin for the [coffee](/wiki/Coffee) bean. It is a land of natural contrasts, with its vast fertile West, jungles, and numerous rivers, and the world's hottest settlement of [Dallol](/wiki/Dallol,_Ethiopia) in its north. The [Ethiopian Highlands](/wiki/Ethiopian_Highlands) are Africa's largest continuous mountain ranges, and [Sof Omar Caves](/wiki/Sof_Omar_Caves) contain Africa's largest cave. Ethiopia has the most [UNESCO World Heritage Sites](/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_Africa) in Africa.[[12]](#cite_note-12) Ethiopia's ancient [Ge'ez script](/wiki/Ge'ez_script), also known as *Ethiopic*, is one of the oldest alphabets still in use in the world.[[13]](#cite_note-13) The [Ethiopian calendar](/wiki/Ethiopian_calendar), which is approximately seven years and three months behind the [Gregorian calendar](/wiki/Gregorian_calendar), co-exists alongside the [Borana calendar](/wiki/Borana_calendar). A slight majority of the population adheres to [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity) (mainly the [Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church](/wiki/Ethiopian_Orthodox_Tewahedo_Church) and [P'ent'ay](/wiki/P'ent'ay)), while around a third follows [Islam](/wiki/Islam) (primarily [Sunni Islam](/wiki/Sunni_Islam)). The country is the site of the [Migration to Abyssinia](/wiki/Migration_to_Abyssinia) and the oldest Muslim settlement in Africa at [Negash](/wiki/Negash). A substantial population of Ethiopian [Jews](/wiki/Jews), known as [Beta Israel](/wiki/Beta_Israel), resided in Ethiopia until the 1980s, but most of them have since gradually emigrated to Israel.[[14]](#cite_note-14)[[15]](#cite_note-15) Ethiopia is one of the founding members of the UN, the [Group of 24](/wiki/Group_of_24) (G-24), the [Non-Aligned Movement](/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement), [G-77](/wiki/Group_of_77) and the [Organisation of African Unity](/wiki/Organisation_of_African_Unity). Ethiopia's capital city Addis Ababa serves as the headquarters of the [African Union](/wiki/African_Union), the [Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry](/wiki/Pan_African_Chamber_of_Commerce_and_Industry), the [United Nations Economic Commission for Africa](/wiki/United_Nations_Economic_Commission_for_Africa), African Aviation Training HQ, the [African Standby Force](/wiki/African_Standby_Force), and much of the global NGOs focused on Africa. In the 70's and 80's, Ethiopia suffered from civil wars and communist purges which devastated its economy. The country has begun to recover recently however, and now has the largest economy (by GDP) in East Africa and Central Africa.[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[18]](#cite_note-18) According to Global Fire Power, Ethiopia has the 42nd most powerful military in the world, and the third most powerful in Africa.[[19]](#cite_note-19)

## Contents

* 1 Names[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
* 2 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 2.1 Prehistory[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 2.2 Antiquity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 2.3 Middle Ages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 2.4 Aussa Sultanate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
  + 2.5 Zemene Mesafint[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 2.6 From Menelik II to Adwa (1889–1913)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
  + 2.7 Haile Selassie I era (1916–1974)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
  + 2.8 Derg era (1974–1991)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
  + 2.9 Federal Democratic Republic (1991–Present)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
* 3 Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
  + 3.1 Governance[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
  + 3.2 Human rights[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
* 4 Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
* 5 Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
  + 5.1 Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
* 6 Environment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
  + 6.1 Wildlife[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
  + 6.2 Deforestation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]
* 7 Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]
  + 7.1 Agriculture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]
  + 7.2 Exports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]
  + 7.3 Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

## Names[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The [Greek](/wiki/Greek_language) name [Αἰθιοπία](/wiki/Aethiopia) (from [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), *Aithiops*, 'an Ethiopian') appears twice in the [*Iliad*](/wiki/Iliad) and three times in the [*Odyssey*](/wiki/Odyssey).[[20]](#cite_note-20) The [Greek](/wiki/Greeks) historian [Herodotus](/wiki/Herodotus) specifically uses it for all the lands south of Egypt,[[21]](#cite_note-21) including Sudan and modern Ethiopia. [Pliny the Elder](/wiki/Pliny_the_Elder) said that the country's name comes from a son of [Hephaestus](/wiki/Hephaestus) (also called Vulcan) named 'Aethiops'.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Similarly, in the 15th-century [Ge'ez](/wiki/Ge'ez_language) [*Book of Aksum*](/wiki/Book_of_Aksum), the name is ascribed to a legendary individual called [*Ityopp'is*](/wiki/Ityopp'is), an extra-Biblical son of [Cush, son of Ham](/wiki/Cush_(Bible)), said to have founded the city of [Axum](/wiki/Axum). In addition to this Cushite figure, two of the earliest Semitic kings are also said to have borne the name *Ityopp'is,* according to traditional Ethiopian king lists. At least as early as c. 850,[[23]](#cite_note-23) European scholars considered the name to be derived from the Greek words *aitho* "I burn" + *ops* "face".[[24]](#cite_note-24)[[25]](#cite_note-25)[[26]](#cite_note-26) The name *Ethiopia* also occurs in many translations of the [Old Testament](/wiki/Old_Testament), but the Hebrew texts have [**Kush**](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kush), which refers principally to [Nubia](/wiki/Nubia).[[27]](#cite_note-27) In the [New Testament](/wiki/New_Testament), however, the Greek term Aithiops ('an Ethiopian') does occur,[[28]](#cite_note-28) referring to a servant of Candace or [Kandake](/wiki/Kandake), possibly an inhabitant of [Meroë](/wiki/Meroë), which was later conquered and destroyed by the [Kingdom of Aksum](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Aksum). The earliest attested use of the name *Ityopya* in the region itself is as a name for the Kingdom of Aksum in the fourth century, in stone inscriptions of [Ezana of Axum](/wiki/Ezana_of_Axum), who first brought Christianity to the kingdom.

In English, and generally outside of Ethiopia, the country was also once [historically known as](/wiki/Geographical_renaming) Abyssinia, derived from *Habesh*, an early [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic) form of the [Ethiopian Semitic](/wiki/Ethiopian_Semitic_languages) name "Ḥabaśāt" (unvocalized "ḤBŚT").[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The modern form *Habesha* is the native name for the country's inhabitants, the [Habesha people](/wiki/Habesha_people). In a few languages, Ethiopia is still referred to by names cognate with "Abyssinia", e.g., modern Arabic *al-Ḥabashah*.

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|307x307px|'Lucy', the world-famous Australopithecus afarensis.](/wiki/File:Reconstruction_of_the_fossil_skeleton_of_%22Lucy%22_the_Australopithecus_afarensis.jpg)

### Prehistory[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Ethiopia is widely considered the site of the emergence of anatomically modern humans, [*Homo sapiens*](/wiki/Homo_sapiens), in the [Middle Paleolithic](/wiki/Middle_Paleolithic) about 200,000 years ago. The earliest known modern human bones were found in Southwestern Ethiopia and are called the [Omo remains](/wiki/Omo_remains).<ref name=Mcdougall2005>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> Additionally, skeletal remains of [*Homo sapiens idaltu*](/wiki/Homo_sapiens_idaltu) were found at a site in the [Middle Awash](/wiki/Middle_Awash) in Ethiopia. Dated to approximately 160,000 years ago, they may represent an extinct subspecies of *Homo sapiens*, or the immediate ancestors of anatomically modern humans.[[29]](#cite_note-29) According to linguists, the first [Afroasiatic](/wiki/Afroasiatic_languages)-speaking populations arrived in the region during the ensuing [Neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) era from the family's proposed [urheimat](/wiki/Afroasiatic_Urheimat) ("original homeland") in the [Nile Valley](/wiki/Nile_Valley),[[6]](#cite_note-6) or the [Near East](/wiki/Near_East).[[30]](#cite_note-30) Other scholars propose that the Afroasiatic family developed in situ in the Horn, with its speakers subsequently dispersing from there.[[31]](#cite_note-31)

### Antiquity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:KingEndybisEthiopia227-235CE.jpg)[Aksumite currency](/wiki/Aksumite_currency) of the Aksumite king [Endubis](/wiki/Endubis), 227–35, at the [British Museum](/wiki/British_Museum). The inscriptions in [Ancient Greek](/wiki/Ancient_Greek) read "AΧWMITW BACIΛEYC" ("KING OF AXUM") and "ΕΝΔΥΒΙC ΒΑCΙΛΕΥC" ("KING ENDUBIS"), the Greek language was the [lingua franca](/wiki/Lingua_franca) in [ancient history](/wiki/Ancient_history) and the [Axumite kings](/wiki/Axumite_kings) used it in coins to simplify foreign trade.|left Around the 8th century BC, a kingdom known as [Dʿmt](/wiki/Dʿmt) was established in northern Ethiopia and Eritrea. The polity's capital was located near the town of [Yeha](/wiki/Yeha) in northern Ethiopia. Most modern historians consider this civilization to be a native Ethiopian one, although [Sabaean](/wiki/Sabaeans)-influenced because of the latter's hegemony of the Red Sea.[[8]](#cite_note-8)[thumb|412x412px|Obelisk of Aksum](/wiki/File:Stela_aksum_formated.jpg) Other scholars regard Dʿmt as the result of a union of Afroasiatic-speaking cultures of the Cushitic and Semitic branches; namely, local Agaw peoples and Sabaeans from [South Arabia](/wiki/South_Arabia). However, [Ge'ez](/wiki/Ge'ez_language), the ancient Semitic language of Ethiopia, is thought to have developed independently from [Sabaean](/wiki/Sabaean_language), one of the [South Semitic languages](/wiki/South_Semitic_languages). As early as 2000 BC, other Semitic speakers were living in Ethiopia and Eritrea where Ge'ez developed.[[32]](#cite_note-32)[[33]](#cite_note-33) Sabaean influence is now thought to have been minor, limited to a few localities, and disappearing after a few decades or a century. It may have been a trading or military colony in alliance with the Ethiopian civilization of Dʿmt or some other proto-Aksumite state.[[8]](#cite_note-8) After the fall of Dʿmt in the fourth century BC, the plateau came to be dominated by smaller successor kingdoms. In the first century AD, the Kingdom of Aksum emerged in what is now northern Ethiopia and Eritrea. According to the medieval [*Book of Aksum*](/wiki/Book_of_Aksum), the kingdom's first capital, Mazaber, was built by Itiyopis, son of Cush.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Aksum would later at times extend its rule into Yemen on the other side of the Red Sea.[[35]](#cite_note-35) The Persian religious figure [Mani](/wiki/Mani_(prophet)) listed Aksum with Rome, Persia, and China as one of the four great powers of his time in the 3rd century.[[36]](#cite_note-36) Around 316, [Frumentius](/wiki/Frumentius) and his brother Edesius from [Tyre](/wiki/Tyre,_Lebanon) accompanied their uncle on a voyage to Ethiopia. When the vessel stopped at a Red Sea port, the natives killed all the travelers except the two brothers, who were taken to the court as slaves. They were given positions of trust by the monarch, and they converted members of the royal court to Christianity. Frumentius became the first bishop of Aksum.[[37]](#cite_note-37) A coin dated to 324 shows that Ethiopia was the second country to officially adopt Christianity (after [Armenia](/wiki/Armenia)), although the religion may have been at first confined to court circles; it was the first major power to do so.

### Middle Ages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Bet_Giyorgis_church_Lalibela_03.jpg)[Church of Saint George, Lalibela](/wiki/Church_of_Saint_George,_Lalibela).

The [Zagwe dynasty](/wiki/Zagwe_dynasty) ruled many parts of present-day Ethiopia and Eritrea from approximately 1137 to 1270. The name of the [dynasty](/wiki/Dynasty) is derived from the Cushitic-speaking [Agaw](/wiki/Agaw_people) of northern Ethiopia. From 1270 AD until the [*Zemene Mesafint*](/wiki/Zemene_Mesafint) (Age of Princes), the [Solomonic dynasty](/wiki/Solomonic_dynasty) governed the [Ethiopian Empire](/wiki/Ethiopian_Empire).

In the early 15th century, Ethiopia sought to make diplomatic contact with European kingdoms for the first time since the Aksumite era. A letter from [Henry IV of England](/wiki/Henry_IV_of_England) to the Emperor of Abyssinia survives.[[38]](#cite_note-38) In 1428, [Yeshaq I](/wiki/Yeshaq_I) sent two emissaries to [Alfonso V of Aragon](/wiki/Alfonso_V_of_Aragon), who sent return emissaries. They failed to complete the return trip.[[39]](#cite_note-39) The first continuous relations with a European country began in 1508 with Portugal under [Dawit II](/wiki/Dawit_II) (Lebna Dengel), who had just inherited the throne from his father.[[40]](#cite_note-40)[thumb|right|upright|](/wiki/File:Cristofano_dell’Altissimo,_Portrait_of_Lebnä-Dengel._c._1552-1568.jpg)[Dawit II](/wiki/Dawit_II) (Lebna Dengel), [Emperor of Ethiopia](/wiki/Emperor_of_Ethiopia) (*nəgusä nägäst*) and a member of the [Solomonic dynasty](/wiki/Solomonic_dynasty). [thumb|left|The castle of](/wiki/File:Fasilides_Palace_02.jpg) [Fasilides](/wiki/Fasilides) This proved to be an important development, for when the Empire was subjected to the attacks of the [Adal Sultanate's](/wiki/Adal_Sultanate) general and [imam](/wiki/Imam), [Ahmad ibn Ibrahim al-Ghazi](/wiki/Ahmad_ibn_Ibrahim_al-Ghazi) (called "*Grañ*" "the Left-handed"), Portugal assisted the Ethiopian emperor by sending weapons and four hundred men, who helped his son [Gelawdewos](/wiki/Gelawdewos) defeat Ahmad and re-establish his rule.[[41]](#cite_note-41) This [Abyssinian–Adal war](/wiki/Abyssinian–Adal_war) was also one of the first proxy wars in the region, as the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) and [Portugal](/wiki/Portugal) took sides in the conflict.

When Emperor [Susenyos I](/wiki/Susenyos_I) converted to [Roman Catholicism](/wiki/Catholic_Church) in 1624, years of revolt and civil unrest followed, resulting in thousands of deaths.[[42]](#cite_note-42) The [Jesuit missionaries](/wiki/Society_of_Jesus) had offended the Orthodox faith of the local Ethiopians. On 25 June 1632, [Fasilides](/wiki/Fasilides), Susenyos' son, declared the state religion again to be the Ethiopian Orthodoxy. He expelled the Jesuit missionaries and other Europeans.[[43]](#cite_note-43)[[44]](#cite_note-44)

### Aussa Sultanate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The [Sultanate of Aussa](/wiki/Sultanate_of_Aussa) or "Afar Sultanate" succeeded the earlier [Imamate of Aussa](/wiki/Imamate_of_Aussa). The latter polity had come into existence in 1577 when [Muhammed Jasa](/wiki/Muhammed_Jasa) moved his capital from [Harar](/wiki/Harar) to Aussa ([Asaita](/wiki/Asaita)) with the split of the [Adal Sultanate](/wiki/Adal_Sultanate) into the Sultanate of Aussa and the [Sultanate of Harar](/wiki/Sultanate_of_Harar). At some point after 1672, the Sultanate of Aussa declined and temporarily came to an end in conjunction with Imam [Umar Din bin Adam's](/wiki/Umar_Din_bin_Adam) recorded ascension to the throne.[[45]](#cite_note-45) The Sultanate was subsequently re-established by [Kedafu](/wiki/Kedafu) around the year 1734. It was thereafter ruled by his [Mudaito Dynasty](/wiki/Mudaito_Dynasty).[[46]](#cite_note-46) The primary symbol of the Sultan was a silver [baton](/wiki/Baton_(military)), which was considered to have magical properties.[[47]](#cite_note-47)

### Zemene Mesafint[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:SMITH(1890)_p211_JOHANNIS,_KING_OF_ABYSSINIA.jpg) [Battle of Gallabat](/wiki/Battle_of_Gallabat) and [Battle of Gundet](/wiki/Battle_of_Gundet) are some of the battles for the defense of Ethiopia into which [Emperor](/wiki/Emperor_of_Ethiopia) [Yohannes IV](/wiki/Yohannes_IV) led Ethiopian troops. Between 1755 and 1855, Ethiopia experienced a period of isolation referred to as the [*Zemene Mesafint*](/wiki/Zemene_Mesafint) or "Age of Princes". The Emperors became figureheads, controlled by warlords like *Ras* [Mikael Sehul](/wiki/Mikael_Sehul) of [Tigray](/wiki/Tigray_Province), *Ras* [Wolde Selassie](/wiki/Wolde_Selassie) of Tigray, and by the [Yejju Oromo dynasty](/wiki/Yejju_Oromo_tribe), such as *Ras* [Gugsa of Yejju](/wiki/Gugsa_of_Yejju), which later led to 17th-century Oromo rule of Gondar, changing the language of the court from Amharic to Afaan Oromo.[[48]](#cite_note-48)[[49]](#cite_note-49) [thumb|right|upright|](/wiki/File:Téwodros_II_-_2.jpg)[Emperor](/wiki/Emperor_of_Ethiopia) [Tewodros II's](/wiki/Tewodros_II) rule is often placed as the beginning of modern Ethiopia, ending the decentralized [*Zemene Mesafint*](/wiki/Zemene_Mesafint) ("Era of the Princes"). Ethiopian isolationism ended following a British mission that concluded an alliance between the two nations; but, it was not until 1855 that Ethiopia was completely united and the power in the Emperor restored, beginning with the reign of [Tewodros II](/wiki/Tewodros_II). Upon his ascent, he began modernizing Ethiopia and recentralizing power in the Emperor. Ethiopia began to take part in world affairs once again.

But Tewodros suffered several rebellions inside his empire. Northern Oromo militias, Tigrayan rebellion, and the constant incursion of Ottoman Empire and Egyptian forces near the Red Sea brought the weakening and the final downfall of Tewodros II. He killed himself in 1868 during his last battle with the [British Expedition to Abyssinia](/wiki/British_Expedition_to_Abyssinia). Emperor Tewodros II was born in [Begemder](/wiki/Begemder) from a nobleman of [Qwara](/wiki/Qwara_Province), where the [Qwara dialect](/wiki/Qwara_dialect) of Agaw language is spoken.

After Tewodros' death, [Tekle Giyorgis II](/wiki/Tekle_Giyorgis_II) was proclaimed Emperor. He was defeated in the Battles of Zulawu (21 June 1871) and Adua (11 July 1871). Kassai was subsequently declared [Yohannes IV](/wiki/Yohannes_IV) on 21 January 1872. In 1875 and 1876, Turkish/Egyptian forces, accompanied by many European and American 'advisors', twice invaded Abyssinia but were initially defeated: once at the Battle of Gundet losing 800 men, and then in the second invasion, decisively defeated by Emperor Yohannes IV at the [Battle of Gura](/wiki/Battle_of_Gura) on 7 March 1875, where the invading forces lost at least 3000 men by death or captured.[[50]](#cite_note-50) From 1885 to 1889, Ethiopia joined the [Mahdist War](/wiki/Mahdist_War) allied to Britain, Turkey, and Egypt against the Sudanese Mahdist State. On 10 March 1889, Yonannes IV was killed by the Sudanese Khalifah Abdullah's army whilst leading his army in the [Battle of Gallabat](/wiki/Battle_of_Gallabat) (also called Battle of Metemma).

### From Menelik II to Adwa (1889–1913)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|Ethiopia map 1891|212x212px](/wiki/File:Abyssinia1891.jpg) [thumb|Emperor](/wiki/File:Emperor_Menelik_II.png) [Menelik II](/wiki/Menelik_II), former Governor of [Shewa](/wiki/Shewa).|left|223x223px [thumb|200px|Africa in 1884 before the](/wiki/File:African_Map_in_1840.jpg) [Berlin Conference](/wiki/Berlin_Conference) to divide Africa Ethiopia in its roughly current form began under the reign of [Menelik II](/wiki/Menelik_II), who was Emperor from 1889 until his death in 1913. From his base in the central province of [Shewa](/wiki/Shewa), Menelik set out to annex territories to the south, east and west,[[51]](#cite_note-51) areas inhabited by the Oromo, [Sidama](/wiki/Sidama_people), Gurage, [Welayta](/wiki/Welayta_people), and other groups.<ref name=igg/> He did this with the help of *Ras* [Gobana Dacche's](/wiki/Gobana_Dacche) Shewan Oromo militia, which occupied lands that had not been held since Ahmad ibn Ibrahim al-Ghazi's war, as well as other areas that had never been under Ethiopian sovereignty.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Menelik's campaign against Oromos outside his army was largely in retaliation for centuries of Oromo expansionism and the *Zemene Mesafint*, a period during which a succession of Oromo feudal rulers dominated the highlanders.[[53]](#cite_note-53) Chief among these was the Yejju dynasty, which included [Aligaz of Yejju](/wiki/Aligaz_of_Yejju) and his brother [Ali I of Yejju](/wiki/Ali_I_of_Yejju). Ali I founded the town of [Debre Tabor](/wiki/Debre_Tabor) in the [Amhara Region](/wiki/Amhara_Region), which became the dynasty's capital.[[54]](#cite_note-54) Menelik was born from King Hailemelekot of Shewa and his mother Ejegayehu Lema Adeyamo who was a servant in the royal household.<ref name=Menelik2>["Ethiopia's Personalities Of The Millennium – Emperor Menelik II."](https://business.highbeam.com/3548/article-1G1-55800557/ethiopia-personalities-millennium-emperor-menelik-ii/), highbeam.com Published on September 21, 1999 Retrieved 2015-04-10</ref> He had been born at Angolala in an Oromo area and had lived his first twelve years with Shewan Oromos with whom he thus had much in common.<ref name=Menelik1>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book), p. 97.</ref> [left|thumb|220x220px|A painting of the historic battle of Adwa](/wiki/File:ItaloAbyssinianWarpainting.JPG) During his reign, Menelik II made advances in road construction, electricity and education; the development of a central taxation system; and the foundation and building of the city of Addis Ababa – which became capital of Shewa Province in 1881. After he ascended to the throne in 1889, it was renamed as Addis Ababa, the new capital of Abyssinia. Menelik had signed the Treaty of Wichale with Italy in May 1889 in which Italy would recognize Ethiopia's sovereignty so long as Italy could control an area north of Ethiopia (part of modern Eritrea). In return, Italy was to provide Menelik with weapons and support him as emperor. The Italians used the time between the signing of the treaty and its ratification by the Italian government to expand their territorial claims. This conflict erupted in the [Battle of Adwa](/wiki/Battle_of_Adwa) on 1 March 1896 in which Italy's colonial forces were defeated by the Ethiopians.<ref name=igg>International Crisis Group, "Ethnic Federalism and its Discontents". Issue 153 of *ICG Africa* report (4 September 2009) p. 2; Italy lost over 4.600 nationals in this battle.</ref>[[55]](#cite_note-55) About a third of the population died in the [Great Ethiopian Famine](/wiki/Famines_in_Ethiopia) (1888 to 1892).[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[57]](#cite_note-57)

### Haile Selassie I era (1916–1974)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Addis_Ababa-8e00855u.jpg)[Haile Selassie](/wiki/Haile_Selassie) was crowned Emperor on 2 November 1930 with the titles "King of Kings", "Lord of Lords", "Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah", "Elect of God." He took—as his [regnal name](/wiki/Regnal_name)—Haile Selassie I which translates to "Power of the Trinity".|159x159px [left|thumb|183x183px|](/wiki/File:Ras_Abebe_Aregay_Ethiopian_heros_Arbenuoc.jpg)[Abebe Aregai](/wiki/Abebe_Aregai) ([Oromo ancestry](/wiki/Oromo_people)) was one of the main leaders of the resistance against the Italian occupation of Ethiopia in 1935. He led the resistance and was one of the main leaders of **arbegnoch** (Ethiopian patriots) until the defeat of the Italian achieved in 1941. He was chief of police in [Addis Ababa](/wiki/Addis_Ababa) and was then appointed minister of war by [Emperor](/wiki/Emperor_of_Ethiopia) [Haile Selassie](/wiki/Haile_Selassie). His grandfather, *Ras* [Gobana Dacche](/wiki/Gobana_Dacche) was also war minister of the empire. The early 20th century was marked by the reign of Emperor [Haile Selassie](/wiki/Haile_Selassie) ("Ras Tafari"), who came to power after [Iyasu V](/wiki/Iyasu_V) was deposed. He undertook a nationwide modernization campaign from 1916, when he was made a *Ras* and Regent (*Inderase*) for the [Empress Regnant](/wiki/Queen_regnant), [Zewditu](/wiki/Zewditu), and became the *de facto* ruler of the Ethiopian Empire. Following Zewditu's death on 2 November 1930, he succeeded her as emperor.

Haile Selassie I was born to parents from three of Ethiopia's Afroasiatic-speaking populations: the Oromo and Amhara, the country's two largest ethnic groups, as well as the [Gurage](/wiki/Gurage_people).[thumb|left|The 1897](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Ethiopia_(1897).svg) [Ethiopian flag](/wiki/Flag_of_Ethiopia) with the [Lion of Judah](/wiki/Lion_of_Judah).|201x201pxThe independence of Ethiopia was interrupted by the [Second Italo-Ethiopian War](/wiki/Second_Italo-Ethiopian_War) and Italian occupation (1936–1941).[[58]](#cite_note-58) During this time, Haile Selassie appealed to the [League of Nations](/wiki/League_of_Nations) in 1935, delivering an address that made him a worldwide figure, and the 1935 [*Time* Man of the Year](/wiki/Time_Person_of_the_Year).[[59]](#cite_note-59) In 1937 the Italian massacre of [Yekatit 12](/wiki/Yekatit_12) occurred. This was when there were imprisonments and massacre of Ethiopians. This was because of a failed attempt of assassination meant for the Viceroy of Italian East Africa [Rodolfo Graziani](/wiki/Rodolfo_Graziani).

Following the entry of Italy into World War II, [British Empire](/wiki/British_Empire) forces, together with the *arbegnuoc* (lit. "patriots", referring to armed resistance soldiers), officially liberated Ethiopia in the course of the [East African Campaign](/wiki/East_African_Campaign_(World_War_II)) in 1941. An [Italian guerrilla campaign](/wiki/Italian_guerrilla_war_in_Ethiopia) continued until 1943. This was followed by British recognition of Ethiopia's full [sovereignty](/wiki/Sovereignty), (*i.e.* without any special British privileges), with the signing of the [Anglo-Ethiopian Agreement](/wiki/Anglo-Ethiopian_Agreement) in December 1944.[[60]](#cite_note-60) On 26 August 1942, Haile Selassie issued a proclamation abolishing [slavery](/wiki/Slavery).[[61]](#cite_note-61)[[62]](#cite_note-62) Ethiopia had between two and four million slaves in the early 20th century, out of a total population of about eleven million.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

In 1952, Haile Selassie orchestrated the federation with [Eritrea](/wiki/Eritrea). He dissolved this in 1962 and annexed Eritrea, which resisted and finally won its [war of independence](/wiki/Eritrean_War_of_Independence). Haile Selassie played a leading role in the formation of the [Organisation of African Unity](/wiki/Organisation_of_African_Unity) (OAU) in 1963.

Opinion within Ethiopia turned against Haile Selassie I owing to the worldwide oil crisis of 1973. This oil crisis caused a sharp increase in gasoline prices starting on 13 February 1974; food shortages; uncertainty regarding the succession; border wars, and discontent in the middle class created through modernization.[[63]](#cite_note-63) The high gasoline prices motivated the taxi drivers and teachers to go on strike on 18 February 1974. Students and workers in Addis Ababa began demonstrating against the government on 20 February 1974.[[64]](#cite_note-64) The feudal oligarchial cabinet of Akilou Habte Wolde was toppled, and a new government was formed with [Endelkachew Makonnen](/wiki/Endelkachew_Makonnen) serving as Prime Minister.[[65]](#cite_note-65)

### Derg era (1974–1991)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:EPRP.jpg) [Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party](/wiki/Ethiopian_People's_Revolutionary_Party) (EPRP) clashed with the [Derg](/wiki/Derg) during the [Red Terror](/wiki/Red_Terror_(Ethiopia)) Haile Selassie's reign came to an end on 12 September 1974, when a Soviet-backed [Marxist–Leninist](/wiki/Marxism–Leninism) military dictatorship, the "[Derg](/wiki/Derg)" led by [Mengistu Haile Mariam](/wiki/Mengistu_Haile_Mariam), deposed him.[[66]](#cite_note-66) The new Provisional Military Administrative Council established a one-party [communist state](/wiki/Communist_state) which was called [People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia](/wiki/People's_Democratic_Republic_of_Ethiopia) in March 1975.

The ensuing regime suffered several coups, uprisings, wide-scale drought, and a huge refugee problem. In 1977, Somalia, which had been receiving assistance and arms from the USSR invaded Ethiopia in the [Ogaden War](/wiki/Ogaden_War), capturing part of the Ogaden region. Ethiopia recovered it after it began receiving massive military aid from the [USSR](/wiki/Soviet_Union), [Cuba](/wiki/Cuba), [South Yemen](/wiki/South_Yemen), [East Germany](/wiki/East_Germany),[[67]](#cite_note-67) and [North Korea](/wiki/North_Korea). This included around 15,000 Cuban combat troops.

Up to 500,000 [were killed as a result of the Red Terror](/wiki/Red_Terror_(Ethiopia)),<ref name=Mengistu/> [from forced deportations](/wiki/Resettlement_and_villagization_in_Ethiopia), or from the use of hunger as a weapon under Mengistu's rule.[[63]](#cite_note-63) The Red Terror was carried out in response to what the government termed the "White Terror", a supposed chain of violent events, assassinations and killings attributed to the opposition.<ref name=Mengistu>["US admits helping Mengistu escape"](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/575405.stm), [BBC](/wiki/BBC), 22 December 1999</ref>

The [1983–85 famine in Ethiopia](/wiki/1983–85_famine_in_Ethiopia) affected around eight million people, resulting in one million dead. Insurrections against Communist rule sprang up, particularly in the northern regions of Tigray and Eritrea. In 1989, the [Tigrayan People's Liberation Front](/wiki/Tigrayan_People's_Liberation_Front) (TPLF) merged with other ethnically based opposition movements to form the coalition known as the [Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front](/wiki/Ethiopian_People's_Revolutionary_Democratic_Front) (EPRDF). [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:ET-Red_Terror_Martyr_Memorial_Museum,_Addis_Abeba_(2).JPG)["Red Terror" Martyrs' Memorial Museum](/wiki/%22Red_Terror%22_Martyrs'_Memorial_Museum) [thumb|Flag of the](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Ethiopia_(1987–1991).svg) [People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia](/wiki/People's_Democratic_Republic_of_Ethiopia). Concurrently the Soviet Union began to retreat from building world communism under [Mikhail Gorbachev's](/wiki/Mikhail_Gorbachev) [*glasnost*](/wiki/Glasnost) and [*perestroika*](/wiki/Perestroika) policies, marking a dramatic reduction in aid to Ethiopia from Socialist Bloc countries. This resulted in more economic hardship and the collapse of the military in the face of determined onslaughts by guerrilla forces in the north. The collapse of socialism in general, and in Eastern Europe during the counter-revolutions of 1989, coincided with the Soviet Union stopping aid to Ethiopia altogether in 1990. The strategic outlook for Mengistu quickly deteriorated.

In May 1991, EPRDF forces advanced on Addis Ababa and the Soviet Union did not intervene to save the government side. Mengistu fled the country to asylum in Zimbabwe, where he still resides.

In 2006, after a trial that lasted 12 years, Ethiopia's Federal High Court in Addis Ababa found Mengistu guilty *in absentia* of [genocide](/wiki/Genocides_in_history).[[68]](#cite_note-68) Numerous other top leaders of his were also found guilty of war crimes. Mengistu and others who had fled the country were tried and sentenced *in absentia*. Numerous former officials received the death sentence and tens of others spent the next 20 years in jail, before being pardoned from life sentences.

The Transitional Government of Ethiopia, composed of an 87-member Council of Representatives and guided by a national charter that functioned as a transitional constitution, was set up. In June 1992, the [Oromo Liberation Front](/wiki/Oromo_Liberation_Front) withdrew from the government; in March 1993, members of the [Southern Ethiopia Peoples' Democratic Coalition](/wiki/Southern_Ethiopia_Peoples'_Democratic_Coalition) also left the government. In 1994, a new constitution was written that formed a bicameral legislature and a judicial system. The first formally multi-party election took place in May 1995, in which [Meles Zenawi](/wiki/Meles_Zenawi) was elected the Prime Minister and [Negasso Gidada](/wiki/Negasso_Gidada) was elected President.

### Federal Democratic Republic (1991–Present)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia](/wiki/File:Meles_Zenawi_-_World_Economic_Forum_Annual_Meeting_2012.jpg) [Meles Zenawi](/wiki/Meles_Zenawi) at the 2012 [World Economic Forum](/wiki/World_Economic_Forum) annual meeting. In 1994, [a constitution](/wiki/1995_Constitution_of_Ethiopia) was adopted that led to Ethiopia's [first multiparty election](/wiki/Ethiopian_general_election,_1995) the following year. In May 1998, a border dispute with Eritrea led to the [Eritrean–Ethiopian War](/wiki/Eritrean–Ethiopian_War), which lasted until June 2000 and cost both countries an estimated $1 million a day.[[69]](#cite_note-69) This hurt Ethiopia's economy, but strengthened the ruling coalition.

On 15 May 2005, Ethiopia held a [third multiparty election](/wiki/Ethiopian_general_election,_2005), which was highly disputed, with some opposition groups claiming fraud. Though the [Carter Center](/wiki/Carter_Center) approved the pre-election conditions, it expressed its dissatisfaction with post-election matters. [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) election observers continued to accuse the ruling party of vote rigging. The opposition parties gained more than 200 parliamentary seats, compared with just 12 in the 2000 elections. Despite most opposition representatives joining the parliament, certain leaders of the CUD party, some of whom refused to take up their parliamentary seats, were accused of inciting the post-election violence that ensued and were imprisoned. [Amnesty International](/wiki/Amnesty_International) considered them "[prisoners of conscience](/wiki/Prisoner_of_conscience)" and they were subsequently released.

A coalition of [opposition parties](/wiki/List_of_political_parties_in_Ethiopia) and some individuals was established in 2009 to oust the regime of the EPRDF in legislative elections of 2010. Meles Zenawi's party that has been in power since 1991, published its 65-page [manifesto](/wiki/Manifesto) in Addis Ababa on 10 October 2009. The opposition won most votes in Addis Ababa, but the EPRDF halted counting of votes for several days. After it ensued, it claimed the election, amidst charges of fraud and intimidation.

Some of the eight member parties of the [Medrek](/wiki/Medrek) (Forum for Democratic Dialogue) include the [Oromo Federalist Congress](/wiki/Oromo_Federalist_Congress) (organized by the [Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement](/wiki/Oromo_Federalist_Democratic_Movement) and the [Oromo People's Congress](/wiki/Oromo_People's_Congress)), the [Arena Tigray](/wiki/Arena_Tigray) (organized by former members of the ruling party TPLF), the [Unity for Democracy and Justice](/wiki/Unity_for_Democracy_and_Justice) (UDJ, whose leader is imprisoned), and the [Coalition of Somali Democratic Forces](/wiki/Coalition_of_Somali_Democratic_Forces).

In mid-2011, two consecutively missed rainy seasons precipitated the worst [drought in East Africa](/wiki/2011_East_Africa_drought) seen in 60 years. Full recovery from the drought's effects did not occur until 2012, with long-term strategies by the national government in conjunction with development agencies believed to offer the most sustainable results.[[70]](#cite_note-70) Prime Minister [Meles Zenawi](/wiki/Meles_Zenawi) died on 20 August 2012 in Brussels, where he was being treated for an unspecified illness.[[71]](#cite_note-71) Deputy Prime Minister [Hailemariam Desalegn](/wiki/Hailemariam_Desalegn) was appointed as a new prime minister until the 2015 elections,[[72]](#cite_note-72) and remained so afterwards with his party in control of every parliamentary seat.[[73]](#cite_note-73) In 2013, the mass [deportation](/wiki/Deportation) from [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia) of Ethiopian migrant workers has caused tensions.[[74]](#cite_note-74)

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in](/wiki/File:EthiopianEmbassyWashingtonDC.jpg) [Washington, D.C.](/wiki/Washington,_D.C.) The politics of Ethiopia takes place in a framework of a [federal](/wiki/Federation) [parliamentary](/wiki/Parliamentary_system) [republic](/wiki/Republic), whereby the [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Ethiopia) is the [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government). [Executive power](/wiki/Executive_power) is exercised by the government. Federal [legislative power](/wiki/Legislative_power) is vested in both the government and the two chambers of parliament. On the basis of Article 78 of the 1994 Ethiopian Constitution, the [Judiciary](/wiki/Judiciary) is completely independent of the executive and the legislature.[[75]](#cite_note-75) The current realities of this provision are questioned in a report prepared by [Freedom House](/wiki/Freedom_House).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

According to the [Democracy Index](/wiki/Democracy_Index) published by the United Kingdom-based [Economist Intelligence Unit](/wiki/Economist_Intelligence_Unit) in late 2010, Ethiopia is an "authoritarian regime", ranking as the 118th-most democratic out of 167 countries.[[76]](#cite_note-76) Ethiopia has dropped 12 places on the list since 2006, and the latest report attributes the drop to the government's crackdown on opposition activities, media and civil society before the [2010 parliamentary election](/wiki/Ethiopian_general_election,_2010), which the report argues has made Ethiopia a *de facto* one-party state.

In July 2015, during a trip that [President Obama](/wiki/President_Obama) took to Kenya, he highlighted the role of Ethiopia in the fight against Islamic terrorism.[[77]](#cite_note-77)

### Governance[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The election of Ethiopia's 547-member constituent assembly was held in June 1994. This assembly adopted the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in December 1994. The elections for Ethiopia's first popularly chosen national parliament and regional legislatures were held in May and June 1995. Most opposition parties chose to boycott these elections. There was a landslide victory for the [Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front](/wiki/Ethiopian_People's_Revolutionary_Democratic_Front) (EPRDF). International and non-governmental observers concluded that opposition parties would have been able to participate had they chosen to do so.

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Addis_Abeba_City_hall.jpg)[Addis Ababa's](/wiki/Addis_Ababa) city hall. The current government of Ethiopia was installed in August 1995. The first President was [Negasso Gidada](/wiki/Negasso_Gidada). The EPRDF-led government of Prime Minister [Meles Zenawi](/wiki/Meles_Zenawi) promoted a policy of ethnic federalism, devolving significant powers to regional, ethnically based authorities. Ethiopia today has nine semi-autonomous administrative regions that have the power to raise and spend their own revenues. Under the present government, some fundamental freedoms, including [freedom of the press](/wiki/Freedom_of_the_press), are circumscribed.[[78]](#cite_note-78) Citizens have little access to media other than the state-owned networks, and most private newspapers struggle to remain open and suffer periodic harassment from the government.[[78]](#cite_note-78) At least 18 journalists who had written articles critical of the government were arrested following the 2005 elections on genocide and treason charges. The government uses press laws governing libel to intimidate journalists who are critical of its policies.[[79]](#cite_note-79) Zenawi's government was elected in 2000 in Ethiopia's first-ever multiparty elections; however, the results were heavily criticized by international observers and denounced by the opposition as fraudulent. The EPRDF also won the 2005 election returning Zenawi to power. Although the opposition vote increased in the election, both the opposition and observers from the European Union and elsewhere stated that the vote did not meet international standards for fair and free elections.[[78]](#cite_note-78) Ethiopian police are said to have massacred 193 protesters, mostly in the capital [Addis Ababa](/wiki/Addis_Ababa), in the violence following the May 2005 elections in the [Ethiopian police massacre](/wiki/Ethiopian_police_massacre).[[80]](#cite_note-80)[[File:Ethiopian general elections 2005.jpg|thumb|right|[Ethiopian general election, 2005](/wiki/Ethiopian_general_election,_2005). Only parties with more than 10 seats shown.  
Red: [EPRDF](/wiki/Ethiopian_People's_Revolutionary_Democratic_Front)  
Green: [CUD](/wiki/Coalition_for_Unity_and_Democracy)  
Purple: [UEDF](/wiki/United_Ethiopian_Democratic_Forces)  
Dark blue: [SPDP](/wiki/Somali_People's_Democratic_Party)  
Orange: [OFDM](/wiki/Oromo_Federalist_Democratic_Movement)  
Light blue: Others]] The government initiated a crackdown in the provinces as well; in Oromia state the authorities used concerns over insurgency and terrorism to use torture, imprisonment, and other repressive methods to silence critics following the election, particularly people sympathetic to the registered opposition party [Oromo National Congress](/wiki/Oromo_National_Congress) (ONC).[[79]](#cite_note-79) The government has been engaged in a conflict with rebels in the [Ogaden](/wiki/Ogaden) region since 2007. The biggest opposition party in 2005 was the [Coalition for Unity and Democracy](/wiki/Coalition_for_Unity_and_Democracy) (CUD). After various internal divisions, most of the CUD party leaders have established the new [Unity for Democracy and Justice](/wiki/Unity_for_Democracy_and_Justice) party led by Judge [Birtukan Mideksa](/wiki/Birtukan_Mideksa). A member of the country's [Oromo](/wiki/Oromo_people) ethnic group, Ms. Birtukan Mideksa is the first woman to lead a political party in Ethiopia.

In 2008, the top five opposition parties were the Unity for Democracy and Justice led by Judge Birtukan Mideksa, [United Ethiopian Democratic Forces](/wiki/United_Ethiopian_Democratic_Forces) led by Dr. [Beyene Petros](/wiki/Beyene_Petros), [Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement](/wiki/Oromo_Federalist_Democratic_Movement) led by Dr. [Bulcha Demeksa](/wiki/Bulcha_Demeksa), [Oromo People's Congress](/wiki/Oromo_People's_Congress) led by Dr. Merera Gudina, and [United Ethiopian Democratic Party-Medhin Party](/wiki/United_Ethiopian_Democratic_Party-Medhin_Party) led by [Lidetu Ayalew](/wiki/Lidetu_Ayalew). After the 2015 elections, Ethiopia lost its single remaining opposition MP;[[81]](#cite_note-81) there are now no opposition MPs in the Ethiopian parliament.[[82]](#cite_note-82)

### Human rights[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) According to surveys in 2003 by the National Committee on Traditional Practices in Ethiopia, [marriage by abduction](/wiki/Bride_kidnapping) accounts for 69% of the nation's marriages, with around 80% in the largest region, Oromiya, and as high as 92% in the [Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region](/wiki/Southern_Nations,_Nationalities,_and_Peoples'_Region).[[83]](#cite_note-83)[[84]](#cite_note-84) Among the Omotic [Karo-speaking](/wiki/Karo_language) and [Hamer peoples](/wiki/Hamer_people) in southern Ethiopia, adults and children with physical abnormalities are considered to be [mingi](/wiki/Mingi), "ritually impure". The latter are believed to exert an evil influence upon others; disabled infants have traditionally been murdered without a proper burial.[[85]](#cite_note-85) The Karo officially banned the practice in July 2012.[[86]](#cite_note-86)

## Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|300px|A map of Ethiopia's](/wiki/File:Ethiopia_zone_region.jpg) [regions](/wiki/Regions_of_Ethiopia) and [zones](/wiki/List_of_zones_of_Ethiopia). Before 1996, Ethiopia was divided into thirteen [provinces](/wiki/Provinces_of_Ethiopia), many derived from historical regions. The nation now has a tiered governmental system consisting of a [federal government](/wiki/Federal_government) overseeing ethnically based regional states, zones, [districts](/wiki/Districts_of_Ethiopia) (*woreda*), and [*kebele*](/wiki/Kebele)s ("[neighbourhoods](/wiki/Neighbourhood)).

Since 1996, Ethiopia has been divided into nine ethnically-based and politically autonomous [regional states](/wiki/Regions_of_Ethiopia) (*kililoch*, singular *kilil*) and two chartered cities (*astedader akababiwoch*, singular *astedader akababi*), the latter being [Addis Ababa](/wiki/Addis_Ababa) and [Dire Dawa](/wiki/Dire_Dawa). The *kililoch* are subdivided into sixty-eight [zones](/wiki/Zones_of_Ethiopia), and then further into 550 *woredas* and several special *woredas*.

The constitution assigns extensive power to regional states, which can establish their own government and democracy according to the federal government's constitution. Each region has at its apex a regional council where members are directly elected to represent the districts and the council has legislative and executive power to direct internal affairs of the regions.

Article 39 of the Ethiopian Constitution further gives every regional state the right to secede from Ethiopia. There is debate, however, as to how much of the power guaranteed in the constitution is actually given to the states. The councils implement their mandate through an executive committee and regional sectoral bureaus. Such elaborate structure of council, executive, and sectoral public institutions is replicated to the next level (*woreda*).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Region or city (ክልል/የከተማ አስተዳድር)** | | **Capital** | **Area** [**Template:Smaller**](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | **Population**[**[87]**](#cite_note-87) | | |
| **Oct 1994 census** | **May 2007 census** | **Jul 2012 estimate** |
| [Addis Ababa](/wiki/Addis_Ababa) (አዲስ አበባ) | *astedader* | [Addis Ababa](/wiki/Addis_Ababa) | 526.99 | 2,100,031 | 2,738,248 | 3,041,002 |
| [Afar](/wiki/Afar_Region) (ዓፋር) | *kilil* | [Semera](/wiki/Semera) | 72,052.78 | 1,051,641 | 1,411,092 | 1,602,995 |
| [Amhara](/wiki/Amhara_Region) (አማራ) | *kilil* | [Bahir Dar](/wiki/Bahir_Dar) | 154,708.96 | 13,270,898 | 17,214,056 | 18,866,002 |
| [Benishangul-Gumuz](/wiki/Benishangul-Gumuz_Region) (ቤ/ጉሙዝ) | *kilil* | [Asosa](/wiki/Asosa) | 50,698.68 | 460,325 | 670,847 | 982,004 |
| [Dire Dawa](/wiki/Dire_Dawa) (ድሬዳዋ) | *astedader* | [Dire Dawa](/wiki/Dire_Dawa) | 1,558.61 | 248,549 | 342,827 | 387,000 |
| [Gambela](/wiki/Gambela_Region) (ጋምቤላ) | *kilil* | [Gambela](/wiki/Gambela,_Ethiopia) | 29,782.82 | 162,271 | 306,916 | 385,997 |
| [Harari](/wiki/Harari_Region) (ሐረሪ) | *kilil* | [Harar](/wiki/Harar) | 333.94 | 130,691 | 183,344 | 210,000 |
| [Oromia](/wiki/Oromia_Region) (ኦሮምያ) | *kilil* | [Addis Ababa](/wiki/Addis_Ababa) | 284,538 | 18,465,449 | 27,158,471 | 31,294,992 |
| [Somali](/wiki/Somali_Region) (ሶማሌ) | *kilil* | [Jijiga](/wiki/Jijiga) | 279,252.00 | 3,144,963 | 4,439,147 | 5,148,989 |
| [Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region](/wiki/Southern_Nations,_Nationalities,_and_Peoples'_Region) (ደቡብ ብ/ብ/ሕ) | *kilil* | [Awasa](/wiki/Awasa) | 105,887.18 | 10,377,028 | 15,042,531 | 17,359,008 |
| [Tigray](/wiki/Tigray_Region) (ትግራይ) | *kilil* | [Mek'ele](/wiki/Mek'ele) | 41,410 | 3,134,470 | 4,314,456 | 4,929,999 |
| Special enumerated zones | |  |  |  | 96,570 | 112,999 |
| **Totals** | | | **1,127,127.00** | **51,766,239** | **73,918,505** | **84,320,987** |

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Ethiopia map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Ethiopia_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) [thumb|right|Map of Ethiopia.](/wiki/File:Ethiopia_shaded_relief_map_1999,_CIA.jpg) At [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),[[88]](#cite_note-88) Ethiopia is the world's 27th-largest country, comparable in size to [Bolivia](/wiki/Bolivia). It lies between the [3rd parallel north](/wiki/3rd_parallel_north) and the [15th parallel north](/wiki/15th_parallel_north) and longitudes [33rd meridian east](/wiki/33rd_meridian_east) and [48th meridian east](/wiki/48th_meridian_east).

The major portion of Ethiopia lies on the [Horn of Africa](/wiki/Horn_of_Africa), which is the easternmost part of the African landmass. Bordering Ethiopia are [Sudan](/wiki/Sudan) and [South Sudan](/wiki/South_Sudan) to the west, [Djibouti](/wiki/Djibouti) and [Eritrea](/wiki/Eritrea) to the north, [Somalia](/wiki/Somalia) to the east and [Kenya](/wiki/Kenya) to the south. Within Ethiopia is a vast highland complex of mountains and dissected plateaus divided by the [Great Rift Valley](/wiki/Great_Rift_Valley,_Ethiopia), which runs generally southwest to northeast and is surrounded by lowlands, [steppes](/wiki/Steppe), or semi-desert. The great diversity of terrain determines wide variations in climate, soils, natural vegetation, and settlement patterns.

Ethiopia is an ecologically diverse country, ranging from the deserts along the eastern border to the tropical forests in the south to extensive [Afromontane](/wiki/Afromontane) in the northern and southwestern parts. [Lake Tana](/wiki/Lake_Tana) in the north is the source of the [Blue Nile](/wiki/Blue_Nile). It also has a large number of [endemic](/wiki/Endemism) species, notably the [gelada](/wiki/Gelada), the [walia ibex](/wiki/Walia_ibex) and the [Ethiopian wolf](/wiki/Ethiopian_wolf) ("Simien fox"). The wide range of altitude has given the country a variety of ecologically distinct areas, and this has helped to encourage the evolution of endemic species in ecological isolation.

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Semien_Mountains_13.jpg)[Semien Mountains](/wiki/Semien_Mountains). The predominant climate type is tropical monsoon, with wide topographic-induced variation. The [Ethiopian Highlands](/wiki/Ethiopian_Highlands) cover most of the country and have a climate which is generally considerably cooler than other regions at similar proximity to the Equator. Most of the country's major cities are located at elevations of around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) above sea level, including historic capitals such as Gondar and Axum. [thumb|left|Wonchi Lake](/wiki/File:Wonchi_Lake_of_Ethiopia.jpg) The modern capital, Addis Ababa, is situated on the foothills of [Mount Entoto](/wiki/Mount_Entoto) at an elevation of around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). It experiences a mild climate year round. With temperatures fairly uniform year round, the seasons in Addis Ababa are largely defined by rainfall: a dry season from October–February, a light rainy season from March–May, and a heavy rainy season from June–September. The average annual rainfall is approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

There are on average 7 hours of sunshine per day. The dry season is the sunniest time of the year, though even at the height of the rainy season in July and August there are still usually several hours per day of bright sunshine. The average annual temperature in Addis Ababa is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), with daily maximum temperatures averaging [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) throughout the year, and overnight lows averaging [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

Most major cities and tourist sites in Ethiopia lie at a similar elevation to Addis Ababa and have a comparable climate. In less elevated regions, particularly the lower lying [Ethiopian xeric grasslands and shrublands](/wiki/Ethiopian_xeric_grasslands_and_shrublands) in the east of the country, the climate can be significantly hotter and drier. Dallol, in the [Danakil Depression](/wiki/Danakil_Depression) in this eastern zone, has the world's highest average annual temperature of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

## Environment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

### Wildlife[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Canis_simensis_-Simien_Mountains,_Ethiopia-8.jpg) [Ethiopian wolf](/wiki/Ethiopian_wolf).

Ethiopia has 31 endemic species of mammals.[[89]](#cite_note-89) The [African wild dog](/wiki/African_wild_dog) prehistorically had widespread distribution in the territory. However, with last sightings at [Finicha'a](/wiki/Finicha'a), this canid is thought to be potentially [locally extinct](/wiki/Local_extinction). The Ethiopian wolf is perhaps the most researched of all the endangered species within Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is a global center of avian diversity. To date more than 856 bird species have been recorded in Ethiopia, twenty of which are endemic to the country.[[90]](#cite_note-90) Sixteen species are endangered or critically endangered. A large number of these birds feed on butterflies, like the [*Bicyclus anynana*](/wiki/Bicyclus_anynana)*.*[[91]](#cite_note-91)[thumb|](/wiki/File:Spinus-gelada-2014-11-n020631-w.jpg)[Gelada](/wiki/Gelada) or bleeding heart baboon, endemic to Ethiopia. Historically, throughout the African continent, [wildlife](/wiki/Wildlife) populations have been rapidly declining due to logging, civil wars, pollution, poaching, and other human factors.[[92]](#cite_note-92) A 17-year-long civil war, along with severe drought, negatively impacted Ethiopia's environmental conditions, leading to even greater habitat degradation.[[93]](#cite_note-93) Habitat destruction is a factor that leads to endangerment. When changes to a habitat occur rapidly, animals do not have time to adjust. Human impact threatens many species, with greater threats expected as a result of climate change induced by [greenhouse gases](/wiki/Greenhouse_gas).[[94]](#cite_note-94) With carbon dioxide emissions in 2010 of 6,494,000 tonnes, Ethiopia contributes just 0.02% to the annual human-caused release of greenhouse gases.[[95]](#cite_note-95) Ethiopia has a large number of species listed as critically endangered, endangered, and vulnerable to global extinction. The threatened species in Ethiopia can be broken down into three categories (based on [IUCN](/wiki/IUCN) ratings): [critically endangered](/wiki/Critically_endangered), [endangered](/wiki/Endangered_species), and [vulnerable](/wiki/Vulnerable_species).[[89]](#cite_note-89)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Critically endangered mammals**[**[96]**](#cite_note-96) | **Endangered mammals** | **Vulnerable mammals** | | |
| [Cushioned gerbil](/wiki/Cushioned_gerbil) | [Grévy's zebra](/wiki/Grévy's_zebra) | [African elephant](/wiki/African_elephant) | [Large-eared free-tailed bat](/wiki/Large-eared_free-tailed_bat) | [Red-fronted gazelle](/wiki/Red-fronted_gazelle) |
| [Black rhinoceros](/wiki/Black_rhinoceros) | [Mountain nyala](/wiki/Mountain_nyala) | [Ammodile](/wiki/Ammodile) | [Lesser horseshoe bat](/wiki/Lesser_horseshoe_bat) | [Rupp's mouse](/wiki/Rupp's_mouse) |
| [Ethiopian wolf](/wiki/Ethiopian_wolf) | [Nubian ibex](/wiki/Nubian_ibex) | [Bailey's shrew](/wiki/Bailey's_shrew) | [Lion](/wiki/Lion) | [Scott's mouse-eared bat](/wiki/Scott's_mouse-eared_bat) |
| [Guramba shrew](/wiki/Guramba_shrew) | [African wild dog](/wiki/African_wild_dog) | [Bale shrew](/wiki/Bale_shrew) | [Lucina's shrew](/wiki/Lucina's_shrew) | [Soemmerring's gazelle](/wiki/Soemmerring's_gazelle) |
| [Harenna shrew](/wiki/Harenna_shrew) |  | [Beira antelope](/wiki/Beira_(antelope)) | [Morris's bat](/wiki/Morris's_bat) | [Speke's gazelle](/wiki/Speke's_gazelle) |
| [MacMillan's shrew](/wiki/MacMillan's_shrew) |  | [Cheetah](/wiki/Cheetah) | [Mouse-tailed bat](/wiki/Mouse-tailed_bat) | [Spotted-necked otter](/wiki/Spotted-necked_otter) |
| [Walia ibex](/wiki/Walia_ibex) |  | [Dibatag](/wiki/Dibatag) | [Natal free-tailed bat](/wiki/Natal_free-tailed_bat) | [Ethiopian striped mouse](/wiki/Ethiopian_striped_mouse) |
|  |  | [Dorcas gazelle](/wiki/Dorcas_gazelle) | [Nikolaus's mouse](/wiki/Nikolaus's_mouse) |  |
|  |  | [Glass's shrew](/wiki/Glass's_shrew) | [Patrizi's trident leaf-nosed bat](/wiki/Patrizi's_trident_leaf-nosed_bat) |  |

### Deforestation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Mountain_Nyala.jpg)[Mountain nyalas](/wiki/Mountain_nyala) in Nechisar National Park, one of several wildlife reserves in Ethiopia. Deforestation is a major concern for Ethiopia as studies suggest loss of forest contributes to soil erosion, loss of nutrients in the soil, loss of animal habitats, and reduction in biodiversity. At the beginning of the 20th century, around 420,000 km2 (or 35%) of Ethiopia's land was covered by trees, but recent research indicates that forest cover is now approximately 11.9% of the area.[[97]](#cite_note-97) Ethiopia is one of the seven fundamental and independent centers of origin of cultivated plants of the world. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Ethiopia loses an estimated 1,410 km2 of natural forests each year. Between 1990 and 2005 the country lost approximately 21,000 km2 of forests.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Current government programs to control deforestation consist of education, promoting reforestation programs, and providing raw materials which are alternatives to timber. In rural areas the government also provides non-timber fuel sources and access to non-forested land to promote agriculture without destroying forest habitat.

Organizations such as SOS and Farm Africa are working with the federal government and local governments to create a system of forest management.[[98]](#cite_note-98) Working with a grant of approximately 2.3 million Euros, the Ethiopian government recently began training people on reducing erosion and using proper irrigation techniques that do not contribute to deforestation. This project is assisting more than 80 communities.

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|Ethiopia's](/wiki/File:Ethiopia,_Trends_in_the_Human_Development_Index_1970-2010.png) [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index) rating 1970–2010. According to the [IMF](/wiki/IMF), Ethiopia was one of the fastest growing economies in the world, registering over 10% economic growth from 2004 through 2009.[[99]](#cite_note-99) It was the fastest-growing non-oil-dependent African economy in the years 2007 and 2008.[[100]](#cite_note-100) In 2015, the World Bank highlighted that Ethiopia had witnessed rapid economic growth with real domestic product (GDP) growth averaging 10.9% between 2004 and 2014.[[101]](#cite_note-101) Ethiopia's growth performance and considerable development gains came under threat during 2008 and 2011 with the emergence of twin macroeconomic challenges of high [inflation](/wiki/Inflation) and a difficult [balance of payments](/wiki/Balance_of_payments) situation. Inflation surged to 40% in August 2011 because of loose [monetary policy](/wiki/Monetary_policy), large [civil service](/wiki/Civil_service) wage increase in early 2011, and high food prices.[[102]](#cite_note-102) For 2011/12, end-year inflation was projected to be about 22%, and single digit inflation is projected in 2012/13 with the implementation of tight monetary and fiscal policies.[[103]](#cite_note-103)[thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Ethiopian_Commercial_Bank_Addis_Abeba.jpg) [Commercial Bank of Ethiopia](/wiki/Commercial_Bank_of_Ethiopia) in [Addis Ababa](/wiki/Addis_Ababa). In spite of fast growth in recent years, GDP per capita is one of the lowest in the world, and the economy faces a number of serious structural problems. However, with a focused investment in public infrastructure and industrial parks, Ethiopia's economy is addressing it's structural problems to become a hub for light manufacturing in Africa.[[104]](#cite_note-104) Agricultural productivity remains low, and frequent droughts still beset the country.[[105]](#cite_note-105) "Ethiopia is often ironically referred to as the 'water tower' of Eastern Africa because of the many (14 majors) rivers that pour off the high tableland", including the [Nile](/wiki/Nile). "It also has the greatest water reserves in Africa, but few irrigation systems in place to use it. Just 1% is used for power production and 1.5% for irrigation."[[106]](#cite_note-106) In recent years, however, Ethiopia has completed several major dams[[107]](#cite_note-107) for hydroelectricity production and irrigation. Ethiopia, despite Egypt's initial protest, is also in the process of constructing a 6000 MW and Africa's largest hydroelectric dam ( GERD dam) on the Nile river.[[108]](#cite_note-108)[left|thumb|210x210px|Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam - The largest dam in Africa which, when completed, will produce 6000 mega watts of energy.](/wiki/File:GrandEthiopianRenaissanceDamSaliniRendition.jpg) Provision of telecommunications services is left to a state-owned monopoly. It is the view of the current government that maintaining state ownership in this vital sector is essential to ensure that telecommunication infrastructures and services are extended to rural Ethiopia, which would not be attractive to private enterprises.

The Ethiopian [constitution](/wiki/Constitution) defines the right to own land as belonging only to "the state and the people", but citizens may lease land (up to 99 years), and are unable to mortgage or sell. Renting of land for a maximum of twenty years is allowed and this is expected to ensure that land goes to the most productive user. Land distribution and administration is considered an area where corruption is institutionalized, and facilitation payments as well as bribes are often demanded when dealing with land-related issues.[[109]](#cite_note-109)

### Agriculture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Tef_in_Ethiopia_01.jpg)[Tef](/wiki/Eragrostis_tef) field near [Mojo](/wiki/Mojo,_Ethiopia). Agriculture accounts for almost 41% of the [gross domestic product](/wiki/Gross_domestic_product) (GDP), 80% of exports, and 80% of the labor force.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Many other economic activities depend on agriculture, including marketing, processing, and export of agricultural products. Production is overwhelmingly by small-scale farmers and enterprises, and a large part of commodity exports are provided by the small agricultural cash-crop sector. Principal crops include [coffee](/wiki/Coffea), [legumes](/wiki/Legume), [oilseeds](/wiki/Rapeseed), [cereals](/wiki/Cereal), potatoes, [sugarcane](/wiki/Sugarcane), and vegetables.

Exports are almost entirely agricultural commodities, and coffee is the largest foreign exchange earner. Ethiopia is Africa's second biggest [maize](/wiki/Maize) producer.[[110]](#cite_note-110) According to UN estimations the per capita GDP of Ethiopia has reached $357 [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of).[[111]](#cite_note-111) The same report indicated that the life expectancy had improved substantially in recent years. The life expectancy of men is reported to be 56 years and for women 60 years.

### Exports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Exports from Ethiopia in the 2009/2010 financial year totaled 1.4 billion USD.[[112]](#cite_note-112) The country produces more coffee than any other nation on the continent.[[113]](#cite_note-113)[thumb|right|Ethiopia Export Treemap from](/wiki/File:Ethiopia_Export_Treemap.jpg) [MIT](/wiki/MIT)–[Harvard](/wiki/Harvard) [Economic Complexity Observatory](/wiki/The_Observatory_of_Economic_Complexity). Ethiopia is also the 10th largest producer of livestock in the world. Other main export commodities are [khat](/wiki/Khat), gold, leather products, and oilseeds. Recent development of the [floriculture](/wiki/Floriculture) sector means Ethiopia is poised to become one of the top flower and plant exporters in the world.[[114]](#cite_note-114) Cross-border trade by pastoralists is often informal and beyond state control and regulation. In [East Africa](/wiki/East_Africa), over 95% of cross-border trade is through unofficial channels. The unofficial trade of live cattle, camels, sheep, and goats from Ethiopia sold to [Somalia](/wiki/Somalia), [Djibouti](/wiki/Djibouti), and [Kenya](/wiki/Kenya) generates an estimated total value of between 250 and 300 million USD annually (100 times more than the official figure).<ref name=ODI>Pavanello, Sara 2010. [Working across borders – Harnessing the potential of cross-border activities to improve livelihood security in the Horn of Africa drylands](http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/details.asp?id=4997&title=working-across-borders-harnessing-potential-cross-border-activities-improve-livelihood-security-horn-africa-drylands). London: [Overseas Development Institute](/wiki/Overseas_Development_Institute)</ref>

This trade helps lower food prices, increase food security, relieve border tensions, and promote regional integration.<ref name=ODI/> However, there are also risks as the unregulated and undocumented nature of this trade runs risks, such as allowing disease to spread more easily across national borders. Furthermore, the government of Ethiopia is purportedly unhappy with lost tax revenue and foreign exchange revenues.<ref name=ODI/> Recent initiatives have sought to document and regulate this trade.<ref name=ODI/> [thumb|left|Ethiopian Blessed Coffee brand bags in](/wiki/File:Blessed_Coffee_brand_bags.jpg) [Takoma Park, Maryland](/wiki/Takoma_Park,_Maryland). Coffee is one of Ethiopia's main exports. With the private sector growing slowly, designer leather products like bags are becoming a big export business, with Taytu becoming the first luxury designer label in the country.[[115]](#cite_note-115) Additional small-scale export products include cereals, pulses, cotton, sugarcane, potatoes, and hides. With the construction of various new dams and growing hydroelectric power projects around the country, Ethiopia also plans to export electric power to its neighbors.[[116]](#cite_note-116)[[117]](#cite_note-117) Coffee remains its most important export product, and with new trademark deals around the world (including recent deals with [Starbucks](/wiki/Starbucks)) the country plans to increase its revenue from coffee.[[118]](#cite_note-118) Most regard Ethiopia's large water resources and potential as its "white oil" and its coffee resources as "black gold".[[119]](#cite_note-119)[[120]](#cite_note-120) The country also has large mineral resources and oil potential in some of the less inhabited regions. Political instability in those regions, however, has inhibited development. Ethiopian geologists were implicated in a major gold swindle in 2008. Four chemists and geologists from the Ethiopian Geological Survey were arrested in connection with a fake gold scandal, following complaints from buyers in South Africa. Gold bars from the National Bank of Ethiopia were found by police to be gilded metal, costing the state around 17 million USD, according to the Science and Development Network website.[[121]](#cite_note-121) In 2011, the [Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam](/wiki/Grand_Ethiopian_Renaissance_Dam) project was commenced. When completed, it will provide surplus [Energy in Ethiopia](/wiki/Energy_in_Ethiopia) which will be available for export to neighboring countries.

### Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Ethiopian_Airlines_Boeing_737-700_ET-ALM_ADD_2010-6-14.png)[Ethiopian Airlines](/wiki/Ethiopian_Airlines) [Boeing 737–700](/wiki/Boeing_737) on the [Bole International Airport](/wiki/Bole_International_Airport) runway. Ethiopia has 681 km of railway, which mainly consists of the [Addis Ababa – Djibouti Railway](/wiki/Ethio-Djibouti_Railways), with a [Template:RailGauge](/wiki/Template:RailGauge) [narrow gauge](/wiki/Metre_gauge) track. At present the railway is under joint control of Djibouti and Ethiopia, but negotiations are underway to [privatize](/wiki/Privatize) this transport utility. The railroad is currently being rebuilt and electrified by Chinese and Turkish companies, and is scheduled to be completed by September 2015. The new railroad will be 756 km-long and is expected to reduce the travel time from Addis Ababa to Djibouti by half, to less than ten hours with a designated speed of 120 km/hour.[[122]](#cite_note-122)