

The challenge of Iyasu.

- To begin with, the Shoa nobility did not fully support the coming to power of Iyasu as he was born from non-Shoa regional ruler.
- A year after the removal of Empress Taytu, power struggle revived once again. This time power struggle was between the old Shoa nobility and palace guard of Emperor Menelik II and Iyasu.
- It began with the death of Ras Bitwoded Tesema Nadew (the regent of Iyasu) in April 1911.
- With death of Ras Tesema Nadew, Iyasu refused to accept any other regent and brought new tensions on the side of Shoa nobility.
- The brief reign of Iyasu (1913-1916) was heavily strained by internal problems and external pressure.
- Iyasu introduced many positive reforms. These were -
 - A - He modified the traditional Asrat system.
 - B - Abolished the Quragna system.
 - C - Established the modern police with nickname Trumbulle.
 - D - Secular education was started in his time.
 - E - He outlawed the tradition of Labashay.
 - F - Auditing the government property was started.
- Iyasu followed a more liberal policy towards Ethiopian Muslims.
- Iyasu had internal and external oppositions. The internal opposition came from the old Shoa nobility.
- Their opposition was based on his personal weaknesses, polygamous marriages, and lack of attention to government affairs in the capital.

- The Serious opposition against Lij Iyasu came as a result of the coronation of his father Ras Michael the Negus of Wollo and Tigrai (Northern Ethiopia) in 1941. The Province of Goffam and Begemider were added to him in 1915.
- The external opposition against Lij Iyasu came from Britain, France and Italy as he had strong relation with German and Turkey.
 - On September 27, 1916 coup against Lij Iyasu was arranged by Shoan nobility as he was visiting Jigiga.
 - With this, Lij Iyasu, to restore his power fought with the Shoan army at the battle of Mieso in which he was defeated and fled to Wollo until 1921.
 - Lij Iyasu was in detention at Fiche upto 1921 and then transferred to Garamulata in Hararge, where he stayed in detention until his death in 1936.
 - Lij Iyasu's father, Ras Michael attempted to restore his son fought with the Shoan army at the battle of Segele on October 27, 1916. He was badly defeated at the battle.
 - After the battle, the coup makers chose their new leader from the family of Menelik. They proclaimed Zewditu as Empress, Ras Tafari as heir to the throne.

The Diarchy (Dual) Period (1916-1930)

- In this period, Zewditu was empress and Tafari was heir and regent.
- The early period of diarchy was peaceful period. In the period, the council of ministers were from Shoans and Fitawrari. Habte Giorgis was war minister and chair person of council of ministers.

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Through time, diarchy power was divided into two. These were -

- A - The progressive group and
- B - The traditional group.

→ The traditional group -

- Lead by empress Zewditu.
- Followed the traditional way.
- Support by royal family, nobilities and clergys.

→ The progressive group -

- Lead by Ras Tefari
- They seek modernization.
- They supported by young educated, soldiers, and commercial people.
- They had foreign support.

→ Ras Tefari realized the importance of recruiting domestic and foreign allies and the need to eliminate internal challenges to his power.

→ He dismissed the members of the council of ministers in 1918.

→ The ministers were removed through underground agitation against their corruption and the public demonstration of the Mehal Sefari (soldiers and civil servants)

→ The council of ministers were replaced by a new council known as the council of crown led by Tefari. It was advising body.

→ His visit to Europe in 1924, gave him wider exposure to Western civilization.

→ In 1926, the natural deaths of Fitawrari Habte Georgis and Abune Matheos removed serious obstacle to Tefari's power.

Ras Tefteri made many reforms -

A - Modern education was expanded.

B - He won Ethiopia's admission to the League of Nations.

- The death of Fitawrari Habte Giorgis and Abune Matheos removed serious obstacles to power of Tefteri.
- The last confrontation of Tefteri was with the ex-husband of empress Zewditu, Ras Guggsa Walle.
- The battle between Tefteri and Guggsa took place at Anchim on March 31, 1930 by which Guggsa was defeated.
- Two days later empress was died and Tefteri crown as Haile Sellassie I on November 2, 1930.

3.2 Emergence of Autocracy in Ethiopia (1930-1935)

- Autocracy refers to concentration of power in the hand of ruler.
- The government of Haile Sellassie was an autocratic state. Haile Sellassie built government with a high centralized system.
- The first written constitution was the 1931 Constitution.
- The need for the constitution were
 - A - The emperor wanted to resolve the challenge of regional forces to the central government and the problem of succession.
 - B - Externally, Haile Sellassie wanted to demonstrate his interest to modernized the country.
- The constitution gave extensive power to the emperor. He was empowered to -
 - A - appoint and dismiss civil and military officials
 - B - declare and end wars.
 - C - establish a parliament
 - D - decide the size of army
 - E - sign treaties

- Autocracy is a rule of one person (king or Queen)
- The Haile Sellassie I autocracy was -
 - * highly centralized.
 - * gave unlimited power to the king.
- Reforms taken by Haile Sellassie I to bring autocratic rule were -

A - The 1931 Constitution

- It was the first written constitution.
- There were two reasons for the need of this constitution -
 - i - To put the power of the king and to avoid succession problem.
 - ii - To get acceptance from Western Europe.
- The constitution of 1931 formed bicameral parliament made up of -
 - ⇒ The Senate and Deputies
- The Senates were -
 - * appointed by the king.
 - * nominated from princes, royal family, judges and ministers.
 - * Their duty was making laws.
- The Deputies were nominated by
 - * local rulers.
 - * nobility.
- They were advising group.

- The Constitution reduced the political power of the hereditary nobility of provinces and respect the economic rights.
- There was no universal suffrage and the mass of Ethiopia had no political rights to elect or to be elected.
 - The constitution contained citizens rights and duties and granted the rights of private property and movement.
 - The masses of Ethiopia had no representatives in parliament.

B - Administration.

- The policy of monarchical control over provinces was declared. This was to avoid the challenge of regional lords of provinces.
- All regional dynasties were lost their regional autonomy except the Tigrayan princes through traditional mechanism of marriage alliance.

C - Economy

- Financial resources were centralized and became under the control of the king.
- The two sources of the state were.
 - land tax and
 - Tax of goods.

D - Military reforms.

Certain achievements were made in creating a national and modern army.

- In 1930 the Belgian started to train the Imperial body guard. It was the most privileged from arms.
- In 1934 the first modern military academy for training officials was open in Holata Genet.
- The instructors were came from Sweden. The academy was closed in 1935 due to Italian invasion.