

- With this, General Mengistu Neway ordered the execution on the detainee officials tried to flee to Entoto and then to Ziguatera
- With this, General Tsega Debo was killed in fighting and Colonel Workneh committed suicide.
- Girmame was died fighting and General Mengistu wounded and captured. Later on, he was hanged in in march 1961.

### Reasons for failure of coup

- i - Lack of proper organization.
- ii - It failed to involved the Army and Air force.

### C - Peasant rebellions

- The condition of the Ethiopian peasant was extremely miserable factors for the rise of rebellions in different parts of the country.

#### Some examples of peasant uprising.

### I - Goffam peasant uprising

- The Goffam peasant uprising was broke out in 1968.
- The immediate cause of uprising was —
  - \* The introduction of a new tax of Agriculture.
- Uprising was started in the district of Mote and Degi Damot.
- Measures taken by peasants were —
  - \* Refused to pay tax
  - \* presented petition to the government.
  - \* Agreed to expel government officials.
  - \* Elected their leader in rebell
  - \* Refused to take their production to market.
- Measure taken by government were —
  - \* The uprising was crushed by central government campaign.
  - \* Houses and resources of peasants were burned out and detained
  - \* At the end, Emperor visited the regions and took the following measures —

- i - Removed unpopular officials  
(Tsehay Engu Sellassie)
- ii - Postponed the implementation of new tax
- iii - Exempted the peasants from payment of taxes from the year 1950 to 1968.

## II - Bale Peasant up Rising

- The major causes of Bale Peasant up Rising were -
- \* Feudal exploitation.
  - \* Corrupt administration.
  - \* Increased land taxes.
  - \* Large Scale land Alienation and.
  - \* Religious and ethnical domination.
- The Bale peasant up Rising was started in district of Elkere in 1963.
- The Bale peasant up Rising was from 1963-1970.
- The Bale Peasant up Rising was different from similar rebellions in the other parts of the country in that it was provided with arms.
- They got military training and materials support from the state of Somalia.
- The government of Somalia considered Bale and Ethio-Somalia as part of her territory. This was part of their plan for the formation of "Great Somalia".
- The Bale peasants expressed their opposition by
- \* Refusing to pay taxes.
  - \* Refusing to take their production to market.
  - \* Refusing to obey government officials.
- By the year 1964 the peasant up Rising of Bale had spread to other districts of Bale like Mabi, Dello and Genale.



- The Bale Peasant up rising was led by General Waga Gutu.
- At first, the government followed peaceful approach. But later, the government turned to a huge military campaign.
- In 1970 Waga Gutu was Surrendered And the Rebellion crashed.
- In 1970 the government Appointed an Oromo General, Jigema Kello to the region.
- Some of the measures taken by government were -
  - \* Most of the Rebel leaders were Set free.
  - \* The Bale peasants were exempted from paying taxes for the years before 1970.
- These measures of government did not bring fundamental changes in the Socio-economic system of the country.

#### D - The Eritrean Problem.

- Eritrea became the colony of Italy in 1890. British established a military administration over Eritrea and Ogaden as occupied enemy territories in 1941.
- During these time Britain planned to join Ogaden with her Somaliland and Eritrea with Sudan.
- After long time, Britain restored Ogaden to Ethiopia in 1954 and Eritrea in 1952 with the help of United Nations.
- In the period of unification of Eritrea with Ethiopia, there were different political groups.

##### i - The unionist party

- It was the largest political group in the period.
- It supported union with Ethiopia.
- They were backed by Ethiopian government.

##### ii - The independent block

- They campaigned for independence of Eritrea.
- They were consisted of different groups.
- They also planned to unit Eritrea with Tigrai and form independent state.
- They were probably supported by Britain government.



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### iii - The muslim league

- It was a movement in the muslim inhabited low land of Eritrea.
- They were backed by muslim states of middle-east. They wanted to form independent Eritrea state.

### IV - The Pro- Italian group.

- Consisted of Italian Settlers in Eritrea.
- They wanted the independence of Eritrea which was influenced by Italy.
- In 1948 the four powers: Britain, Russia, France and USA brought the case of Eritrea to United Nations.
- The UNO appointed a commission of five men from Burma, Guatemala, Norway, Pakistan and South-Africa.
- The commission was sent to Eritrea to investigate the wishes of the people on the fate of their country.
- The members returned to Eritrea with three different recommendations. These were:
  - i → Recommended granting independence for Eritrea.
  - This idea was recommended by Pakistan and Guatemala from Commission.
  - ii - Recommended a federation arrangement with Ethiopia.
  - This idea was recommended by Burma and South-Africa.
  - iii - proposed union of Eritrea with Ethiopia
  - This idea of union was proposed by Norway.
- On December 1950, the United Nations issued the resolution of 390 vote that decided the federation of Eritrea with Ethiopia.



In 1952 the federation of Eritrea with Ethiopia was officially declared.

- The Eritrean Assembly (the parliament) legally established when the federation came in to effect in 1952.
- The government of Ethiopia started to interfere in the internal affairs of Eritrea violating the principles of the Federal Act of 1952.
- The federation of Eritrea was from 1952-1962 for ten years.
- From the beginning, emperor Haile Selassie I interfere in the autonomy rights of Eritrea. This was expressed by the introduction of Amharic as the official language. This was against the official languages in Eritrea (Tigrinya and Arabic).
- The destruction of Eritrean Autonomy was cancelled by Eritrean Assembly under strong Ethiopian government influence in 1960.
- With this, an armed struggle against the Ethiopian government was started in 1961.
- The two separatist armed groups in Eritrea were the ELF (Jabaha) and the EPLF (Shabaya) which were competing for state power.
- The 30 years wars finally concluded with the formation of an independent state of Eritrea in 1991 under the EPLF (Shabaya) with the leadership of president Isayas Arawork starting from beginning up to now.



## E - The out break of famine.

- The causes of the out break of famine were both human and natural. These factors were -
  - ⇒ Drought
  - ⇒ Over population.
  - ⇒ Deforestation and
  - ⇒ Back ward system of production.
- In the year between 1958 - 1974, almost all regions of Ethiopia were affected by famine.
- These caused by human losses and population dislocation.
- The 1974 famine was exposed to the international community by Ethiopian student and documentary film produced by the British journalist Jonathan Dimbleby.
- In post revolution period, different sections of the population made a series of strikes, protests and demonstrations that demanded radical reforms.
- The Ethiopian teachers association was rejected the proposed educational sector review, as it was against poor.
- The revolution was started by territorial army at Megele in Southern Ethiopia opposing poor food and water conditions in the place on January 12, 1974.
- Riots in the capital and the continued military uprising led to the resignation of prime minister Aklilu which re-placed by Endalkatchew Mekonnen in February, 1974.
- At the end, the appointed coordinating committee from Army, police and air force formed Derg in June, 1974.
- Derg (Committee) was composed of 120 men in uniform ranging in rank from plain soldier to major.



## 8.4 The Popular Revolution of 1974 And its Aftermath

- Opposition to the imperial regime reached its peak in February 1974
- In February 1974, the Ethiopian masses from different sections of the society made series of strikers, protests and demonstrations demanding radical changes.
- The first series act along the road to revolution came from the Army. At Negele Borana military station, the Army protest against poor living conditions.
- Army found in whole country began to demand salary increase and improving the living conditions.
- Ethiopian worker in whole country carried out series of strikes in government and private enterprise by opposing -
  - \* Little payment
  - \* Poor working conditions and
  - \* Corrupted management.
- Earlier to this, strikes and oppositions, workers movements were appeared in Railway organization, Woji sugary and Akaki textile factory.
- Ethiopian teachers, under the Ethiopian teachers association, rose against the exploitative system of government in general, and the newly introduced education reform known as education sector review of 1971-1972 in particular.
- In 1974, soldiers did not only demand salary increases, but also ask for political and economic reforms.
- Different Army units formed committees to co-ordinate this struggle.



This military committee got the name Derg and took measures.

- Derg imprisoned high officials and ministers and prime ministers.
- On September 12, 1974, emperor Haile Selassie I was deposed and detained.

### 8.5- The military dictatorship (1974-1991)

- Emperor Haile Selassie I put in jail and new cabinet had been formed by Lij Endalkachew Mekonnen, who later replaced by Mikael Imiru.
- For short period of time, before the fall of monarchy, the new government was formed.
- After time, Derg announced the formation of PMAC by promising to give power to new government by adopting a constitution by a popular elected assembly.
- In mean time, Derg took many measures. Some of these were -
  1. → Development through cooperation campaign was launched in Dec, 1974
    - It was targeted towards implementing a literacy program and implementing the proclamation of land reform.
  - 2 - In 1975, Derg nationalized industries, banks and industries that owned privately owned.
  - 3 - In March 1975, Derg nationalized rural land and distributed to the landless peasants.
    - With this, Derg formed peasant associations.
  - 4 - On July 26, 1975, Derg nationalized extra houses and urban land.
    - With this, Derg formed urban dwellers associations (the kebeles)



- Most of the measures taken by Derg faced oppositions. These opposition were came from underground political organizations, the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary party (EPRP) and others.
- These oppositions were active in urban than rural. The major opposition against Derg came from EPRP.
- EPRP carried military campaign known as white terror and Derg also carried military campaign known as Red-terror.
- With this military campaign, Derg carried out systematic and ruthless elimination of EPRP.
- Other than EPRP, there were other oppositions against Derg. Some of these were -
  - The Tigray People Liberation front → TPLF
    - \* They were aimed at separation of Tigray from Ethiopia.
  - The Eritrean Liberation front → (ELF)
    - \* It was aimed at liberating Eritrea from Ethiopia and
  - The Oromo Liberation front → OLF
    - \* It was aimed at liberation and separating Oromia from Ethiopia
- The Red-terror campaign was against these all opposition groups and succeeded its target in some of these groups.



- In 1984, the name Derg eliminated and replaced by the Workers party of Ethiopia under the principles of Marxist-Leninist theory.
- The new party declared socialism as the state ideology.
- In 1987, the adoption of a socialist constitution, the peoples democratic republic of Ethiopia was set up → (PDRE).

### The fall of military regime

- There were many factors for fall of military rule in 1991. Some of these were -
  - 1 - The war in the north that exposed the inefficiency of the top military leadership.
  - 2 - The May 1989 coup against Mengist demoralized the fighting spirit of the military as a whole.
  - 3 - The combined challenge of the EPLF and TPLF since 1970's
  - 4 - The failed re-settlement of West Ethiopia and
  - 5 - The different military operations of OLF, the Oromo Islam, the Afar and others which fought for self determination.