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### 5.3-The Fascist rule and Patriotic Resistance (1936-1941)

- The Italian control over Addis-Ababa on May 5, 1936 marked the beginning of Fascist Occupation of Ethiopia.
- Following this, Italy declared the formation of Italian East Africa Empire by merging the three countries (Ethiopia, Eritrea and Italian Somali land) in 1936.
- During the five years Occupation, there were three Viceroies in charge of administration of Italian East Africa at different time
- The first was Badoglio followed by Graziani and the last was Amado Umberto D'Aosta.
- The Italian East-African Empire had Six administrative divisions. These were —
  - A - Eritrea and Tigrari → Capital Asmara.
  - B - Amhara - Capital Gondar.
  - C - Sholla - Capital Addis Ababa
  - D - Oromo and Sidama - Capital Jimma.
  - E - Harar and Dirq Dawa - Capital Harar and
  - F - Ogadan and Somalia - Capital Megadisho.
- The administrative divisions ruled from their respective administrative divisions.
- The nature of Italian-administration was
  - ⇒ Fascist
  - ⇒ Military rule.
  - ⇒ Violent
  - ⇒ Highly centralized.
  - ⇒ Effective only in urban centers.
- ⇒ Italian Occupation and rule caused great human and material destruction in Ethiopia.



Italians established few factories producing items for colonial consumption like food, textile, Cement and construct roads.

### The Patriotic Resistance movement.

- The nation wide patriotic Resistance in Ethiopia started in 1936 and end in 1941.
- The resistance was started by few nobles men around the Emperor.
- There were some ordinary individuals that served the Italians for pay. (the bandas)
- The patriotic Resistance had passed through two different stages.

#### Stage one (Phase one)

- A- It was a continuity of the major war, and it lasted up to early 1937.
- B- It was led by the upper nobilities.
- One of them was Ras Imiru Haile Selassie.
- Ras Imiru was invited by the Black Lion Organization to become their leader.
- This organization was founded in 1936 and consisted of the graduates of the Holeta Military Academy.
- The Black Lion engaged in fighting the Italians around the town of Nagamte, in Kellega.
- Ras Imiru accepted the invitation and became the head of the Black Lion.
- Ras Imiru led the patriots on the first plan to liberate Addis Ababa in 1936.
- However, the forces under Ras Imiru were defeated near river Gojeb in Kaffa by Italian army before they reached Addis Ababa. Ras Imiru was caught and deported to Italy.
- The second attempt to liberate Addis Ababa was carried out in summer 1936. The operation was organized by the two sons of Ras Kassa Hailu, Degazmachs Abera and Asfawossen Kassa.



Aregay and Dejazmach Fikremariam.

- The plan lacked proper coordination and the Italians easily crushed.
- On February 19, 1937, the two young Ethiopians named Moges Asgedom and Abraham Deboch made an attempt to assassinate the Italian Viceroy, Graziani.
- Graziani was seriously wounded while some other officials were killed.
- As a result and as revenge, Italian soldiers carried out a whole scale massacre of Ethiopians in Addis Ababa.
- The incident is referred to as the February or Graziani massacre.
- Within three days, about 30,000 Ethiopians were killed.
- In this massacre, the Italians targeted chiefly educated Ethiopians.

### Stage two (Phase two)

- The Graziani massacre marked the beginning of the second phase of the resistance.
- The resistance was led by the nobility and local notable.
- The character of warfare was guerrilla and largely centered in the rural areas.
- The resistance was mainly strong in the regions of Shoa, Goffam and Begemidir.
- The known patriots were Haile Mariam Mamo, Abebe Aregay, Gersu Duki and Bekele Woyya in Shoa, Belay Zeleke in Goffam, and Amomaw Klubineh in Gonder.
- Ethiopian resistance fighters had no organized system of supplies and provisions. They depended largely on individual contributions and lootings of enemy properties.

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- The Ethiopian Peasantry and the Ordinary people contributed their share in supplied food and gave shelter to the fighters.
- Another significant contribution to the patriotic resistance came from yewust Arbegnoch (inner patriots).
  - These were patriots that lived and worked with the Italians in towns but passed on useful information to patriots.
  - Ethiopian women played significant roles as yewust Arbegnoch
  - Prominent examples of women in the patriotic resistance movement were Shewareged Gedle of Addis Alem, Kebedech Seyoum of Shoa, Shewanesh Abera of Lasta, Abebech Chergos of Gonder and Lekyelesh Beyan of Jirru.
  - The patriotic struggle of resistance went under different problems. The major problems were shortages of arms, food, clothing, medicines, personal conflicts among patriotic leaders and lacked proper coordination.
  - The patriotic resistance struggle played a great role in the gradual weakening of the fascist forces and enhanced the liberation of Ethiopia.
  - The final liberation of Ethiopia was achieved by the combined effort of internal and external forces which was related to the Second World War.



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## 5.4- The Second World War and the liberation of Ethiopia

- The Second World War was fought between two military groups known as the Allied and Axis.
- The Allied Power was consisted of France, Britain, the USSR and USA (after December) 1941.
- The Axis power was consisted of Germany, Japan and Italy.
- The War was fought in the years between 1939- to 1945.

### The Causes of the War.

- A- The coming to the power of Fascist government in Germany, Italy and Japan.
- Fascists favoured dictatorship and nationalism and opposed democracy.
  - Fascist first emerged in Italy and controlled state power in 1922.
  - The Nazi party led by Adolf Hitler controlled state power in Germany in 1933.
  - The Nazis assumed the Germans as superior race and sought to rule the world.
  - German Nazis complained that the Versailles treaty signed at the end of first world war was a dictated peace against Germany.
  - The Nazis government desire for the restoration of Germany's old position in Europe and revenge the result of first world war.
  - Italy, under Benito Mussolini and his fascist party subscribed to national Chauvinism. Fascists aspired to build a great Italian empire in Africa.

- Militaristic Japan planned to expand Japan territory by the means of conquests.
- The end of first world war caused international economic crisis known as great depression. It caused economic trouble and political instabilities in many countries.
  - In Japan, military cliques had seized power starting from 1930, and embarked the policy of aggression.
  - The western powers failed to create a united front against fascist aggression.
  - Britain and France followed the policy of appeasement and USA preferred a policy of isolation (not to ally with any power) to avoid another world war.
  - This encouraged the fascist states to intensify their war of conquest on the global scale.
  - In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria (the northern province of China).
  - When League of Nations condemned the action, she withdrew from League of Nations in May, 1937.
  - After this, she started the Sino-Japanese war (1937-1945) for total subjugation of China.
  - Violating the treaty of Versailles, Germany began rapid rearmament.
  - For this, she withdrew from League of Nations in October 1933.
  - German also started a national military service against the terms of treaty of Versailles.