

## 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 1930s 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.
  - In September 1938, Britain, France and Germany signed the Munich Deal.
  - The Munich agreement allowed Germany to take part of Czechoslovakia inhabited by German speaking.
  - In August 1939, German and USSR signed the Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact.
  - With this, Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, and England and France declared on Germany.



## The course of the war and the liberation of Ethiopia.

- Germany over run Poland in three weeks. The Germans called their Polish campaign as Blitzkrieg (lightning war).
- Russia also invade the eastern provinces of Poland which caused the dissolve of Nazi-Soviet pact.
- Hitler expectation of quick victory over Russia was not successful.
- In West, the Germany Army invaded France through the neutral countries of Holland and Belgium in May 1940.
- In this front, Germany easily defeated the force of Allies power particularly France.
- The Germany Army occupied over half of the territory of France.
- In unoccupied territory of France, Germany formed a puppet government under Marshal Petain, at Vichy.
- In mean time, General Charles de Gaulle formed a French free government in England and continued the war of liberation.
- USA opposed the Japanese expansion in Far-east. With this, Japan attacked the USA naval base at Pearl Harbour on the Pacific Islands of Hawaii in December 1941.
- With this, America declared war on Japan on the side of Allies power.
- To stop further expansion of Germany in West Europe, America began sending continuous supplies to Britain, the Soviet Union and other Allies.
- In 1942, Germany, Italy and Japan were at the height of their success. The Germans had conquered vast territories in Europe. The Japanese became the masters of Far-east Europe.



- The Soviet Union strong war of resistance turned back the tide of Nazi successes.
- The Soviet victories scored at the battle of Stalingrad in 1942/43 and Kursk, were decisive. This was the beginning of Allied counter-offensive in Europe.
  - Allied counter-offensive also extended in Africa. This was launched as part of Allied over all plan of World War two.
  - In 1940, Italy entered World War two on the side of Germany.
  - This led the British military intervention in the liberation campaign of Ethiopia.
  - With this, the Anglo-Ethiopian liberation campaign was launched from Sudan and Kenya.
  - The Ethiopian patriots in the interior joined hands with the newly arriving liberation armies troops under General William Platt attacked the Italians in Eritrea.
  - The two British officers, Major General Orde Charles Wingate and Brigadier General Daniel Sandford led a joint army known as the Gideon force with Emperor Haile Selassie I entered Goggam in April 1941.
  - The British commander Lieutenant General Sir Allan Cunningham entered to Ethiopia through British East Africa (Kenya) and his army controlled Addis Ababa on April 6, 1941.
  - Emperor Haile Selassie I re-entered Addis Ababa on May 5, 1941.
  - In May 1941 Britain, France and USA drove Germany and Italian forces out of North-Africa.
  - With this, the balance of power shifting in favour of the Allies in the years 1943-1945.
  - The 1943 Allied invasion overthrew Mussolini from power.
  - Russia liberated her last provinces in 1943 and 1944 and her troops continued their advance towards Germany.



-9-

On 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1945, the USA dropped atomic bombs on the two Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

→ With this, Unconditionally, Japan surrendered in the Second World War.

→ The Axis power defeated in the war because of stretched over vast territory, the enter of USA and USSR in the war and lack of military coordination

→ The major Out come of Second World War were -

A - About 50 million fighters and civilians lost their lives.

B - Millions of families were broken.

C - Many fighters and civilians became handicapped.

D - Destruction of industries, infrastructure roads, building and others.

E - Facilitated good condition for de-colonization.

F - Following the end of the war, USA and USSR became Super-power of the world.

G - Cold War Started

### Restoration of the monarchy and British dominance over Ethiopia.

→ Emperor Haile Selassie I could not immediately exercise his full power.

→ After liberation, British controlled the most important government bodies:

→ They controlled the police force, finance, the Army and key posts in the administrative sectors.

→ They also formed Occupied Enemy Territory (OETA) over the Ogaden and Eritrea.

-10-  
In 1942, Ethiopia and Italy signed the Anglo-Ethiopian treaty.

- The treaty allowed the British to exercise a considerable authority in Ethiopian affairs and made Ethiopia dependent.
- The British citizens were to be assigned to key positions in administration in Ethiopia.
- In the period, Emperor Haile Selassie I could not exercise real power. He had to obtain permission from British officials.
- In 1944, the Second Anglo-Ethiopian treaty was signed.
- According to this treaty —
  - A - Ogaden restored to Ethiopia.
  - B - Emperor Haile Selassie got right to recruit non-British foreign personnel.
  - C - Allowed to use Djibouti-Addis Ababa rail way.
  - D - Britain agreed to train the Ethiopian military force.
- Eritrea was under the British military administration from 1941-1952.
- By 1952, Eritrea federated with Ethiopia by the resolution of United Nations General Assembly.