



HARAMAYA UNIVERSITY

Building the Basis for Development

COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS

DEPARTMENT OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

HISTORY OF ETHIOPIA AND THE HORN COURSE

Group Assignment

GROUP MEMBERS:

NAME:	STUDENT ID
1. YISHAK ALEMU	3661/14
2. YOHANNES AYENEW	3676/14
3. YOSEPH DAGNE.....	3720/14
4. YUSUF KEDIR	3737/14
5. ZEKARIAS TAMIRU.....	3747/14

Submission date: 2/12/2025

Table of Contents

1. <u>The process of territorial unification in Ethiopia from the 1769 to 1908</u>	4
<u>1.1 Key Stages of Unification:</u>	4
<i><u>1.1.1 The Era of the Princes (Zemene Mesafint)</u></i>	<i><u>4</u></i>
<i><u>1.1.2 Rise of Tewodros II (1852-1868)</u></i>	<i><u>4</u></i>
<i><u>1.1.3 The Reign of Yohannes IV (1872-1889)</u></i>	<i><u>5</u></i>
<i><u>1.1.4 Menelik II and Territorial Expansion (1889-1913)</u></i>	<i><u>5</u></i>
<u>1.2 Key Factors Contributing to Unification</u>	5
<u>1.3 Conclusion</u>	5
2. <u>Revolts and movements which pave the way for the overthrow of Imperial Regim after 1941.</u>	6
<u>2.1 Background Context (1941-1974)</u>	6
<u>2.2 Key Revolts and Movements</u>	6
<u>2.2.1 Peasant Revolts</u>	6
<u>2.2.2 Student Movements</u>	6
<u>2.2.3 Labor Movements</u>	7
<u>2.2.4 Ethnic and Regional Movements</u>	7
<u>2.3 The 1974 Revolution</u>	
<u>2.3.1 The Derg</u>	8
<u>2.3.2 Overthrow of the Emperor</u>	8
<u>2.4 Conclusion</u>	8
3. <u>the prominent Ethiopian patriots and there roles during the occupation of Italians between 1935-1941</u>	
<u>3.1 Emperor Haile Selassie</u>	8
<u>3.2 Ras Bitwaddad Tesemma</u>	8
<u>3.3 Ras Abebe Aregai</u>	9

3.4	<u>General Mulugeta Buli</u>	9
3.5	<u>Ras Kassa Haile Darge</u>	9
3.6	<u>Dejazmach Balcha Safo</u>	9
3.7	<u>Ato Abebe Bikila</u>	9
3.8	<u>W/o Aster Gano (Aster Hailu)</u>	9
3.9	<u>Menelik II's Descendants</u>	10
3.10	<u>The Ethiopian Patriots (Arbegnoch)</u>	10
3.11	<u>Conclusion</u>	10
4.	the history of foreign relation, political and economic developments in post 1941 to 1991	
4.1	Political Developments	
4.1.1	<u>Restoration of Haile Selassie (1941-1974)</u>	10
4.1.2	<u>The 1974 Revolution</u>	10
4.2	Foreign Relations	
4.2.1	<u>Post-War Alliances</u>	11
4.2.2	<u>Shift to the Soviet Union (1970s)</u>	11
4.3.3	<u>Eritrean War for Independence</u>	11
4.3	Economic Developments	
4.3.1	<u>Initial Post-War Economy (1941-1974)</u>	11
4.3.2	<u>Marxist Economic Policies (1974-1991)</u>	12
4.4	<u>Human Rights and Social Issues</u>	12
4.5	<u>The Fall of the Derg (1991)</u>	12
4.6	<u>Conclusion</u>	12

1) Explain in detail the process of territorial unification in Ethiopia from the 1769 to 1908.

The territorial unification of Ethiopia from 1769 to 1908 was a complex process marked by a period of decentralized power known as "Zemene Mesafint" where various regional lords held sway, followed by the rise of powerful emperors like Tewodros II and ultimately culminating in the expansive reign of Emperor Menelik II, who significantly expanded Ethiopian borders through military campaigns and diplomatic maneuvers, solidifying the nation's territory against European colonial pressures.

1.1 Key Stages of Unification:

1.1.1 The Era of the Princes (Zemene Mesafint):

Starting in 1769, the deposition of Emperor Iyoas by Ras Mikael Sehul from the Tigray region ushered in a period of fragmentation where power was dispersed among regional rulers, with the Emperor often serving as a mere figurehead.

During this period, Ethiopia was fragmented into various regional states ruled by warlords, known as the "Era of the Princes." The central authority was weak, and regional lords held significant power. This era saw the rise of the Galla (Oromo) power in northern Ethiopia and the revival of highland trade.

1.1.2 Rise of Tewodros II (1852-1868):

Emperor Tewodros II emerged as a powerful leader attempting to centralize authority by consolidating power in the central highlands. He initiated military campaigns to subdue rebellious provinces, but his reign was marked by conflict with European powers, ultimately leading to his defeat and death in the Battle of Magdala.

He aimed to centralize authority by diminishing the influence of regional lords and implementing a consistent tax structure. Tewodros II also worked towards strengthening the Ethiopian Orthodox Church

and sought alliances with European powers, although his plea for assistance was misunderstood, leading to conflicts.

1.1.3 The Reign of Yohannes IV (1872-1889):

Following Tewodros II, Emperor Yohannes IV continued the process of unification, particularly against the growing influence of the Egyptian-Sudanese forces in the south. He successfully defended Ethiopian territory against these threats but was ultimately killed in battle against the Mahdist forces in Sudan.

1.1.4 Menelik II and Territorial Expansion (1889-1913):

Considered the pivotal figure in Ethiopian unification, Emperor Menelik II, with his skilled diplomacy and military prowess, significantly expanded Ethiopian borders through conquest and treaties. Menelik II successfully consolidated Ethiopia's modern borders and avoided the Scramble for Africa, ensuring the country's independence from colonial rule.

- **Military Campaigns:** Menelik II launched campaigns to incorporate territories in the south and west, including regions inhabited by the Oromo, Sidama, Gurage, and Wolayta peoples, effectively expanding Ethiopian control over much of the modern-day country.
- **Treaty of Wuchale:** Though initially intended to establish friendly relations with Italy, the controversial interpretation of the Treaty of Wuchale by the Italians sparked conflict, leading to the Battle of Adwa in 1896.
- **Battle of Adwa:** This decisive victory against the Italian forces solidified Ethiopia's independence and boosted Menelik's international standing, allowing him to secure favorable borders with European powers through further treaties.

1.2 Key Factors Contributing to Unification:

✓ Military Strength:

The development of a well-equipped and organized Ethiopian army, particularly under Menelik II, played a crucial role in territorial expansion.

✓ Political Leadership:

Strong emperors like Tewodros II and Menelik II provided the necessary leadership to consolidate power and pursue unification.

✓ Strategic Alliances:

Menelik II skillfully navigated European power dynamics, leveraging alliances with Britain and France to secure Ethiopian borders.

1.3 Conclusion:

Overall, the process of territorial unification in Ethiopia from 1769 to 1908 was largely driven by the efforts of Emperor Menelik II, who through military campaigns and diplomatic strategies significantly

expanded Ethiopian territory, establishing the modern borders of the country and securing its independence from European colonial powers

2) Discuss in detail different revolts and movements which paved the way for the overthrow of Imperial Regime after 1941.

The overthrow of the Imperial regime in Ethiopia, particularly after the return of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1941, was influenced by a series of revolts and movements that emerged in response to various social, economic, and political grievances.

Here's a detailed discussion of the key revolts and movements that contributed to the eventual downfall of the Imperial regime:

1.2 Background Context (1941-1974)

After the Italian occupation (1936-1941) and the subsequent restoration of Haile Selassie, Ethiopia faced significant challenges, including economic difficulties, social inequalities, and political repression. These issues set the stage for widespread discontent and resistance.

2.2 Key Revolts and Movements

2.2.1 Peasant Revolts

- The 1945-1947 Peasant Revolt:
 - **Causes:** Rising taxes, forced labor, and oppressive feudal practices led to widespread dissatisfaction among peasants.
 - **Events:** Peasants in various regions, particularly in the Oromia and Tigray areas, organized protests and revolts against local landlords and government officials.
 - **Consequences:** This revolt highlighted the deep-seated grievances of the rural population and was a precursor to later organized movements.
- The 1960 Peasant Revolts:
 - **Causes:** Continued exploitation by landlords and lack of land reform fueled unrest.
 - **Events:** Peasants organized strikes and uprisings, leading to violent clashes with the Imperial army.
 - **Consequences:** These revolts drew attention to the need for agrarian reform, which the government was slow to address.

2.2.2 Student Movements

- Emergence of Student Activism (1960s):

- **Causes:** Dissatisfaction with the education system, political repression, and lack of social mobility among educated youth.
- **Events:** Students organized protests, demanding political reforms, greater freedoms, and an end to corruption.
- **Key Organizations:** The Ethiopian Student Movement (ESM) became a significant force advocating for change.

➤ The 1966 Student Uprising:

- **Events:** A large-scale protest against government policies, resulting in police brutality and increased repression.
- **Consequences:** The response to student protests galvanized further activism and highlighted the regime's vulnerabilities.

2.2.3 Labor Movements

➤ Trade Union Activism (1960s-1970s):

- **Causes:** Poor working conditions, low wages, and lack of rights for workers in urban areas.
- **Events:** Workers organized strikes and protests, leading to clashes with government forces.
- **Impact:** Labor movements contributed to a broader opposition to the Imperial regime, uniting various social classes against common grievances.

2.2.4 Ethnic and Regional Movements

➤ Oromo Liberation Movement:

- **Causes:** Marginalization of the Oromo people and cultural repression.
- **Events:** Groups like the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) emerged, advocating for greater autonomy and rights for the Oromo population.
- **Consequences:** This movement challenged the central authority and highlighted ethnic tensions within the empire.

➤ Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF):

- **Formation:** Established in the early 1970s, the TPLF sought to address the grievances of the Tigrayan people.
- **Impact:** The TPLF later became a key player in the broader struggle against the Imperial regime and was pivotal in the eventual overthrow of Haile Selassie.

2.3 The 1974 Revolution

2.2.1 The Derg

- **Formation:** In June 1974, a group of military officers known as the Derg (Committee) led a coup against the Emperor, capitalizing on the widespread unrest.
- **Support:** The Derg gained support from various social groups, including students, laborers, and peasant associations, who were disillusioned with the Imperial regime.

2.2.2 Overthrow of the Emperor

- **Events:** On September 12, 1974, Haile Selassie was deposed, marking the end of the Imperial regime. The Derg established a Marxist-Leninist government, initiating radical land reforms and nationalization policies.
- **Consequences:** The revolution led to a brutal regime characterized by repression, war, and famine, ultimately resulting in further conflict and instability in Ethiopia.

2.4 Conclusion:

The overthrow of the Imperial regime in Ethiopia was the culmination of various revolts and movements that arose from deep-seated social, economic, and political grievances. Peasant revolts, student activism, labor movements, and ethnic struggles combined to create a powerful force for change. The eventual coup by the Derg in 1974 marked a significant turning point, leading to a new era of governance and continued conflict in Ethiopia's history.

3) List the prominent Ethiopian patriots and their roles during the occupation of Italians between 1935-1941

During the Italian occupation of Ethiopia from 1935 to 1941, several prominent Ethiopian patriots played crucial roles in resisting the occupation and organizing efforts for liberation.

Here's a list of some notable figures and their contributions:

3.1 Emperor Haile Selassie

- **Role:** The Emperor became a symbol of resistance against fascism. After fleeing to England during the occupation, he appealed for international support and raised awareness about the plight of Ethiopia.
- **Impact:** His speeches and diplomatic efforts galvanized international sympathy and support for the Ethiopian cause.

3.2 Ras Bitwaddad Tesemma

- **Role:** A prominent military leader and one of the key commanders in the Ethiopian resistance. He led guerrilla warfare against Italian forces.
- **Impact:** His strategies and leadership inspired many Ethiopian fighters to join the resistance movements.

3.3 Ras Abebe Aregai

- **Role:** A major military leader who organized and led the Ethiopian forces during the occupation. He was instrumental in coordinating resistance efforts.
- **Impact:** Known for his bravery, he played a significant role in several battles against the Italians.

3.4 General Mulugeta Buli

- **Role:** An important military strategist who organized forces in the northern regions of Ethiopia.
- **Impact:** He contributed to the organization and training of troops, enhancing the effectiveness of the resistance.

3.5 Ras Kassa Haile Darge

- **Role:** A leader in the resistance in the southern regions of Ethiopia. He played a significant role in mobilizing local populations against the occupiers.
- **Impact:** His leadership helped maintain resistance in areas that were difficult for the Italians to control.

3.6 Dejazmach Balcha Safo

- **Role:** A prominent figure in the eastern parts of Ethiopia, he led local uprisings and coordinated attacks against Italian forces.
- **Impact:** His efforts in guerrilla warfare significantly disrupted Italian supply lines and troop movements.

3.7 Ato Abebe Bikila

- **Role:** Although more known for his later athletic achievements, he was involved in the resistance efforts during the occupation.
- **Impact:** His contributions to the morale and unity of the Ethiopian people were significant during the struggle.

3.8 W/o Aster Gano (Aster Hailu)

- **Role:** A notable female figure who actively engaged in the resistance by providing support and resources to fighters.
- **Impact:** She symbolized the important role women played in the resistance movement.

3.9 Menelik II's Descendants

- **Role:** Various descendants of Menelik II participated in the resistance, invoking the legacy of their ancestor to inspire unity and strength against the Italians.
- **Impact:** Their involvement helped rally different ethnic groups under a common cause.

3.10 The Ethiopian Patriots (Arbegnoch)

- **Role:** A collective term for the various fighters and rebels who engaged in guerrilla warfare against the Italians throughout the occupation.
- **Impact:** Their resilience and bravery in the face of overwhelming odds were vital in maintaining the spirit of resistance until the eventual liberation.

3.11 Conclusion

These patriots and many others contributed significantly to the Ethiopian resistance during the Italian occupation. Their bravery, leadership, and commitment to Ethiopia's sovereignty played a crucial role in the eventual liberation of the country in 1941. Their legacy continues to inspire national pride and patriotism in Ethiopia today.

4) Discuss the history of foreign relation, political and economic developments in post 1941 to 1991

The history of foreign relations, political, and economic developments in Ethiopia from 1941 to 1991 reflects significant changes in governance, international alliances, and socio-economic transformations. Here's a detailed overview of this period:

4.1 Political Developments

4.1.1. *Restoration of Haile Selassie (1941-1974)*

- **Return from Exile:** After the defeat of the Italians in 1941, Emperor Haile Selassie returned to Ethiopia and resumed his reign, focusing on modernization and reform.
- **Constitutional Reforms:** In 1955, he introduced a new constitution that aimed to modernize the state and promote a parliamentary system, although real power remained concentrated in the monarchy.

- **National Unity:** The government sought to promote national unity among Ethiopia's diverse ethnic groups, yet tensions persisted, especially with marginalized regions.

4.1.2 The 1974 Revolution

- **Military Coup:** In 1974, a coup led by the Derg (a group of military officers) resulted in the overthrow of Haile Selassie. The Emperor was deposed, marking the end of the Imperial regime.
- **Establishment of a Marxist Regime:** The Derg established a military government that implemented Marxist-Leninist policies, nationalizing land and industry, and promoting state control over the economy.
- **Repression and Conflict:** The Derg faced significant opposition from various ethnic groups and political movements, leading to armed resistance, including the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF).

4.2 Foreign Relations

4.21 Post-War Alliances

- **Western Support:** Initially, after World War II, Ethiopia maintained strong relations with Western countries, particularly the United States, which provided military and economic assistance.
- **Membership in International Organizations:** Ethiopia became a founding member of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, promoting pan-Africanism and regional solidarity.

4.22. Shift to the Soviet Union (1970s)

- **Alliance with the USSR:** Following the rise of the Derg, Ethiopia shifted its foreign policy towards the Soviet Union, receiving military aid and economic support.
- **Cold War Dynamics:** The relationship with the USSR intensified during the Cold War, with Ethiopia becoming a key player in the Horn of Africa, particularly in the context of regional conflicts.

4.33 Eritrean War for Independence

- **Conflict with Eritrea:** The Derg's policies led to a protracted conflict with Eritrean nationalists, leading to a war that lasted for decades and significantly impacted Ethiopia's foreign relations.
- **International Response:** The Eritrean struggle garnered international attention and support, complicating Ethiopia's diplomatic standing.

4.3 Economic Developments

4.3.1 Initial Post-War Economy (1941-1974)

- **Modernization Efforts:** Under Haile Selassie, there were attempts to modernize agriculture and industry, including land reforms aimed at improving productivity.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Significant investments were made in infrastructure, education, and health, although many of these efforts benefited urban areas more than rural populations.

4.3.2. Marxist Economic Policies (1974-1991)

- **Nationalization:** The Derg nationalized major industries and land, disrupting traditional agricultural practices and leading to widespread disenchantment among the peasantry.
- **Collectivization:** Attempts at collectivization faced resistance and were largely unsuccessful, leading to food shortages and famine, particularly during the Great Famine of 1983-1985.
- **Economic Decline:** The economy struggled under mismanagement, corruption, and the costs of ongoing military conflicts, particularly in Eritrea and Tigray.

4.4 Human Rights and Social Issues

- **Repression and Violence:** The Derg's regime was marked by severe human rights abuses, including the Red Terror campaign (1977-1978), aimed at eliminating political opposition.
- **Impact on Society:** The political repression and economic hardships led to widespread discontent, culminating in various uprisings and resistance movements.

4.5 The Fall of the Derg (1991)

- **Resurgence of Armed Resistance:** By the late 1980s, various resistance movements, particularly the TPLF and Eritrean forces, gained significant ground against the Derg.
- **Collapse of the Regime:** In May 1991, the Derg was overthrown, leading to the establishment of a new government under the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF).

4.6 Conclusion

The period from 1941 to 1991 in Ethiopia was marked by significant political upheaval, shifting foreign relations, and economic challenges. The transition from an imperial monarchy to a Marxist military regime created a complex landscape that shaped Ethiopia's trajectory well into the 21st century. The legacy of this period continues to influence contemporary Ethiopian society and politics.

REFERENCES:

1. Crummey, Donald. "Tewodros as Reformer and Modernizer". *Journal of African History*
2. Mockler, Anthony. *Haile Selassie's War: The Italian Ethiopian Campaign, 1935-1941*. New
3. Bahru Zewde. *Society, State and History, Selected Essays*. Addis Ababa: AAU Press, 2008.
4. *King of Kings: Tewodros of Ethiopia*. Addis Ababa: Haile Selassie I University, 1966.
5. Andargachew Tiruneh. *The Ethiopian Revolution 1974-1987: A Transformation from an Aristocratic to a Totalitarian Autocracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
6. Gebru Tareke. *The Ethiopia Revolution: War in the Horn of Africa*. USA: Yale University Press, 2013.

7. Haile M. Larebo. *The Building of an Empire: Italian Land Policy and Practice in Ethiopia 1935-1941*. Oxford, 1994.
8. Clapham Christopher. *Haile-Selassie's Government*. New York: Praeger, 1969.