



SCHOOL OF INDIANA
HOME OF VISIONARIES

GRADE ELEVEN HISTORY NOTE

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4.2 Restoration of solomonic Dynastry to 1855

- BY 1270 yekune Amlak overthrow the last Agew king named yitbarek & claimed to have “Restored” the solomonic dynasty (so remembered after the legend queen Sheba)
- This restoration marked the beginning of the medieval period of Ethiopian history (1270-1527A.D.

The medieval period was characterize

- ✓ Territorial expansion to the south and east
- ✓ Consolidation of feudalism’
- ✓ Friendly relationship between Christian Europe like Portugal and Britain
- ✓ A rapid process of Christian evangelization
- ✓ A very long lasting commercial conflict accompanied by bloodshed between the Christian kingdom and the newly emerging Muslim sultanates along the major trade routes linked the Ethiopian interior and the ports of Zeila in the gulf of Aden
- ✓ These sultanates include the maqzumite dynasty of shoa (10th -15th) Ifat ,Hadiya , Buli,,Dawro Sharka and Adal. Of all these muslim state that fought wars with the Christian kingdom (1340-1520s); the sultanate of adal was the most serious challenge.
- ✓ By 1527 the sultanate of adal (later harrar)umnder the leadership of emam ahmed Ibrahim algazi(nicknamed ahmed gran),invaded the Christian kingdom and kingdom and defeated its king lebne dingit in 1529 at the battle of shembra qorie near mojo town.

- ✓ Ahmed has established a Muslim empire in the horn of Africa from 1529-1543
- ✓ In 1543 members of the Christian royal house who obtained military support of Portugal (400 armed soldiers) were able to defeat Ahmed Gran and restore the Solomonic rule.
- ✓ However the Christian kingdom found it difficult to regain its medieval economic and military power and it faced several ups and downs from 1543-1769
- ✓ Challenges to the rule of Solomonic dynasty came from external and internal sources

I. Externally

- A. First the Portuguese soldiers who remained in Ethiopia were joined by Jesuit missionaries of Spain and Portuguese and began missionary activities of Catholic religion
 - By the early 17th, the Jesuit Catholics went to the effect of converting rulers of the Solomon kings.
 - This king first converted named Susenyos, made Catholicism national religion in 1622 which led to 10 years of bloody civil war between Catholics and Orthodox Christians (1622-32)
 - The king did it believing that military support of Portugal will strengthen his power but forced to resign and handed over power in favor of his son Fasilides who had expelled Catholic missionaries and followed a closed door policy against Europeans that had followed up to the early 19th c
- B. The Ottoman Turks who were commercial rivals of the Portuguese gave a military support to their Muslim brothers, under Ahmed Gran they also occupied the port of Massawa in 1557 and continued to hold it until mid-19th c

II. Internally

- A. Muslim sultanate of Adal (newly confined the walled city state of Harar) fought the Christian kingdom
- B. Following the end of the war of Ahmed Gran a very great population movement of the Oromo from south to east west

central and northern Ethiopia had seriously weakened the Christian kingdom because of several destructive wars during their movement

The effect of this great population movement was also documented.

- ✓ There was a rapid cultural, religious, linguistic & ethnic interaction between the oromo & their new neighbors.
- ✓ The oromos abandoned their traditional democratic system of governance known as Gada system & established feudal oromo states in the regions of Gibbe, Illubabor, Wallaga & Wollo. The rise of these new states in the south-west characterized by peace, law & order which has resulted in the revival of the long distance trade of the 19th C.
- ✓ The Christian kingdom established its permanent capital at Gondar 1632-1769, which at a time known as Gonderian period
- ✓ Initially, Gonderian period marked peace and stability endowed with development of urbanization, architecture (more remembered with the castle of Gondar), art, literature, poetry & urban life
- ✓ In the long run however, the new mode urban life and luxury, led to intensive power struggle within the ruling class and loss of control over regions
- ✓ The economic and military power of the emperors at Gondar became very weak whereas the power of the regional lords became very strong.
- ✓ The peak of the decline in imperial power and the contrary consolidation of power by regional lords of messafint is known in Ethiopian history zemene mesafinit (1769-1855).