

1: OVERLAND TO ETHIOPIA, SIDDELEY CAR, MENELIK, AFRICA |

*To Menelek in a Motor-Car [Clifford Halle] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it.*

In the intervening period, military tactics had not changed much. Centralization greatly reduced these continuous wars; minimizing the loss of lives, raids, destruction and slavery that had previously been the norm. In Menelik crushed a rebellion by Ras Mengesha Yohannes who died in 1889. After this, Menelik directed his efforts to the consolidation of his authority, and to a degree, to the opening up of his country to outside influences. Menelik brought together many of the northern territories through political consensus. The exception was Gojjam, which offered tribute to the Shewan Kingdom following its defeat at the Battle of Embabo. The people incorporated by Menelik through conquest were the southerners – Oromo, Sidama, Gurage, Wolayta and other groups. The native cattle population had no prior exposure and were unable to fight off the disease. On the signing of the treaty, Menelik said "The territories north of the Merab Milesh i. Eritrea do not belong to [Abyssinia] nor are under my rule. I am the Emperor of Abyssinia. Abyssinia will defend his territories but will not fight for foreign lands, which Eritrea is to my knowledge. However, there were two versions of the treaty, one in Italian and another in Amharic. Unknown to Menelik the Italian version gave Italy more power than the two had agreed to. The Italians believed they had "tricked" Menelik into giving allegiance to Italy. To their surprise, upon learning about the alteration, Emperor Menelik II rejected the treaty. The Italians attempted to bribe him with two million rounds of ammunition but he refused. The Italians therefore prepared to attack Ethiopia with an army led by Baratieri. Subsequently, the Italians declared war and attempted to invade Ethiopia. Battle of Adwa[edit] Main article: Before Italy could launch the invasion, Eritreans rebelled in an attempt to push Italy out of Eritrea and prevent its invasion of Ethiopia. However, some of the Eritreans managed to make their way to the Ethiopian camp and jointly fought Italy at the battle of Adwa. On March 1, the two armies met at Adwa. The Ethiopians came out victorious. Realizing that the Italians would bring all their force to bear on his country if he attacked, [54] he instead sought to restore the peace that had been broken by the Italians and their treaty manipulation seven years before. In signing the treaty, Menelik II again proved his adeptness at politics as he promised each nation something for what they gave and made sure each would benefit his country and not another nation. Subsequently, The Treaty of Addis Ababa was reached between the two nations. Italy was forced to recognize the absolute independence of Ethiopia. The Ethiopian army at Adwa was, therefore, a mosaic of various ethnic groups and tribes that marched north for a common, national cause. As a result, from to Russia sponsored the visits of thousands of advisers and volunteers to Ethiopia. Abolition of slave trading[edit] By the mids, Menelik was actively suppressing slave trade, destroying notorious slave market towns and punishing slavers with amputation. Following the rush by the major powers to establish diplomatic relations following the Ethiopian victory at Adwa, more and more westerners began to travel to Ethiopia looking for trade, farming, hunting and mineral exploration concessions. Menelik II founded the first modern bank in Ethiopia, the Bank of Abyssinia, introduced the first modern postal system, signed the agreement and initiated work that established the Addis Ababa–Djibouti railway with the French, introduced electricity to Addis Ababa, as well as the telephone, telegraph, the motor car and modern plumbing. He attempted unsuccessfully to introduce coinage to replace the Maria Theresa thaler. In Menelik granted a concession for building Ethio-Djibouti Railways In Menelik granted a concession for the building of a railway to his capital from the French port of Djibouti but, alarmed by a claim made by France in to control of the line in Ethiopian territory, he ordered a stop for four years on the extension of the railway beyond Dire Dawa. In when France, the United Kingdom and Italy came to an agreement on the subject, granting control to a joint venture corporation, Menelik officially reaffirmed his full sovereign rights over the whole of his empire. According to one persistent tale, Menelik heard about the modern method of executing criminals using electric chairs during the s, and ordered 3 for his kingdom. When the chairs arrived, Menelik learnt they would not work, as Ethiopia did not yet have an electric power industry.

Rather than waste his investment, Menelik used one of the chairs as his throne, sending another to his "second" Lique Mekwas Abate Ba-Yalew. However, he is reputed to have fathered several children by women who were not his wives, and he recognized three of those children all girls as being his progeny. In , Menelik married Woizero Altash Tewodros, whom he divorced in ; the marriage produced no children. She and Menelik were married during the time that Menelik was held captive by Tewodros. The marriage ended when Menelik escaped captivity, abandoning her. She was subsequently remarried to Dejazmatch Bariaw Paulos of Adwa. This marriage was also childless, and they were married for seventeen years before being divorced in . Menelik was very fond of his wife, but she apparently did not have sincere affection for him. Woizero Befana had several children by previous marriages, and was more interested in securing their welfare than in the welfare of her present husband. For many years, she was widely suspected of being secretly in touch with Emperor Yohannes IV in her ambition to replace her husband on the throne of Shewa with one of her sons from a previous marriage. Finally, she was implicated in a plot to overthrow Menelik when he was King of Shewa. With the failure of her plot, Woizero Befana was separated from Menelik, but Menelik apparently was still deeply attached to her. An attempt at reconciliation failed, but when his relatives and courtiers suggested new young wives to the King, he would sadly say "You ask me to look at these women with the same eyes that once gazed upon Befana? Finally, Menelik divorced his treasonous wife in , and in , he married Taytu Betul. The marriage, which proved childless, would last until his death. She enjoyed considerable influence on Menelik and his court until the end, something which was aided by her own family background. Empress Taytu Betul was a noblewoman of Imperial blood and a member of one of the leading families of the regions of Semien , Yejju in modern Wollo, and Begemder. She and her uncle Ras Wube were two of the most powerful people among descendants of the great Ras Gugsa Mursa, a ruler of Oromo descent from the house of were Sheik of Wollo. Menelik II and Taytu Betul personally owned 70, slaves. Among them, he chose to recognize three specific children two daughters and one son as being his progeny. A daughter, Woizero Shoaregga Menelik , born A son, Abeto Wossen Seged Wodajo, born of the first marriage; never considered for the succession due to dwarfism A daughter, Woizero Zenebework Mikael, who was married at age twelve and died in childbirth one year later A son, the purported Emperor Iyasu V. A daughter, Woizero later Empress Zauditu Menelik , born , died She was proclaimed Empress in her own right in , but was a figurehead, with ruling power in the hands of regent Ras Tafari Makonnen , who succeeded her in as Emperor Haile Selassie. A son, Abeto Asfa Wossen Menelik , born He died unwed and childless when he was about fifteen years of age. In , twenty-five-year-old Woizero Shoaregga was married for a second time to forty-two-year-old Ras Mikael of Wollo. She was married four times, and eventually became Empress in her own right, the first woman to hold that position in Ethiopia since the Queen of Sheba. Zauditu had some children, but none of them survived to adulthood. Menelik died in , and his grandson Iyasu claimed the throne on principle of seniority. However, it was suspected that Iyasu was a secret convert to Islam, which was the religion of his paternal ancestors, and having a Muslim on the throne would have grave implications for Ethiopia in future generations. Therefore, Iyasu was never crowned; he was deposed by nobles in , in favour of his aunt, Zauditu. However, Zauditu aged 40 at this time had no surviving children all her children had died young and the nobles did not want her husband and his family to exercise power and eventually occupy the throne. Zauditu had ceremonial duties to perform and wielded powers of arbitration and moral influence, but ruling power was vested in the hands of regent Ras Tafari Makonnen , who succeeded her as Emperor Haile Selassie in . Apart from the three recognized natural children, Menelik was rumoured to be the father of some other children also. Illness, death and succession[edit] On 27 October , Menelik II suffered a massive stroke and his "mind and spirit died". After that, Menelik was no longer able to reign, and the office was taken over by Empress Taytu. After the death of Menelik II, the council of regency continued to rule Ethiopia.

2: Emperor Menelik II | Menelik II of Ethiopia in old age. Empeâ€¦ | Flickr

*To Menelek in a motor-car [Clifford HallÃ©] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This book was originally published prior to , and represents a reproduction of an important historical work.*

September 16th, Filed under: Historical Stories â€” Lissan Magazine Bentley and his good and faithful friend and mechanic Reginald G. Wells drove all the way from Djibouti to Addis Ababa with a motor-car, going through many adventurous experiences on their route. They took this journey to present this new technology of that era to the Emperor Menilik. The Emperor was seated in state. Emperor Menelik laughs at the simplicity of the drip feed lubricator. British and Russian Ministers in back of car. They walked in procession to the porch of the Palace, and there Bentley gave a short lecture as to the working of a motor-car. Menelek proved an attentive and intelligent listener, not allowing a single part to be left until he fully comprehended its functions. At length, when everything had been explained, Menelek suddenly remarked to Mr. He does not look like an anarchist who has come all this way to kill me; and the machine does not seem so very dangerous, as I have been told. When I said I thought that was foolish, for those in the car would be blown up with me, I was told that perhaps, instead of blowing me up, I should be driven over a precipice, and that those who drove the car had practised jumping off at the last moment. Bentley, through the medium of Mr. Hohler, responded with a flowery speech, and then, while the Emperor was again bending over the car, Mr. Hohler to suggest that perhaps the Emperor would like to see the car in action. Menelek nodded, and Bentley suggested that he should be accompanied by two members of the Court. Menelek nodded again, and intimated to two dignitaries that they might have the honour. The two chosen ones did not absolutely rush for their seats. In fact, their ascent into the car might be described as careful and gingerly. Bentley intimated that he proposed running down to the market-place and back, and asked the Emperor how long it generally took a man on a mule to do the double journey. The market-place was about two miles off, and the road thereto was an excellent one and in sight of the Palace all the way. Menelek produced a watch to match his hatâ€”he evidently liked large things and said that half an hour, there and back, was considered very good going. He also said that, as a token that he had really been there, Bentley could bring him a little basket of fruit from the shop at the end of the market. Bentley suggested that, as he was anxious to go rather quickly, it would be as well if some of the crowds were removed. Then it was seen that Menelek was indeed Emperor. He said one or two short, sharp words and, in less time than it takes to write the fact, the road to the market-place began to clear, and as though by magic the teeming multitudes disappeared into side streets, leaving an absolutely clear road to their destination. Get back as quickly as ever we can and incidentally frighten the souls of these two gentlemen behind out of their cases. There is no mistake about it that they went to that market-place, for the car was nicely tuned up, the road was excellent, and Wells had been unable to relieve his feelings for some time. There was also no mistake as to the feelings of the dignitaries inside the car. Their faces paled as much as the colour would allow, while they clutched nervously at the sides of the car and at each other absolutely speechless from fright. As has been said, the car was nicely tuned up, and they were presently doing a comfortable fifty miles an hour, and by this time the dignitaries were limp lumps of wabbling flesh, allowing themselves to be bumped about helplessly, their eyes staring into vacancy and nearly starting out of their sockets. He bought his little basket and made a sign to Wells, and without more ado, each bundled a dignitary back into the car, slammed the door to, and before they had time to protest, much less get out again. Wells was in his seat, Bentley beside him, and they were off again, a little quicker perhaps than they had come, for the road was now, if anything, down-hill. This time the dignitaries fairly howled, and held on to each other like two affrighted children. They were both big men, and gorgeously attired, and no doubt, in ordinary circumstances, brave enough, but all sense of self-respect fled from them on that return journey. Going, they had held on to their feelings as much as they possibly could, which was not a very large amount ; coming back, they were simply pitiable objects, their eyes streaming, their mouths gibbering, and their beautiful robes one mass of dust. Bentley stepped out and handed his basket to the Emperor, who was delighted, and pointed to his watch to show that they had been gone under the six minutes. Bentley signed to Wells to help them out, which he

did, and while they were slowly crawling up to the Emperor, Bentley, speaking loud, said to Mr. Hohler translated, than the old man Menelik jumped at the idea. He chaffed his Ministers unmercifully when they came up, and announced that he himself was going for a drive. The Ministers almost prostrated themselves before him in their agonized endeavours to protect him from the ordeal they had just been through. To them it seemed impossible that such a thing could happen twice without deadly harm coming to everybody in the car. The more they pleaded, the more Menelek laughed, and he walked straight up to the car and seated himself beside Wells. Hohler and Bentley at once got into the back and Menelek signed to Wells to start slowly. It is the custom that whenever Menelek moves, he is escorted by an army of soldiers, both cavalry and infantry, as a duty, while any few odd thousands who happen to be about join as volunteers. Therefore, as soon as Wells let in the clutch one or two regiments of cavalry and some battalions of infantry lined up as escort. Even at the slow pace that Wells kept up at first, the infantry were soon left behind, although they struggled manfully to, at any rate, keep in sight of the car. Presently, however, the Emperor turned to Mr. Hohler and said that he would like to go a little faster, so Wells was told to gradually put on speed. The old man had much sounder nerves than his Ministers, for, as the speed increased, he began to laugh like a boy, and was soon urging Wells to go faster and faster. Wells, nothing loath, responded with full-speed ahead, and presently they were flying along on top speed, for Wells, watching the august presence beside him with one eye, to see how much he could stand, gradually let the car out to full throttle, and the old Emperor sat laughing and puffing for breath, with his goggleless eyes streaming, as happy as a schoolboy, while the now galloping escort was left somewhere on the horizon. Hohler, through the thick coating of dust that made his black face almost white, suggested that perhaps they had better return. They went back at the same flying pace, and as they drew near the town they heard above the hum of the car a sort of long-drawn wail as of a nation howling in unison. By and by they met the cavalry, still galloping madly on nearly-spent horses. They pulled up at the first sight of the car, and the men jumped from their horses and prostrated themselves in the dust at the sight of their Emperor, still alive and happy.

3: Catalog Record: Round the world in a motor car | Hathi Trust Digital Library

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Our enemies have begun the affair by advancing and digging into the country like moles. With the help of God I will not deliver my country to them. Today, you who are strong, give me your strength, and you who are weak, help me by prayer. Ethiopia has had a monarchy for most of its history, and the Ethiopian dynasty can trace its roots to the 2nd century BC. Ethiopia is the worlds second oldest christian country. After serving as governor of Shoa for twenty-five years, Menelik became emperor in . During his reign, he doubled the area he inherited, incorporating vast areas of southern Ethiopia into his domain, mainly through conquest. Among these were first and foremost the creation of the capital, Addis Ababa, in the mid s; construction of modern bridges and telegraph lines; concession for a railroad; establishment of the bank of Abyssinia, the first hotel, hospitals, and schools; national currency; mint; a postal system and national newspaper. Italy, with a colony already established in Eritrea, had designs on Ethiopia. In , Ethiopia and Italy negotiated the Treaty of Wuchale. Written in Amharic and Italian, the most significant article of the treaty was viewed differently by both parties. Italy applied this article to claim a protectorate over Ethiopia, which was duly recognized by the European powers. To affirm their claim, the Italians, aided and abetted by the French and British, advanced into northern Ethiopia and, in January , occupied the town of Adwa. While the dispute was being debated, Menelik was simultaneously importing large amounts of arms from France and Russia, and continuing to expand his domain. The confrontation occurred at Adowa on March 1, , where Ethiopia decisively defeated the Italian invaders. Menelik maintained his independence and unified his country by defeating the Europeans. Menelik displayed great foresight in developing his military strength, which proved to be considerably superior to the Italian army he encountered, and also in using European trade and technology without yielding any political ground. In addition, his diplomatic manoeuvres exploited the greed of Italy, France, and Britain and shrewdly played them off against each other. After a lengthy illness, he died in . Eleven year old Menelik was captured by the Emperor and taken prisoner to Gondar. Although officially a prisoner, Menelik was treated as a son by Tewodros and became a great favorite. However, due to his Solomonic blood which not only made him the heir to the throne of Shewa, but also among the strongest claimants to the Imperial Crown of all Ethiopia, Menelik was always a captive of Tewodros. Tewodros II eventually married Menelik to his daughter Alitash. However, Menelik would abandon his wife and escape from the mountain fortress of Magdalla and returned to Shewa in where he was proclaimed King and launched a new resistance against Tewodros, making a public claim on the Imperial Throne itself. He defeated the Italian invasion of at Adwa, the first defeat of a European Colonial power by an African army and thus gained recognition of the Ethiopian Empire by all the World Powers of the day. Previous to his marriage to Taitu, he had been married to the significantly older Woizero Baffena of Merabete, by whom he also had no children. He had two daughters, Zewditu, Shewarega and a son Wossen Seged who died in infancy. Menelik II died in and was succeeded by his grandson Lij Iyasu. Menelik II is credited with initiating the modernization and development campaign in Ethiopia that would be carried further by Emperor Haile Selassie. Menelik also established the company that began building the Addis-Djibouti railroad that was completed after his death. The Emperor was deeply interested in new inventions and in advances in science and technology. Ethiopia established permanent diplomatic ties with world powers for the first time as a result of her defeat of the Italian invasion. Emperor Menelik II was renowned for his deep compassion for his subjects. Early in his reign a terrible rinderpest outbreak had killed off so many cattle that plowing the fields had become impossible resulting in famine. Seeing the hardships that his subjects were going through, the Emperor forgave all taxes. During his reign as king of Shewa and later as Emperor, he re-incorporated much of southern Ethiopia back into the Empire after years in which these territories had only nominally recognized Ethiopian hegemony.

4: Â» To Menelik in a Motor-Car

IN the ordinary course of events, a preface is inserted in a book in order that the reader may have the satisfaction of beginning by a good long skip. No doubt the usual skip will be made, but in this case it will not be a long one, for I only propose to say a few words of pleading in extenuation of.

One such view was expressed by Ras Makonnen to the French traveller Hugues Le Roux, who suggests that the Ras was alarmed by the possible dangers of European contacts. According to the Frenchman, the Ras observed: The Emperor has not seen the Kingdoms of Europe like me. He has not shuddered at the contact of civilisation. Without doubt God lavishes him with the clarity which we others lack. God leads him towards his destiny. Officers, let us think this over. If we do not throw off this load which presses on us, in the evening it will be too late. It was transported by rail as far as Dire Dawa, then the terminal of the railway, and was pulled the rest of the way, sometimes by as many as 3, soldiers employed in this by no means easy task. On witnessing the arrival of the machine, which was operated by the Armenian Sarkis Terzian, Ras Makonnen is supposed to have said to Le Roux on May 18, Perhaps in the year ! The economy, however, seems to have been unready for the machine. Being almost impossible to move, it was allowed for a couple of decades to remain, in the northernmost part of the capital, where it stopped. The relic caught the imagination of the people. It caused the sefer, or locality, where it stood to be called the sebara babur sefer, or area of the broken engine. In it a prostitute is addressed in the following words: Menelik and the Motor Car The motor car made its debut shortly afterwards, in , when two vehicles, one British and one German, arrived in Addis Ababa. It is said that Menelik was warned by his courtiers against riding by car, but he was most enthusiastic to do so. The French envoy Klobukowski notes that this remarkable man wished to drive even before even knowing how to do so. The German traveller Arnold Holtz relates that the Emperor spent a full three hours studying how the machine worked, and adds: The Postal System The Ethiopian postal system meanwhile had been brought into existence. French advisers were used by the Emperor in developing the service, and Ethiopia in due course joined the International Postal Union in This was, in a sense, a first step towards becoming part of the international community of nations â€” the League of Nations itself was founded over a decade later. The Telephone and Telegraph The first telephone was imported into Ethiopia by Ras Makonnen, who received it as a gift during his visit to Italy in The instrument was at once set up in the Palace, but, according to the Frenchman, Stevenin, aroused the antagonism of the clergy. According to his account a commission of eight priests declared that the instrument was inhabited by a demon. Menelik, however, is said to have ridiculed them, declaring: The apparatus works without any kind of diabolical intervention. These priests are day dreaming. If they go on in this way I will leave them to their religion and become a Muslim. His reply message is extant, and was long afterwards transcribed by our old friend, the late Abraham Demoz. Two telegraph and telephone systems were later established at the turn of the century. One, constructed by the French engineers responsible for the railway, followed its track from Addis Ababa to the coast. The other, erected by Italian technicians, linked the capital with the Italian colony of Eritrea in the north, as well as with a number of provincial centres in southern and western Ethiopia. Menelik personally made considerable use of the telephone, and found it invaluable in giving orders to provincial governors. Stevenin, however, states that apparently in deference to public suspicion of innovation, the line was not allowed to enter the Palace, but stopped near the house of one of the principal courtiers, the Afa Negus. Be that as it may, it is recalled that when Menilek was angry, everyone knew it at once in the palace; and, thanks to the telephone, in the capital, within a few minutes, and, in provincial capitals, within the hour. Tradition holds that the telephone at this time was, however, often associated with Satan in the public mind. Some of the Somalis, towards the coast, had, on the other hand, a more utilitarian approach. This was doubtless a very valuable source of metal wire! Menilek, who was presented with one by the American envoy Robert P. Important developments had meanwhile been taking place in the field of taxation, money and banking. Reorganising Taxation In , Menilek reorganised the system of taxation, and extended the principle of tithe for the upkeep of the army. He also established granaries for military use, so as to bring to an end the traditional system whereby the soldiers were

allowed to requisition, or loot whatever they liked from the peasantry. This reform, as we have seen, had been attempted in vain by the Emperor Tewodros, and was thus at last in great measure accomplished. Willy Hentze, the Austrian engineer responsible for setting up the machinery, recorded that the sovereign sometimes came three, four or even five times a day to inspect it and often spent hours examining and watching it.

5: Full text of "To Menelek in a motor-car"

To Menelek in a Motor-Car Average rating: 0 out of 5 stars, based on 0 reviews Write a review This button opens a dialog that displays additional images for this product with the option to zoom in or out.

At the height of his internal power and external prestige, the process of territorial expansion and creation of the modern empire-state was completed by , which expanded the Ethiopian Empire to the extent of the historic Aksumite Empire. Ethiopia was transformed under Emperor Menelik: Later in his reign, Menelik established the first Cabinet of Ministers to help in the administration of the Empire, appointing trusted and widely respected nobles and retainers to the first Ministries. These ministers would remain in place long after his death, serving in their posts through the brief reign of Lij Iyasu and into the reign of Empress Zauditu. They also played a key role in deposing Lij Iyasu. Most sources indicate that while no marriage took place between Haile Melekot and Woizero Ijigayehu, Sahle Selassie ordered his grandson legitimized. However, shortly after Haile Melekot died, Menelik was taken prisoner by Emperor Tewodros II who conquered Shewa, and had him transferred to his mountain stronghold of Magdala. Still, Tewodros treated the young prince well, even offering him his daughter Altash Tewodros in marriage, which Menelik accepted. However, Meridazmach Haile Mikael rebelled against Tewodros, resulting in his being replaced by the non-royal Ato [nb 8] Bezabeh as Shum. However, Ato Bezabeh in turn then rebelled against the Emperor and proclaimed himself Negus of Shewa. Although the Shewan royals imprisoned at Magdala had been largely complacent as long as a member of their family ruled over Shewa, this usurpation by a commoner was not acceptable to them. Enraged, Emperor Tewodros slaughtered 29 Oromo hostages then had 12 Amhara notables beaten to death with bamboo rods. Abeto Menelik entered Ankober and proclaimed himself Negus. While Negus Menelik reclaimed his ancestral Shewan crown, he also laid claim to the Imperial throne, as a direct descendant male line of Emperor Lebna Dengel. When Tewodros committed suicide, Menelik arranged for an official celebration of his death even though he was personally saddened by the loss. When the British asked him why he did this, he replied "to satisfy the passions of the people I have now lost the one who educated me, and toward whom I had always cherished filial and sincere affection. Menelik was cunning and strategic in building his power base. He organized extravagant three-day feasts for locals to win their favor, liberally built friendships with Muslims such as Muhammad Ali of Wollo and struck alliances with the French and Italians who could provide firearms and political leverage against the Emperor. In , an Italian expedition set out to Ethiopia led by Marchese Orazio Antinori who described King Menelik as "very friendly, and a fanatic for weapons, about whose mechanism he appears to be most intelligent". Another Italian writes of Menelik, "[he] had the curiosity of a boy; the least thing made an impression upon him Menelik spoke with great economy and rapidity. He never became upset, Chiarini adds, "listening calmly, judiciously [and] with good sense He is fatalistic and a good soldier, he loves weapons above all else". The visitors also confirmed that he was popular with his subjects, and made himself available to them. Submission to Emperor Yohannes Eventually, Menelik acquiesced to the superior position of Yohannes and, on 20 March , Menelik "approached Yohannes on foot. He was carrying a rock on his neck and his face was down in the traditional form of submission. With his dying breath, Yohannes declared his natural son, Dejzasmach Mengesha Yohannes , to be his heir. On 25 March, upon hearing of the death of Yohannes, Negus Menelik immediately proclaimed himself as Emperor. Menelik, and later his daughter Zauditu , would be the last Ethiopian monarchs who could claim uninterrupted direct male descent from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba both Lij Iyasu and Emperor Haile Selassie were in the female line, Iyasu through his mother Shewarega Menelik, and Haile Selassie through his paternal grandmother, Tenagnework Sahle Selassie. In the end, Menelik was able to obtain the allegiance of a large majority of the Ethiopian nobility. In the intervening period, military tactics had not changed much. Centralization greatly reduced these continuous wars; minimizing the loss of lives, raids, destruction and slavery that had previously been the norm. In Menelik crushed a rebellion by Ras Mengesha Yohannes who died in After this, Menelik directed his efforts to the consolidation of his authority, and to a degree, to the opening up of his country to outside influences. Menelik brought together many of the northern territories

through political consensus. The exception was Gojjam, which offered tribute to the Shewan Kingdom following its defeat at the Battle of Embabo. The people incorporated by Menelik through conquest were the southerners – Oromo, Sidama, Gurage, Wolayta and other groups. The native cattle population had no prior exposure and were unable to fight off the disease. On the signing of the treaty, Menelik said "The territories north of the Merab Miles i. Eritrea do not belong to [Abyssinia] nor are under my rule. I am the Emperor of Abyssinia. Abyssinia will defend his territories but will not fight for foreign lands, which Eritrea is to my knowledge. However, there were two versions of the treaty, one in Italian and another in Amharic. Unknown to Menelik the Italian version gave Italy more power than the two had agreed to. The Italians believed they had "tricked" Menelik into giving allegiance to Italy. To their surprise, upon learning about the alteration, Emperor Menelik II rejected the treaty. The Italians attempted to bribe him with two million rounds of ammunition but he refused. The Italians therefore prepared to attack Ethiopia with an army led by Baratieri. Subsequently, the Italians declared war and attempted to invade Ethiopia. Battle of Adwa Tapestry of the Battle of Adwa. Before Italy could launch the invasion, Eritreans rebelled in an attempt to push Italy out of Eritrea and prevent its invasion of Ethiopia. However, some of the Eritreans managed to make their way to the Ethiopian camp and jointly fought Italy at the battle of Adwa. On March 1, the two armies met at Adwa. The Ethiopians came out victorious. Realizing that the Italians would bring all their force to bear on his country if he attacked,[54] he instead sought to restore the peace that had been broken by the Italians and their treaty manipulation seven years before. In signing the treaty, Menelik II again proved his adeptness at politics as he promised each nation something for what they gave and made sure each would benefit his country and not another nation. Subsequently, The Treaty of Addis Ababa was reached between the two nations. Italy was forced to recognize the absolute independence of Ethiopia. The Ethiopian army at Adwa was, therefore, a mosaic of various ethnic groups and tribes that marched north for a common, national cause. As a result, from Russia sponsored the visits of thousands of advisers and volunteers to Ethiopia. Abolition of slave trading By the mids, Menelik was actively suppressing slave trade, destroying notorious slave market towns and punishing slavers with amputation. Following the rush by the major powers to establish diplomatic relations following the Ethiopian victory at Adwa, more and more westerners began to travel to Ethiopia looking for trade, farming, hunting and mineral exploration concessions. Menelik II founded the first modern bank in Ethiopia, the Bank of Abyssinia, introduced the first modern postal system, signed the agreement and initiated work that established the Addis Ababa – Djibouti railway with the French, introduced electricity to Addis Ababa, as well as the telephone, telegraph, the motor car and modern plumbing. He attempted unsuccessfully to introduce coinage to replace the Maria Theresa thaler. In Menelik granted a concession for building Ethio-Djibouti Railways In Menelik granted a concession for the building of a railway to his capital from the French port of Djibouti but, alarmed by a claim made by France in to control of the line in Ethiopian territory, he ordered a stop for four years on the extension of the railway beyond Dire Dawa. In when France, the United Kingdom and Italy came to an agreement on the subject, granting control to a joint venture corporation, Menelik officially reaffirmed his full sovereign rights over the whole of his empire. According to one persistent tale, Menelik heard about the modern method of executing criminals using electric chairs during the s, and ordered 3 for his kingdom. When the chairs arrived, Menelik learnt they would not work, as Ethiopia did not yet have an electric power industry. Rather than waste his investment, Menelik used one of the chairs as his throne, sending another to his "second" Lique Mekwas Abate Ba-Yalew. However, he is reputed to have fathered several children by women who were not his wives, and he recognized three of those children all girls as being his progeny. In , Menelik married Woizero Altash Tewodros, whom he divorced in ; the marriage produced no children. She and Menelik were married during the time that Menelik was held captive by Tewodros. The marriage ended when Menelik escaped captivity, abandoning her. She was subsequently remarried to Dejzmatch Bariaw Paulos of Adwa. This marriage was also childless, and they were married for seventeen years before being divorced in Menelik was very fond of his wife, but she apparently did not have sincere affection for him. Woizero Befana had several children by previous marriages, and was more interested in securing their welfare than in the welfare of her present husband. For many years, she was widely suspected of being secretly in touch with Emperor Yohannes IV in her ambition to replace her husband on the

throne of Shewa with one of her sons from a previous marriage. Finally, she was implicated in a plot to overthrow Menelik when he was King of Shewa. With the failure of her plot, Woizero Befana was separated from Menelik, but Menelik apparently was still deeply attached to her. An attempt at reconciliation failed, but when his relatives and courtiers suggested new young wives to the King, he would sadly say "You ask me to look at these women with the same eyes that once gazed upon Befana? Finally, Menelik divorced his treasonous wife in , and in , he married Taytu Betul. The marriage, which proved childless, would last until his death. She enjoyed considerable influence on Menelik and his court until the end, something which was aided by her own family background. Empress Taytu Betul was a noblewoman of Imperial blood and a member of one of the leading families of the regions of Semien , Yejju in modern Wollo, and Begemder. She and her uncle Ras Wube were two of the most powerful people among descendants of the great Ras Gugsa Mursa, a ruler of Oromo descent from the house of were Sheik of Wollo. Menelik II and Taytu Betul personally owned 70, slaves. Among them, he chose to recognize three specific children two daughters and one son as being his progeny. A daughter, Woizero Shoaregga Menelik, born A son, Abeto Wossen Seged Wodajo, born of the first marriage; never considered for the succession due to dwarfism A daughter, Woizero Zenebework Mikael, who was married at age twelve and died in childbirth one year later A son, the purported Emperor Iyasu V. A daughter, Woizero later Empress Zauditu Menelik , born , died She was proclaimed Empress in her own right in , but was a figurehead, with ruling power in the hands of regent Ras Tafari Makonnen , who succeeded her in as Emperor Haile Selassie. A son, Abeto Asfa Wossen Menelik, born He died unwed and childless when he was about fifteen years of age. In , twenty-five-year-old Woizero Shoaregga was married for a second time to forty-two-year-old Ras Mikael of Wollo. She was married four times, and eventually became Empress in her own right, the first woman to hold that position in Ethiopia since the Queen of Sheba. Zauditu had some children, but none of them survived to adulthood. Menelik died in , and his grandson Iyasu claimed the throne on principle of seniority.

6: HVA - 'To Menelek in a Motor Car' Clifford Hal

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