Introduction

This book is written for students studying Civics and Ethical Education in Grade 11. It will guide you through the 11 values with readings, case studies, questions and illustrations to support the text. Each unit begins with an introduction and states the lessons and the outcomes. It also provides a list of the key words and concepts you will meet in the unit.

At the end of each unit, there is a summary of what you have read. There is also a glossary of some terms or words which you have been introduced to in the unit. Finally, there are unit review exercises to enable you to test your knowledge and understanding of the unit content.

Each unit is set out in the same way with the unit number and title at the top of each page.

The objectives are listed at the beginning of each lesson. A starter activity is in a blue box. This is to introduce you to the lesson. The lesson number is in the top right corner of each page.

Readings have a blue background. They provide information which explains the lesson objectives.

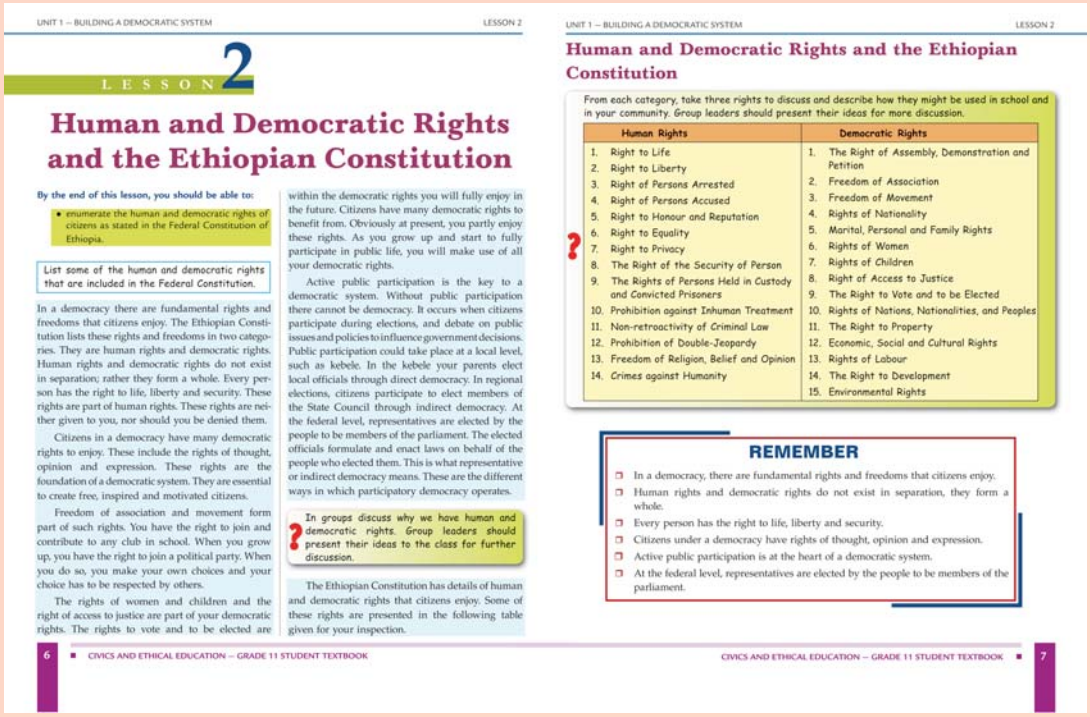
On many pages, you will find photographs or pictures which illustrate the topic you are studying.

Case studies are labelled and have a pink background. They provide real or simulated examples of the concept you are studying.

Each lesson has at least one set of questions linked to a reading or a case study. Look for the red question marks.

At the end of each lesson, you will find a list of points to remember in a red box. This will help you to revise.

This book is just one resource which you and your fellow students will use to learn about Civics and Ethical Education at this level. Information to support this book will be located with your teacher, on the Plasma programs, in other books and documents, and with people in your communities.



UNIT 1 – BUILDING A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM LESSON 2

LESSON 2

Human and Democratic Rights and the Ethiopian Constitution

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- enumerate the human and democratic rights of citizens as stated in the Federal Constitution of Ethiopia.

List some of the human and democratic rights that are included in the Federal Constitution.

In a democracy there are fundamental rights and freedoms that citizens enjoy. The Ethiopian Constitution lists these rights and freedoms in two categories. They are human rights and democratic rights. Human rights and democratic rights do not exist in separation; rather they form a whole. Every person has the right to life, liberty and security. These rights are part of human rights. These rights are neither given to you, nor should you be denied them.

Citizens in a democracy have many democratic rights to enjoy. These include the rights of thought, opinion and expression. These rights are the foundation of a democratic system. They are essential to create free, inspired and motivated citizens.

Freedom of association and movement form part of such rights. You have the right to join and contribute to any club in school. When you grow up, you have the right to join a political party. When you do so, you make your own choices and your choice has to be respected by others.

The rights of women and children and the right of access to justice are part of your democratic rights. The rights to vote and to be elected are within the democratic rights you will fully enjoy in the future. Citizens have many democratic rights to benefit from. Obviously at present, you partly enjoy these rights. As you grow up and start to fully participate in public life, you will make use of all your democratic rights.

Active public participation is the key to a democratic system. Without public participation there cannot be democracy. It occurs when citizens participate during elections, and debate on public issues and policies to influence government decisions. Public participation could take place at a local level, such as kebele. In the kebele your parents elect local officials through direct democracy. In regional elections, citizens participate to elect members of the State Council through indirect democracy. At the federal level, representatives are elected by the people to be members of the parliament. The elected officials formulate and enact laws on behalf of the people who elected them. This is what representative or indirect democracy means. These are the different ways in which participatory democracy operates.

? In groups discuss why we have human and democratic rights. Group leaders should present their ideas to the class for further discussion.

The Ethiopian Constitution has details of human and democratic rights that citizens enjoy. Some of these rights are presented in the following table given for your inspection.

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UNIT 1 – BUILDING A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM LESSON 2

Human and Democratic Rights and the Ethiopian Constitution

From each category, take three rights to discuss and describe how they might be used in school and in your community. Group leaders should present their ideas for more discussion.

Human Rights	Democratic Rights
1. Right to Life	1. The Right of Assembly, Demonstration and Petition
2. Right to Liberty	2. Freedom of Association
3. Right of Persons Arrested	3. Freedom of Movement
4. Right of Persons Accused	4. Rights of Nationality
5. Right to Honour and Reputation	5. Marital, Personal and Family Rights
6. Right to Equality	6. Rights of Women
7. Right to Privacy	7. Rights of Children
8. The Right of the Security of Person	8. Right of Access to Justice
9. The Rights of Persons Held in Custody and Convicted Prisoners	9. The Right to Vote and to be Elected
10. Prohibition against Inhuman Treatment	10. Rights of Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples
11. Non-retroactivity of Criminal Law	11. The Right to Property
12. Prohibition of Double-Jeopardy	12. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
13. Freedom of Religion, Belief and Opinion	13. Rights of Labour
14. Crimes against Humanity	14. The Right to Development
	15. Environmental Rights

?

REMEMBER

- In a democracy, there are fundamental rights and freedoms that citizens enjoy.
- Human rights and democratic rights do not exist in separation, they form a whole.
- Every person has the right to life, liberty and security.
- Citizens under a democracy have rights of thought, opinion and expression.
- Active public participation is at the heart of a democratic system.
- At the federal level, representatives are elected by the people to be members of the parliament.

CIVICS AND ETHICAL EDUCATION – GRADE 11 STUDENT TEXTBOOK ■ 7

Unit 1
Building a Democratic System

Introduction

In this unit, you will study the basic principles of the FDRE Constitution. This will help you to understand more about your rights and duties. This unit is going to expand your knowledge of democracy so that you benefit from it. It will help you to develop the culture of democracy and to make your own contribution. You will learn how federalism works in Ethiopia and examine the role Ethiopia has in regional and international relations.

Lessons

1. Basic Principles of the Ethiopian Constitution
2. Human and Democratic Rights and the Ethiopian Constitution
3. Citizens' Obligations/Duties
4. Features of a Democratic System
5. Federalism
6. Ethiopia and International Relations

What you will learn

You will:

- recognize the value of the principle of the FDRE Constitution.
- realize features of democratic systems.
- appreciate the foreign policy of Ethiopia.

Key words and concepts

- Accountability
- Devolution of Power
- Features of Democratic system
- Peoples' Sovereignty
- Religion
- Secularism
- Supremacy of the Constitution
- Unitary in spirit

Voting in elections — One of the pillars of democracy

LESSON 1

Basic Principles of the Ethiopian Constitution

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- describe the basic principles of the FDRE Constitution.

List 3 key things you already know about the FDRE Constitution. Share your ideas with your neighbour.

In this lesson, you are going to examine the basic principles of the FDRE Constitution. The knowledge you have obtained about democracy in Grades 9 and 10 will help you to understand how the Constitution has been formed.

The Ethiopian Constitution has the following basic principles:

- The sovereignty of the people;
- The supremacy of the Constitution;
- The respect of human and democratic rights;
- The separation of state and religion;
- Conduct and accountability of the government.

The Ethiopian Constitution is an expression of peoples' sovereignty. The sources of power in the country are the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia. This means that elected officials are given their power by the citizens of the country.

Article 8, sub-articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Constitution express the sovereignty of the people as follows:

1. *All sovereign power resides in the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia.*
2. *This Constitution is an expression of their sovereignty.*
3. *Their sovereignty shall be expressed through their representatives elected in accordance with this Constitution and through their direct democratic participation.*

Waiting to vote in Ethiopian election

Basic Principles of the Ethiopian Constitution

Another principle is the supremacy of the Constitution. Accordingly, all other laws have to conform to the Constitution.

Article 9, sub-articles 1 and 2 express what the supremacy of the Constitution means:

1. *The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Any law, customary practice or a decision of an organ of state or a public official which contravenes this Constitution shall be of no effect.*
2. *All citizens, organs of state, political organizations, other associations as well as their officials have the duty to ensure observance of the Constitution and to obey it.*

Copy this table. In groups discuss and fill in the copy with what you understand by the sovereignty of the people and the supremacy of the Constitution. Group leaders should present their ideas to the class for more discussion.

	Sovereignty of the People	Supremacy of the Constitution
1	Power emanates from the people	The Constitution is above all other laws
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Respecting the Constitution is the foundation for the prevalence of the rule of law in the country. When the Constitution is respected and the rule of law prevails, then the human and democratic rights of citizens are respected.

Respect to human and democratic rights is one of the principles of the Constitution. So, citizens have the right to exercise their human and democratic rights. These rights are expressed in the Constitution. Article 10, states the following:

1. *Human rights and freedoms, emanating from the nature of mankind, are inviolable and inalienable.*
2. *Human and democratic rights of citizens and peoples shall be respected.*

Another fundamental principle of the Ethiopian Constitution is the separation of state and religion. Separation of state and religion is essential for a democratic state. This makes Ethiopia a secular state. A secular state is one that separates state and religion as two independent institutions with different objectives. Article 27, sub-article 5 of the Constitution declares the Ethiopian state as a secular state.

However, in the past, Ethiopia was not a secular state because the state and the church worked together. We now live in a secular state. The separation is necessary because state and religion have different missions, objectives and values to promote, and thus cannot function as one. The act of the separation of the state and religion created the condition for religions to be equal. Equality of religions is part of the human and democratic rights of citizens.

Basic Principles of the Ethiopian Constitution

Finally, the Constitution underlines the conduct and accountability of government. This makes public officials and elected representatives accountable for any failures in their duties. As a citizen you have the right to be informed and the right to criticize the wrong doings of officials in your kebele. The Constitution, under Article 12, states the conduct and accountability of government:

1. *The conduct of affairs of government shall be transparent.*
2. *Any public official or an elected representative is accountable for any failure in official duties.*
3. *In case of loss of confidence, the people may recall an elected representative. The particulars of recall shall be determined by law.*

Copy this table. Form groups to discuss and fill in what you understand in the table. Group leaders should present their ideas to the class for discussion.

	Respect for human and democratic rights	Separation of state and religion	Accountability of the government
1	Inalienable rights	No state religion	Answerable to actions
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

REMEMBER

- The Ethiopian Constitution is an expression of peoples' sovereignty.
- All sovereign power resides in the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia.
- The Constitution is the supreme law of the country.
- The act of separation of state and religion creates a condition for all religions to be equal.
- Human and democratic rights are respected through the Constitution.
- The government and its officials are accountable to the people.

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LESSON 2

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REMEMBER

- In a democracy, there are fundamental rights and freedoms that citizens enjoy.
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- At the federal level, representatives are elected by the people to be members of the parliament.

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LESSON 3

Citizens' Obligations/Duties

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- describe what follows when one fails to properly carry out obligations.
- execute your obligations in a proper manner.

What are some of the obligations you have to school and society?

Your obligations arise from the rights you enjoy. You are given rights, but with these come duties. The Ethiopian Constitution entitles you to use your rights. The Constitution details the list of rights you enjoy. It also states your obligations as a citizen. As you have rights to enjoy, you have obligations to fulfill. Your obligations include respecting the rights of fellow Ethiopians, and defending your country in times of war and invasion. Failure to respect constitutional obligations is punishable by law.

There are many obligations that citizens have; they include the following:

- respect for religious equality;
- respect for gender equality;
- respect for the rights of others;
- respect for the national flag.

In a democracy your obligations and rights are kept in balance. For example, you have the right to freedom of thought, opinion and expression. Using these rights you can stage demonstrations. To participate and organize demonstrations is part of your democratic rights. However, the use of this right requires an obligation to fulfill. You are obliged to apply for permission from the government office.

You do what is required in respect to the Constitution and laws of the country. When citizens act in this way, democracy holds and democratic culture flourishes in society.

If you fail to perform your constitutional obligations, then you create a situation where you will not be able to use your constitutional rights. This would have a negative impact on the development of democracy in society. The law punishes you if you do not fulfill your constitutional obligations, such as obeying the law. This again brings about an adverse effect on your life. It is in your interest to execute your obligations so that you enjoy your constitutional rights.

? Form groups to discuss and list some of the constitutional obligations you have. Also discuss why you have them and why you should execute them properly. Group leaders should present their ideas to the class for further discussion.

Respect for the national flag is one of our obligations

Citizens' Obligations/Duties

CASE STUDY

Staging a Demonstration

Students from a sub-city in Addis Ababa staged a demonstration. They organized the demonstration in collaboration with their schools' administrators. Three days before, the organizers of the demonstration submitted an application to the body in charge and obtained permission to hold the demonstration.

On the day, the demonstrators carried slogans that read 'Stop Female Genital Mutilation', 'Stop Early Marriage', 'Stop HIV/AIDS', 'Stop Rape' and 'Stop Domestic Violence on Women'. On their way to the demonstration venue, they were shouting loudly to attract lots of attention. When the demonstrators arrived at Meskel Square, more people joined them and it became a big demonstration. Members of the organizing committee made speeches. After the speeches, the committee head submitted the demands of the demonstrators to an official who was present there as a representative of the government. The official promised them that the government would give due attention to their demands.

Demonstrations being staged

Form groups and discuss the following:

1. Why did the students need permission to hold the demonstration?
2. Was the demonstration legal? Why?
3. Why might you stage a demonstration and how would you do it?

REMEMBER

- Your constitutional obligations include respecting the rights of fellow Ethiopians.
- As you have rights to enjoy, so you have constitutional obligations to fulfill.
- In a democracy, your obligations and rights are kept in balance.
- Rights are given, but they come with duties.
- A failure to respect constitutional obligations is punishable by law.
- You should fulfill your obligations in respect to the Constitution and laws of the country.

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LESSON 4

Features of a Democratic System

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- describe what is meant by transparency and accountability.
- explain the importance of tolerance of diversity for peace.
- be tolerant of differences within the limits of your capacity.

State some of the features of a democratic system.

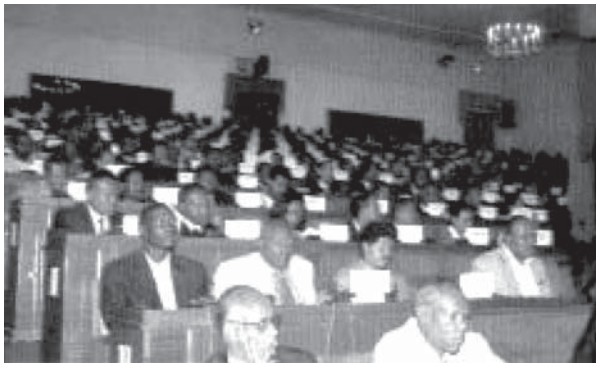
The features of a democratic system are based on many fundamental principles. In this lesson, you will focus on transparency and accountability, two features of a democratic system.

In a democracy, political power resides in the people. Because the people are the source of power, elected officials are accountable to those who have elected them; and the people have access to inspect what they do. Transparency prevails when the people and the media have free access to know what officials do and why. In a democracy, the people and the media have the right to information on how government officials exercise their power and perform their duties.

Transparency and accountability aim to prevent an abuse of power by government. In a democracy, officials have an obligation to be transparent and accountable for what they do. Limiting transparency may be necessary during national emergencies like wars and invasions.

Article 12 of the Constitution requires the government to conduct its affairs in a transparent way. The Constitution states that public officials and elected representatives are accountable for any failure in official duties. A transparent and accountable government contributes to the development of democracy. These features are part of the requirements for a democratic system. It is the right of citizens to see their government operating in a transparent and accountable manner. On the other hand, it is the obligation of those in government to be transparent and accountable to the people on whose behalf they govern. Through transparency and accountability, abuse of power and corruption can be checked and development can be achieved.

Another feature of a democratic system is the promotion of political tolerance. This can be realized when individuals are able to express their different viewpoints freely. Tolerance helps unify differences among ethnic, religious, linguistic and political groups.



The work of government officials must be transparent

Features of a Democratic System

People who are able to handle diversity help to create national unity. When citizens learn how to be tolerant, it will help us live together in peace and dignity. You should learn to be tolerant at home, in school and in the community. You must respect others' viewpoints, listen to them and share ideas in a polite way. You must realize that, in school and in the community, you live with people who come from different backgrounds.

It is your obligation to respect their values and norms in order to live in harmony with them. You should appreciate that the independence of the country has been preserved through the contribution of its many varied people; you should realize the need to respect the rights and equality of the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia. This is essential for democracy to take hold in society.

? Why is it important for the government to be transparent and accountable?

How might you show tolerance to people around you? Give examples to show your point.

CASE STUDY

Transparent officials

There are transparent officials whose offices are open to the public. They accept complaints and help people with solutions. These officials are well informed as to how their employees do their job. They conduct surprise visits to offices to check how work is being done. They have succeeded in creating a culture that supports transparency and accountability. Individuals who have cases in such offices are treated with respect and are pleased with the prompt service they get. One such place is the Immigration and Visa Office.

? Form groups to find out and evaluate how transparent your school is?

1. What information do you want to know about your school?
2. Where can you get this information?
3. What can you conclude from this?

Transparency is an essential ingredient for good governance, which strengthens the democratic system and increases the confidence of people in their country. Good governance also promotes the political, social and economic development of the country.

REMEMBER

- In a democracy, power resides in the people.
- Abuse of power in government can be checked through transparency and accountability.
- Government officials have an obligation to be transparent and accountable for what they do.
- Another feature of a democratic system is to promote political tolerance among groups holding different viewpoints.
- People who are able to handle diversity help create a strong national unity.

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LESSON 5

Federalism

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- distinguish between the authority of the federal and the regional governments of Ethiopia.

Identify the distinguishing features and differences between the federal and the regional governments in Ethiopia.

Federalism is a system of government where power is divided between federal and regional governments. Devolution, the principle of federalism, means to transfer power to the regions that constitute the federation. The devolution of power makes neither the federal nor the regional governments supreme. Instead, power is coordinated between the center and the regions. This arrangement could be one of the mechanisms to help to avoid a monopoly of power.

As a system, federalism in Ethiopia required many years of struggle against the autocratic and dictatorial rulers. In this struggle many patriotic citizens, particularly the youth, paid dearly and sacrificed their lives. Particularly in the 17 year war against the military government, many lost their lives for the cause of democracy and federalism. Following the fall of the Derg, Ethiopia became a federal democratic republic.

Under the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE), power is divided between the federal and the nine regional states. The Federal Constitution outlines the fundamental principles in which the regional states function. Regional governments have their own respective constitutions that address the specific conditions for each state. The federal and the regional constitutions define the relationship and the power division existing between the federal and the regional governments. The power of the federal and the regional governments is clearly stated in the Federal Constitution. Some powers exclusively reside in the federal government, and some other powers reside in the regional states. There are areas in which both the governments exercise concurrent power. For example, the collection of revenue and tax is the area where the two governments exercise power at the same time.

The Federal Government has the power to conduct foreign policy matters, national defense and security. The regional governments are in charge of local administration. Their jurisdiction includes managing education, health and the police force within their respective territories.

Federalism is an incentive to empower citizens at all levels to exercise power within their own area. It builds confidence among people when they are able to manage their own affairs. It also helps to create a sense of responsibility among citizens to respect each others rights, in order to live in peace and dignity.

In other words, federalism paves the way for a unity that arises from diversity. Unity in a multicultural setting can be nurtured when you are able to appreciate diversity in a positive way.

Federalism

1. What are the advantages of federalism for Ethiopia?
2. On the basis of the Constitution, identify the powers that the federal and the regional states possess.

To accommodate the diversity that is prevalent in Ethiopia, the Federal Constitution has set in place a bicameral parliament *i.e.*, the House of Peoples' Representatives (HPR) and the House of Federation (HF). The HPR is a law-making body whose members are elected by universal suffrage. The HF is the organ that nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia are represented by virtue of their identities.

The appreciation of diversity is related to the value of tolerance. It helps us to accept others; to be able to work and live with them. When you are able to manage diversity in a productive way, peace and development can be achieved. In this way Ethiopia, while retaining its federal structure, can remain unitary in spirit.

The Federal Constitution states the composition of the members of the HF as follows:

The House of the Federation Article 61

1. *The House of the Federation is composed of representatives of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples.*
2. *Each Nation, Nationality and People shall be represented in the House of the Federation by at least one member. Each Nation or Nationality shall be represented by one additional representative for each one million of its population.*
3. *Members of the House of Federation shall be elected by the State Councils. The State Councils may themselves elect representatives to the House of the Federation, or they may hold elections to have the representatives elected by the people directly.*

The House of Federation

Discuss the following:

1. What is the advantage of having over 80 different ethnic groups represented in the House of Federation?
2. The Hamer, Bana and Kwego are groups of people living in South Western Ethiopia having a population of between 10-20 thousand, 2-5 thousand and 5-10 thousand people respectively. How many representatives can each of them have in the House of Federation?

Hamer woman and child

Bana youth

Federalism

CASE STUDY

Flood victims of the Omo Basin

People living in the lower Omo Basin were victims of floods some years back. Due to heavy rain on the highland surrounding it, the Omo River burst its banks and flooded villages and farmland. Many cattle died and thousands were made homeless.

Confronting such a challenge was beyond the capacity of the regional state. The federal government stepped in to help the victims. Ethiopians from different backgrounds responded promptly to help those affected by the flood. Individuals, organizations and religious establishments extended their help to the victims. In this national effort, the regional governments also mobilized and channeled resources to help the victims. This instance shows the coordinated effort between the federal and regional government to solve problems. It also shows a spirit of unity and care for humans in Ethiopia.

? Form groups to discuss the significance of federal and regional governments' cooperation in times of natural disaster. Can you think of other examples when this has happened? Group leaders should present their ideas to the class for further discussions.

REMEMBER

- Federalism is a system of government where power is divided between federal and regional governments.
- The principle of federalism is to devolve power to regions that constitute the federation.
- The devolution of power makes neither the central nor the regional governments supreme.
- Following the downfall of the Derg, Ethiopia became a federal democratic republic.
- Federalism creates a sense of responsibility among its citizens to respect each others rights in order to live in peace and dignity.
- Retaining its federal structure, Ethiopia remains unitary in spirit.

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LESSON 6

Ethiopia and International Relations

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- explain the active role Ethiopia played in the formation of global organizations.

Give examples of the work of the United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is the only country in Africa that was never colonized. It fought many wars to maintain its independence and had interaction with the outside world for a long time. The victory of Adwa was coupled with the formation of a strong central government in the country. After the Battle of Adwa, Ethiopia entered into formal modern international relations. Following this victory, Ethiopia and Italy signed a treaty to formally end the Italian colonial claim over Ethiopia. As a result, Italy became the first European country to recognize Ethiopia as an independent and sovereign state. Consequently, other European countries followed suit in recognizing Ethiopia's independence. Diplomatic legations were established in Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia joined the League of Nations in 1923, three years after its establishment. However, the League of Nations failed Ethiopia when it was unable to stop the Italian invasion of the country in 1935. Following the five-year guerrilla war, after defeating Italy, Ethiopia once again asserted its independence.

When the Second World War ended in 1945, the need to establish a new international organization to maintain world peace and security became a necessity. The UN was born out of the debris of the Second World War and Ethiopia became one of its founding members.

Ethiopia contributed quite a lot to the cause of the UN — far more than any other African country could do then. Ethiopia contributed peacekeeping forces to UN missions in Korea and the Congo, in the early years of the existence of the organization. An Ethiopian General led the peacekeeping mission in the Congo, a privilege which was rare as they usually came from countries in the developed world.

The good image that the country established with the UN peacekeeping missions enabled it to play more roles for world peace. In recent years, Ethiopian peacekeeping forces under the UN have served in Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia and Darfur, to maintain peace and help the local people.

In 1963, after the decolonization of Africa, independent countries established their continental organization. Ethiopia pioneered the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union (AU), and Addis Ababa became its headquarters.

Ethiopia played commendable role to end the last vestiges of colonialism in Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau and Namibia. It also played a part in bringing an end to the racist apartheid rule in South Africa.

Ethiopia is also one of the pioneers in creating

Ethiopia and International Relations

the Non-Aligned Movement. The objective of the movement was to be non-partisan in the Cold War politics of East and West.

Moreover, Ethiopia contributed to the formation of sub-regional organizations such as COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) and IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority for Development). The purpose of these regional organizations is to promote peace through economic integration in East and Central Africa. These organizations have played roles to try to bring peace to South Sudan.

Ethiopia has a long established tradition in foreign relations. At present, Addis Ababa is one of the diplomatic hubs of the world. It is home to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and over one hundred diplomatic missions of governments. Ethiopia will continue to attract the attention of the world community of nations and peoples, to play a more constructive role in world politics in the years ahead.

ECA Hall — Addis Ababa

African Union buildings — Addis Ababa

? In groups, discuss, examine and evaluate Ethiopia's roles in international relations. Group leaders should present their ideas to the class for further discussions.

CASE STUDY

Ethiopia and the League of Nations

The League of Nations was an international organization established for world peace by sovereign states in 1920. Its founding members were Europeans led by the victors of the First World War. Ethiopia joined the League of Nations in September 1923 and became one of the League's African members. Ethiopia joined the League even though it faced opposition. Ethiopia's membership in the League continued until

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it was invaded by Italy. Emperor Haile Selassie went to Geneva to appeal to governments to help his country but the League failed to respond to protect its member state. Subsequently, its inability to deliver justice and stop this invasion showed its weaknesses and contributed to its collapse in 1939.

Emperor Haile Selassie at the League of Nations Conference in Geneva

? Form groups and discuss what the purpose of the League of Nations was. Why did the League fail in 1939? Group leaders should present their ideas to the class for further discussion.

CASE STUDY

Ethiopia's role in the transformation of the OAU to the AU

During the colonial era, Africa was called 'The Dark Continent'. The only independent country in Africa at the turn of the 20th century was Ethiopia. Its independence was hard-won. Ethiopia became an inspirational force for the decolonization of Africa.

From the mid 1950's through to the early 1960's, most British and French colonies gained formal independence in the continent. In 1963, independent African countries met to establish the Organization of the African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa. The OAU became the collective voice of the Africans for equity and justice in international politics.

After decades of existence and a commendable role in dismantling the last vestiges of colonialism, the OAU joined with the African Economic Commission (AEC) to become the AU. Once again, Africans agreed to place the new African Union in its natural home — Ethiopia. So, Addis Ababa continues to be the focus for African unity.

? Form groups to discuss the relevance of the transformation of the OAU to the AU for Africans and Ethiopians. Group leaders should present their ideas to the class for further discussion.

Ethiopia and International Relations

REMEMBER

- Ethiopia is the only country that was never colonized.
- Ethiopia joined the League of Nations in 1923.
- Ethiopia entered into formal and modern international relations after the Battle of Adwa.
- The United Nations was born out of the debris of the Second World War and Ethiopia became one of its founding members.
- Ethiopia pioneered the establishment of the Organization of the African Unity (OAU), later the AU, and Addis Ababa became its headquarters.
- Ethiopia contributed to the formation of sub-regional organizations such as COMESA and IGAD.
- Ethiopia played a role as a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- Ethiopia contributed peacekeeping forces to the UN missions to Korea, Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia, Congo and Darfur.

Foreign Ministry in Addis Ababa

Not to be published

UNIT SUMMARY

In this unit, you have explored a wide range of topics. You have examined the basic principles of the Ethiopian Constitution as an expression of the sovereignty of the people. You have seen the democratic rights that the Constitution has given to the people of Ethiopia. The Constitution also underlines the obligations that citizens have, to enrich and enhance democratic rule in the country. You have learnt how federalism works in Ethiopia, helping to promote mutual respect among people, and looked at the contributions Ethiopia has made to international relations. You have investigated the remarkable roles this country has played as a member of the League of Nations, the UN, OAU (AU), Non-Aligned Movement and regional organizations. Its contributions to UN Peacekeeping missions in Asia and Africa are some of the greatest achievements of the country.

GLOSSARY

Accountability:	Officials responsibility to show their actions and decisions to their citizens.
Devolution of Power:	The practice of assigning power to the lower levels of government administrative hierarchies.
Features of Democratic system:	Characteristics that a democratic system embraces.
Secularism:	The separation of state and religion.
Supremacy of the Constitution:	The Constitution being above all laws.
Unitary in spirit:	The condition where people in a given country develop the feeling of oneness.

UNIT REVIEW EXERCISES

Do these review exercises in your exercise book.

Part I – Multiple choice

1. In what ways is building a democratic system important for Ethiopia?
   (*a*) to treat its people equally
   (*b*) to have peace and stability in the country
   (*c*) to create conditions for development
   (*d*) all
2. Supremacy of the Constitution means:
   (*a*) the Constitution and other laws have equal weight
   (*b*) other laws are above the Constitution
   (*c*) the law of the land and other laws are subordinated to it
   (*d*) all
3. What is a possible benefit of federalism?
   (*a*) unity (*b*) development
   (*c*) empowerment of people (*d*) all

Part II – True or false

1. The Ethiopian Constitution makes officials accountable to the people.
2. Transparency and accountability in government are not features of democracy.
3. Ethiopia has a long tradition in international relations.
4. Ethiopia has contributed greatly to the decolonization of Africa.

Part III – Short answers

1. What is accountability?
2. What do you understand by the term peoples' sovereignty?
3. Explain in your own words what secularism is.
4. Evaluate Ethiopia's contribution to international relations.

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