

Treaty of Addis Ababa (1896)

Italy and Ethiopia

October 26, 1896

In the name of the Sainted Trinity

His Majesty Humbert [Umberto] I, King of Italy, and His Majesty Menilek II, Emperor of Ethiopia, wishing to end the war and resume their old friendship have agreed on the following Treaty.

To conclude this Treaty, His Majesty, the King of Italy delegated as his Plenipotentiary, Major Cesare Nerazzini, *Chevalier des Saints Maurice et Lazare, Officier de la Couronne d'Italie*. Major Nerazzini's authority having been duly authorized, His Excellency Major Nerazzini, in the name of His Majesty the King of Italy, and His Majesty, Menilek II, Emperor of Ethiopia and of the Galla countries in his own name, agreed on and concluded the following acts:

ARTICLE I

The state of war between Italy and Ethiopia has definitely been ended. Consequently perpetual peace and friendship shall be maintained between His Majesty, the King of Italy and His Majesty, the King of Ethiopia as it shall be by their successors and subjects.

ARTICLE II

The Treaty concluded at Outchale, the 25th of *Miazia*, 1881 [corresponding to the 2nd of May, 1889] is and remains permanently annulled, as are its clauses.

ARTICLE III

Italy recognizes without reserve the absolute independence of the Ethiopian Empire as a sovereign and independent state.

ARTICLE IV

Since the two negotiating powers have not been able to agree on the question of frontiers, and since they wish to call a truce and establish peace without delay, thus assuring their respective countries the benefits of peace, it has been decided that within a year's delay, beginning as of this day, trusted delegates of both His Majesty, the King of Italy and His Majesty, the Emperor of Ethiopia, shall establish definite frontiers in the spirit of friendly talks. Until these frontiers are definitely fixed and agreed upon, the two Contracting Parties agree to observe the *status quo ante*. Each Party shall strictly refrain from crossing the provisory frontier which shall be determined by the flow of the Mareb, Belessa and Mouna Rivers.

ARTICLE V

Until the Italian and Ethiopian governments have established in common accord their definite boundaries, the Italian government pledges not to cede any or part thereof of the territory in question to any other Powers. Should the Italian government wish to abandon of its own free will any part of the territory it now holds, it would give said territory to Ethiopia.

ARTICLE VI

Pursuant to a goal favoring commercial and industrial relations between Italy and Ethiopia, subsequent agreements can be negotiated between the two governments.

ARTICLE VII

The present Treaty shall be made known to all other Powers and this task entrusted to the care of the two contracting Powers.

ARTICLE VIII

The present Treaty shall be ratified by the Italian government within three months, starting as of this day.

ARTICLE IX

The present Peace Treaty, concluded on this day shall be written in *Amharigna* and in French, both

texts being identical in language and content, submitted in duplicate and signed by both Parties. One document shall remain in the possession of His Majesty, the King of Italy, and the other in the hands of His Majesty, the Emperor of Ethiopia.

Being in complete accord on the terms of this Treaty, His Majesty Menilek II, Emperor of Ethiopia, in his own name and His Excellency, Major Nerazzini, Emissary for His Majesty, the King of Italy, have approved and signed it.

Done in Addis Ababa, the 17th *Tekemt*, 1889 (corresponding to the 26th of October 1896).

[L.S.] MAJOR CESARE NERAZZINI

Plenipotentiary Emissary of His Majesty, the King of Italy

(signed by His Majesty, the Emperor Menelik II)

Ratified by His Majesty—Rome, 6th of January, 1897.

Sent to Parliament—24th of May, 1897.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN ITALY AND ETHIOPIA FOR THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS, SIGNED AT ADDIS ABABA, OCTOBER 26, 1896.

In the name of the Sainted Trinity.

The present agreement was drawn up and agreed upon between His Majesty Menilek II, Emperor of Ethiopia and the Galla countries and His Excellency, Plenipotentiary Envoy of His Majesty Humbert I, King of Italy, Major Cesare Nerazzini:

ARTICLE I

As a result of the Peace Treaty signed on this day between the Kingdom of Italy and the Ethiopian Empire, the Italian prisoners of war held in Ethiopia are thereby set free. His Majesty, the Emperor of Ethiopia pledges to bring them together without delay and transfer them to Harar where they shall be entrusted to the care of the Italian government Plenipotentiary Envoy as soon as the Peace Treaty is ratified.

ARTICLE II

In order to facilitate the repatriation of these war prisoners, and assure them all the necessary comforts, His Majesty, the Emperor of Ethiopia shall authorize a detachment from the Italian Red Cross to come to Gueldessa to meet with the prisoners.

ARTICLE III

His Majesty, the King of Italy's Plenipotentiary Envoy recognizing that these prisoners were receiving the greatest care and attention resulting from His Majesty, the Emperor of Ethiopia's solicitude in the matter of their repatriation, and that these proceedings were costly to the Ethiopian government, reworded the facts and let it be known that the Italian government would undertake to reimburse the Ethiopian government for all monies expended in this connection.

His Majesty, the Emperor of Ethiopia shall rely on the fairness of the Italian government in dealing with the question of compensation for their sacrifices and inconveniences.

Thus in good faith, His Majesty, the Emperor of Ethiopia, in his own name, and His Excellency, Major Cesare Nerazzini, for His Majesty the King of Italy, have approved, signed and sealed this present agreement.