

**Abstract**  
**Graduation Level of Proficiency Paper**  
**(Bachelor degree)**

1. 2017

2. **Title:** Ethiopia in the system of the international relations in the 19th-20th cc..

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5. **Specialization:** 46.03.01 – History of international relations

6. **Bachelor degree**

7. **Higher School of political management and innovation management**

8. **Chair of historical and socio-philosophical disciplines, orientalism and theology**

9. **Topicality of the research:** Ethiopia is one of the few states of the African continent that succeeded in the persistent struggle to preserve its state independence. The significance of this theme is in its insufficient elaboration in the historic literature which conditions the novelty of the research and enables us to formulate the problems of the work.

**Objective of the research** is to study the specific features of the position of Ethiopia in the international arena in the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> cc.

**Tasks:**

- to follow the main stages of the development of the relations between the Ethiopian state and the European powers;

- to characterize the specific features of the struggle for independence and sovereignty of this country at present;

- to conduct the analysis of the relations between Ethiopia and the European powers at present, particularly at the modern stage.

**Theoretical and practical significance of the research.** Theoretical significance of the subject matter of Ethiopia in the system of the international relations in the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> cc. is that the selected problem under consideration affects the spheres of research of several sciences. The solution of the concrete practical tasks, for example, such as the characteristic of the specificity of the interrelations between Ethiopia and the European countries in the past and the present and the conduct of the analysis of these relations in the modern and recent time

characterize the practical significance of the research. The results of the research may be used in the practical work of the academic process in form of lectures and seminars for university and school students.

**Results of the research:** Ethiopia is a unique country with the original civilization that differs from any other civilization. It emerged thanks to the mixture of the Semites with the Cushite tribes. For centuries the Ethiopian civilization adjoining different peoples enriched and developed itself, exercising influence on these peoples. In the Middle Ages and the New Time Ethiopia had to wage permanent wars defending its independence.

Having studied various spheres of the interaction between Ethiopia and the European countries one can draw a conclusion that the relations between them were always tense, as the Europeans from the beginning of the Great geographical discoveries having acquainted with this country, strove to make it a dependent state. The pressure on Abyssinia in the New Time was increasing from decade to decade. In the economic and political respect there were attempts to conquer it or impose one-sided conditions. The Ethiopian rulers often had to yield to the European colonialists. Despite this the country did not become the colony of the European powers for the following reasons.

Firstly, Ethiopia being one of the oldest countries of Africa that adopted Christianity long before many developed countries deprived the Western powers of the substantiation of their colonial goals. These, as a rule, were realized under the banner of a special civilizational mission as regards the backward tribes.

Secondly, a centuries-old experience of the struggle for independence developed in the people of Ethiopia steadfastness, courage, patriotism that enabled it to preserve from the attacks of the European colonial powers its original ancient civilization.

Thirdly, in the history of this country there were periods of economic development that gave it forces to protect its independence. In the periods of the reign of strong and energetic rulers the state conducted successful economic

reforms that helped to overcome the crisis and promoted stability and prosperity of Ethiopia.

Finally, one has to note a competent multi-vector policy that was pursued by the Ethiopian rulers. This enabled them to balance between the contradictory interests of the world powers. In this respect of great interest are the Ethiopian-Russian and Ethiopian-Soviet relations that enabled the country to defend its sovereignty in the most complicated periods of its history. All this in the aggregate enabled it to preserve its independence.

As for the internal situation of the country, one can draw a conclusion that for centuries the customs and traditions were strong due to which the cardinal changes might be brought about by the rulers only. This hindered the development of the state and put it on the verge of collapse as soon as the power became weak. The situation changed only after the 1974 revolution when the monarchy was abolished. Though they failed to cardinally improve the living standards in Ethiopia the government of the country became more efficient. At present the Ethiopian people is playing a much more significant role in the realization of the domestic and foreign policy. At the present stage the state had to confront serious challenges. The costal part of the country – Eritrea separated itself from Ethiopia which substantially affected its economic situation. The conflict with Eritrea has not yet been settled and is a hotbed of tension in this part of the continent. Despite this after the death of the leader of the country Meles Zenawi the situation in Ethiopia stabilized and it is developing as an independent state following its own course.