



Ethiopia

The oldest evidence of modern humans was found in Ethiopia. Ethiopia is also the oldest independent country in Africa and the only country to have evaded colonial powers. Ethiopia has been mentioned in the bible 40 times. It is written in holy texts that the queen of Sheba visited King Solomon to learn from his wisdom. Upon her departure, she returned pregnant with Menlik the first. Therefore, the throne of David was established in Ethiopia where Menlik ruled for thousands of years before Emperor Haile Selassie came into power. There is now genetic evidence that in fact Ethiopian are in fact jewish descendants from ancient times.

Even though Ethiopia has an amazing history and culture, historically there is a lot of evidence of the Ethiopian people who have suffered due to famine, drought and war. In 1983-85 there was a famine that affected almost eight million people which resulted in one million deaths.

Before Abiy Ahmed was in power, the TPLF, also known as the Tigray People's Liberation Front, was in power for decades. "Their power was overseeing a period of stability and economic growth with the cost of basic civil and political rights." (Mackintosh) Hailemariam Desaleng was forced to resign due to the dictator's rulership. Abiy Ahmed was put into power to be able to end tension and put political order in place. When Abiy came into power he announced the arrangement of the ruling coalition that TPLF had founded.

They ostracized the TPLF in the process. This is "With the attempt to make a new pan Ethiopian political party, Abiy sparked fears in some regions that the country's federal system which had guaranteed a lot of autonomy to ethnically defined states such as Tigray would be under threat." According to CNN.

During the election in September 2020 - There was some tension where the tigrayans defied (openly resisted) Abiy by going ahead with regional parliamentary elections which he had delayed due to covid Pandemic.

They called the election illegal and cut the funding to the TPLF Leadership. This increased tensions between the regional and federal government.



On November 4th, 2020 - There was accusation that the TPLF was attacking a federal army base outside of Tigray's regional capital Mekelle with an attempt to steal its weapons. There was a military assault that was ordered on the group.

Senior TPLF Leader said in an op-Ed foreign policy that the group attacked the base in an act of self defense. CNN is unable to confirm the claims on either side.

This conflict continued to drag on for two more years. Trying to regain control of the regional capital Mekelle. The result of the war ended up with thousands of women, children and men displaced, wounded, and traumatized. Food insecurity is staggering high in the Tigray region. The most severe is in the southern, southeastern, and northern parts of Ethiopia.

Four million children in Ethiopia are malnourished. This is also due to the record setting drought in the regions.

Due to the effects of the war, drought, famine there needs to be a long and continuous effort to provide more resources to the nation and healing the people.

*Sources: <https://www.jewishvoice.org/read/blog/13-things-you-may-not-know-about-ethiopia>
<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/africa/-over-22-million-in-ethiopia-facing-severe-food-crisis--87207>*