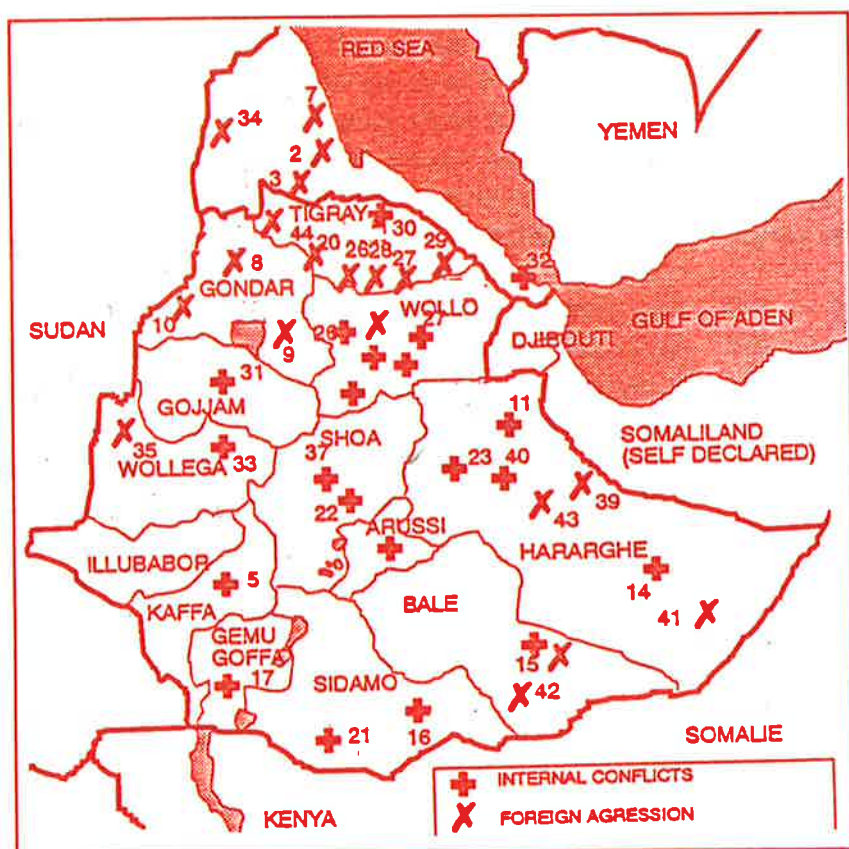


ADDIS DIGEST

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TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF WAR AND UNREST MAJOR ARMED CONFLICTS IN ETHIOPIA (1769-1974)



the last 250 years, this country has hardly enjoyed ten consecutive years of total peace. A country of famine. A country of war. For centuries Ethiopia and its people have suffered beyond imagination, trapped as they were - and still are - in this vicious circle of foreign aggression, internal strife, poverty and famine.

By presenting this lugubrious inventory of major armed conflicts over the last two centuries (see back cover) - including no fewer than 20 attempted invasions of the country since the beginning of the last century - our intention is to help our readers put the present transition fiasco in its right perspective and better understand the concerns of those Ethiopians who struggle for durable peace in their country. One major problem of Ethiopia has been extreme polarization of politics and the tradition of «transfer of power» by violent means only. To the frustration of the peoples of Ethiopia, the present transition has not proved to be a break with this tradition.

It is impossible to understand Ethiopia, the present political crisis and the apprehension of most Ethiopians concerning the future of peace in their country, in the wake of shattered hopes for a peaceful and democratic transition, without referring to the endemic violence which marks its history, ancient and recent.

Historians have noted that in Ethiopia a major famine strikes every 15 to 20 years. This map shows that in

It is also hoped that western governments, diplomats and some irresponsible guerrilla groupies in the otherwise worthy NGO community will bear in mind the past ordeals suffered by our peoples at the hands of foreign invaders and internal misrulers, and will thus scrutinize the present gloomy situation more judiciously so as to better understand the essence of the April 1995 CAFPDE manifesto entitled "For a New Democratic Beginning".



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RAGPEHA