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0521430828 - The Ethiopian Revolution 1974-1987: A Transformation from an  
Aristocratic to a Totalitarian Autocracy  
Andargachew Tiruneh  
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This book is the most comprehensive account of the Ethiopian revolution currently available, dealing with almost the entire span of the revolutionary government's life. It is also the first sequential exposition of events, and thus of the history of the revolution. Particular emphasis is placed on effectively isolating and articulating the causes and outcomes of the revolution. The author traces the revolution's roots in the weaknesses of the autocratic regime of Haile Selassie, examines the formative years of the revolution in the mid-seventies, when the ideology of scientific socialism was espoused by the ruling military council and finally charts the consolidation of Mengistu Haile Mariam's power from 1977 to the adoption of a new constitution in 1987.

In examining these events, Dr Tiruneh makes extensive use of primary sources written in the national official language. He is also the first Ethiopian national to write a book on this subject. This book is thus a unique account of a fascinating period, capturing the mood of the revolution as never before, yet firmly grounded in scholarship.

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## THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION 1974-1987

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1974–1987

*A transformation from an aristocratic to a totalitarian  
autocracy*

ANDARGACHEW TIRUNEH

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The fact that I cannot read printed materials on account of my visual impairment has meant that I had to rely on countless others for going through the literature on the Ethiopian revolution and for editing the manuscript. It is, therefore, futile to try and mention the names of all those that helped out in these areas. Under the circumstances, I can only thank in general fellow students at the London School of Economics and Cambridge University who very kindly contributed towards the completion of the work.

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I would like to dedicate this book to my beloved daughters, Sara

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Finally, I would like to dedicate this book to the cause of the blind in Ethiopia whose welfare has been the ambition of my life to promote, an endeavour which, because of the obstruction and intrigue of the state and party functionaries, remains unfulfilled.

## *Abbreviations*

ALF	the Afar Liberation Front
AELU	the All Ethiopian Labour Unions
AESM	the All Ethiopian Socialist Movement
CC	the Central Committee
COPWE	the Commission for the Organization of the Ethiopian Workers' Party
CELU	the Confederation of Ethiopian Labour Unions
CCAFPTA	the Co-ordinating Committee of the Armed Forces, the Police and Territorial Army
ELF	the Eritrean Liberation Front
EPDRF	the Ethiopian People's Democratic Revolutionary Front
EPLF	the Eritrean People's Liberation Front
EDU	the Ethiopian Democratic Union
EMLRO	the Ethiopian Marxist–Leninist Revolutionary Organization
EOPRS	the Ethiopian Oppressed People's Revolutionary Struggle
EPRP	the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party
ESM	the Ethiopian Student Movement
ESUE	the Ethiopian Students' Union of Europe
ESUNA	the Ethiopian Students' Union of North America
JFEMLO	the Joint Front of Ethiopian Marxist–Leninist Organizations
NDR	National Democratic Revolution
NDRPE	the National Democratic Revolutionary Pro- gramme of Ethiopia
NCO	non-commissioned officer
OLF	the Oromo Liberation Front
PA	Peasants' Association

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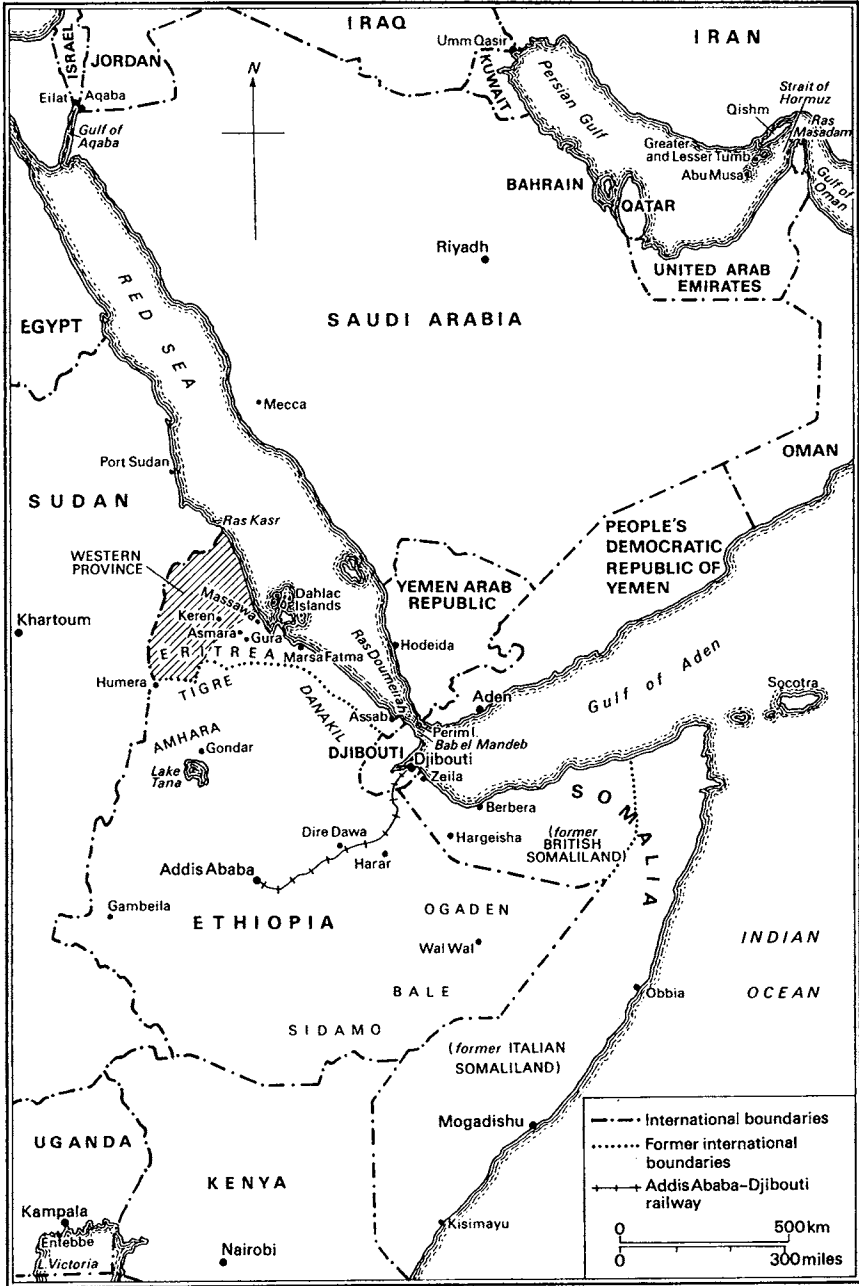
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*Abbreviations*

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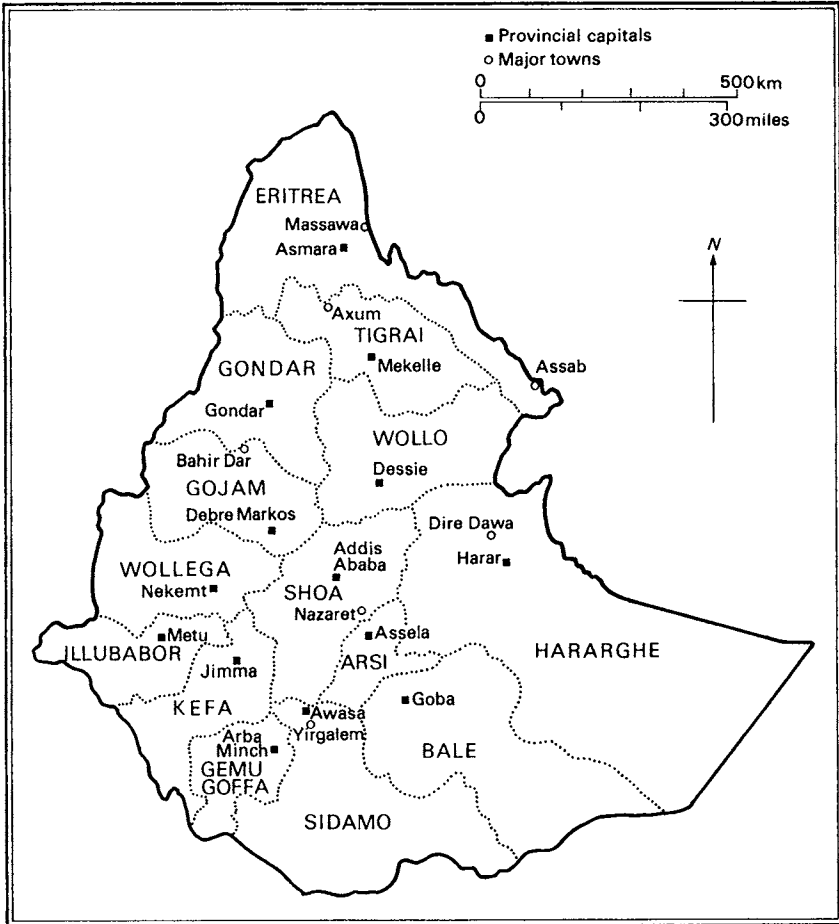
PAE	the Peasants' Association of Ethiopia
PDRE	the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
PMAC	the Provisional Military Administrative Council
PMG	the Provisional Military Government
POMOA	the Provisional Office for Mass Organizational Affairs
TLF	the Tigrai Liberation Front
TPLF	the Tigrai People's Liberation Front
REWA	the Revolutionary Ethiopian Women Association
REYA	the Revolutionary Ethiopian Youth Association
USUAA	the University Students' Union of Addis Ababa
UDA	Urban Dwellers' Association
WSLF	the Western Somalia Liberation Front
WPE	the Workers' Party of Ethiopia

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Map 1 The Horn of Africa

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Map 2 Administrative divisions