

Ethiopia

Players Handbook

~ The Children of Malkuth ~

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Post Mortem, Sweden, 2008*

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This is the main Player source for the campaign The Children of Malkuth.

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Ethiopia

The international medical relief organization Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has discovered very high rates of mortality and malnutrition among the settler population in Tach Armachaho, situated in the Amhara region of Ethiopia. A nutritional survey carried out by MSF in late October has revealed that, in the remote area of Abrihigira, at least 69 people have died over the last 6 months.

MSF has been working in Tach Armachaho for the past year treating Kala Azar, a little known disease that is endemic in this area. Over the next three-year period the Ethiopian government intends to resettle 2.2 million people in an attempt to address food insecurity in the country by providing settlers with available land.

MSF Press Release 2003.12.01

General information

For a lot of people the continent of Africa is a mystery, Ethiopia is a greater mystery to even more people. Before creating a character or at the very least before beginning the adventures, both players and game master should know some basic information.

The size of the population was estimated around 73.000.000 for 2004. This huge population is a result of that every woman gives, in average, birth to five children during her life.

The population density in Ethiopia is 65 people each square kilometre.

In comparison; the state of New York and Spain have 155 respectively 85 people per square kilometre

Elevation and geographic location produce three climatic zones: the **cool zone** above 2,400 meters where temperatures range from near freezing to 16°C, the **temperate zone** at elevations of 1,500 to 2,400 meters with temperatures from 16 to 30°C; and the **hot zone** below 1,500 meters with both tropical and arid conditions and daytime temperatures ranging from 27 to 50°C.

The normal rainy season is from mid-June to mid-September (longer in the southern highlands), the remainder of year generally dry.

The official language is Amharic and there are about 80 other local languages and dialects. English is widely spoken. French, Italian, Arabic are also spoken by some people.

Ethiopia is a relatively safe country. However it is advised that women dress modestly, take taxi after dark and avoid travelling alone if possible. All people should be careful in Addis Ababa and in areas of great need.

There are beggars almost everywhere, especially in the towns. Crowds of small children can be very persistent and occasionally aggressive. Persistent beggars may follow you quite a long way asking for money or food.

For 10 US \$ or 8 € can you buy a three-course meal in a fine restaurant or travel 200 kilometres by buss.

The currency in Ethiopia is “**Birr**”, an estimate is 1\$ = 8 birr and 1€ = 10 birr.

To get a meal is cheap for foreigners. A three-course meal in a fine restaurant cost 80 birr. In a mid range restaurant a two course meal cost 40-80 birr, but the cheapest restaurant will satisfy your hunger for 16 to 40 birr.

The tap water is generally held to be unsafe or at least unreliable. Water on bottle is to prefer.

Long journeys traveller's, without a car, should use the big buses as a first choice. They are rather comfortable and safe in comparison to the minibuses, which has very poor safety and often is terrible overcrowded.

The cost for transport is approximate 4 birr per every 10 kilometres.

The **post office** is open 08.00 to 12.00 and 13.00 to 16.00. Mail is delivered only to PO Box numbers. Poste Restante is a viable at all post offices. If you want to phone, the telecommunications are good, even from small towns.

A deposit for 200 birr is usually required for international calls.

The *Ethiopian Herald* is published daily in English, but it is government-owned and covers only domestic issues. There are some independent newspapers as *Sun*, *Addis Tribune* (a section in France), *Al Ahem* who comes every week.

Adult literacy is estimated to 35 %, and this is poor even by African standard.

There is one television channel with broadcast 19.00 to 23.00 Monday to Friday and Sunday, 18.00 to 24.00 on Saturday. A third of the programmes are in English, the rest in mostly Amharic.

The most effective way to get news is with a radio. Many of the big cities have a relay system which broadcast international stations such as BBC World Service on a local FM frequency. Unless you are staying in an area with FM service, the radio must have short waveband reception.

The politics

The election of Ethiopia's 547-member constituent assembly was held in June 1994. This assembly adopted the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in December 1994. The elections for Ethiopia's first popularly-chosen national parliament were held in 1995.

Most opposition parties chose to boycott these elections, ensuring a victory for the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF).

International and non-governmental observers concluded that opposition parties would have been able to participate had they chosen to do so.

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia was installed in August 1995. The first President was Negasso Gidada.

The EPRDF-led government of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has promoted a policy of ethnic federalism, devolving significant powers to regional, ethnically-based authorities. Ethiopia today has 9 semi-autonomous regions and two chartered cities.

To day Ethiopians enjoy greater political participation and freer debate than ever before in their history, although some fundamental freedoms, including freedom of the press, are, in practice, somewhat circumscribed.

Zenawi's government was re-elected in 2000 in Ethiopia's first multi-party elections. Since 1991, Ethiopia has established warm relations with the United States and Western Europe.

In 2004, the government began a drive to move more than two million people away from the arid highlands of the east, proposing that these resettlements would reduce food shortages

Eastern Ethiopia is arid highlands, so the government forces 2 million people to leave

Ethiopia held another election in May 2005, though results are still uncertain due to allegations of vote rigging and intimidation on the part of the ruling EPRDF coalition.

A group of unarmed university students protested alleged discrepancies and demanded investigation.

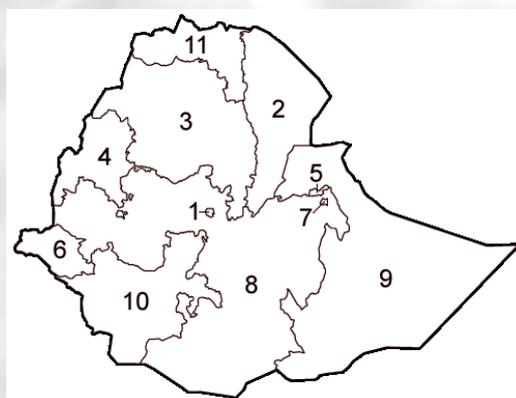
Security forces killed more than 40 demonstrators and bystanders in Addis Ababa. As of September 1, 2005, the election remains unresolved.

Ethiopia is 1,127 127 km², in comparison France and the state of Texas is 547 030 km² and 696 241 km²

The administrative regions

Ethiopia is divided into nine ethnically-based administrative regions; there are also two chartered cities, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa.

Addis Ababa (1) is the capital city of Ethiopia. As a chartered city, Addis Ababa has the status of both a city and a state. The city has around 3.000.000 inhabitants and as many as 80 nationalities speaking 80 languages. Addis Ababa is located about 2,500m above sea level. Medecine sans frontiers (MSF) have a clinic that provides complete care for people living with HIV/AIDS as well as family planning and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases for sex workers.



Ethiopia's eleven administrative areas.

Afar (2) is one of the nine ethnic groups of Ethiopia and the area has got its name from the people. Its current capital is Asayita; a new capital named Semera on the paved Awash - Assab highway is under construction. In the region of Galaha, MSF has a tuberculosis (TB) centre for the nomadic people.

The landscape is rocky and there aren't many roads. The volcano Erta Ale, who lies 50 kilometres from the Eritrean border, is active and has two craters with lava lakes.

The observation of the volcano is limited, the local Afar people have a fierce reputation and the temperature in the region can exceed 50°C. The only way to reach the volcano is to go by camel the last three days.

Amhara (3) is the homeland of the Amhara people; its capital is Bahir Dar. More than 80 percent of the population works with agriculture, and this region is one of the most productive in Ethiopia. Still there is famine in the area.

During 2005 an outbreak of kala azar killed 150 people in the village Bura before MSF could help the people.

Benishangul-Gumuz (4), the capital is Asosa. Original inhabitants Berta, Gumuz and Shinasha have more in common with neighbouring Sudanese than with Ethiopian peoples.

Dire Dawa (5) is the second largest city with around 200.000 inhabitants on the Dechatu River.

Dire Dawa was founded in 1902 after the Addis Ababa - Djibouti City railroad reached the area. The railroad could not reach the city of Harar at its higher elevation, so Dire Dawa was built nearby.

The city is an industrial centre, home to several markets and an international airport.

Gambela (6), with the capital Gambela, have a border with Sudan and have major oil resources. Historically, Gambela is home to the indigenous Anuak. In recent years there has been significant violence between the Anuak and more recently arrived Ethiopians.

Several private investigators have given this rich region a future. There is a big national park.

The **Harari (7)** people's state with its capital Harar is located in the eastern wall of the Great Rift Valley looking over the vast Danakil desert to the north, the cattle rich savannas to the south.

The origin of the walled city of Harar dates before the thirteenth century. Harar's strategic location made it an important centre of Islamic culture and commerce. With its 99 mosques, Harar is considered to be the fourth most holy city of Islam.

Oromia (8) is the land of the Oromo Nation; it is the largest state in terms of both population and land area. Its current capital is Adama.

The agriculture in the region is important then it produces 50 percent of the crop production of Ethiopia. In the region there are several gold mines, and varied natural resources give the opportunity for investment.

The eastern highlands has been severe affected by drought the last decade, so a project to move 2 million inhabitants to the west started in 2003.

A severe outbreak of Malaria 2003 rages in the southern part of Ethiopia, on one clinic the number of malaria patients rose from 100 to 800 per month.

"We set up therapeutic feeding centres at times of emergency, but the need for food assistance is perpetual. What would be a crisis elsewhere is the daily reality in the Somali Region"

Somali (9) is the most eastern of the nine ethnic divisions of Ethiopia. It is often called Somalia, though it is not to be confused with the independent country of that same name. The capital of Somali is Jijiga.

The war on terror has come to the Horn of Africa. United States forces are based in Somalia and conduct operations also in Ethiopia. The neglect of the region and the porosity of the border with neighbouring Somalia mean that it is seen as a possible haven for extremism and this has brought its own problems.

“Most of the patients in the dark wards of the garrison town Kebre Dehar hospital are considered tuberculosis (TB) patients, but with limited testing facilities and no working X-ray, doctors and nurses must often go on symptoms and professional instinct to make a diagnosis”

The rains are a lifeline for the people of the region and water is a precious commodity. In response to the frequent droughts, MSF has been running a water and sanitation project (Watsan) which has translated into the construction of numerous wells.

Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region (10) is one of the nine ethnic divisions. Its capital is Awasa.

Other major cities and towns include Arba Minch, Wendo, and Mizan Teferi.

Tigray (11) is the most northern of the nine ethnic regions of Ethiopia, its borders Eritrea to the north and Sudan to the west. Its capital is Mek'ele.

Semien Mountains National Park is located in Tigray and includes the highest point in Ethiopia, Ras Dashan.

A little known feature of Tigray is its churches; some of the churches are dating from the eighth century.

Mostly monolithic, with designs partly inspired by classical architecture, they are often located at the top of cliffs or steep hills, for security. For example, Tigray's ancient Debre Damo monastery is accessible only by climbing a rope 25 meters up a sheer cliff.

The history

Around 1270, the Solomonid dynasty came to control Ethiopia, claiming descent from the kings of Axum. They called themselves Neguse Negest¹, basing their claims on their direct descent from Solomon and the queen of Sheba.

During the reign of Emperor Lebna Dengel (1508-1540), Ethiopia made its first successful diplomatic contact with a European country, Portugal. This proved to be an important development, for when the Empire was subjected to the attacks of the Somali General and Imam, Ahmad ibn Ibrihim al-Ghazi².

Portugal responded to Lebna Dengel's plea for help with an army of 400 men, who helped his son Gelawdewos defeat Ahmad and re-establish his rule.

However, Jesuit missionaries eventually offended the Orthodox faith of the local Ethiopians, and in the mid-17th century Emperor Fasilidos expelled these missionaries. At the same time, the Oromo people began to question the Ethiopian Christian authorities in the Abyssinian territories, and demanded to keep their own religion.

The 1880s were marked by the European colonization of Africa and some modernisation, when the Italians began to vie with the British for influence in bordering regions.

¹ Kings of Kings or Emperors.

² Called "Grany" or "the Left-handed".

Assab, a port near the southern entrance of the Red Sea, was bought from the local sultan in March 1870 by an Italian company, which by 1882 led to the Italian colony of Eritrea. Conflicts between the two countries resulted in the Battle of Adowa in 1896, whereby the Ethiopians surprised the world by defeating the colonial power and remaining independent. Italy and Ethiopia signed a provisional treaty of peace on October 26, 1896.

The early 20th century was marked by the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie I, who undertook the rapid modernization of Ethiopia³. British and patriot Ethiopian troops liberated the Ethiopian homeland in 1941, and Ethiopia's regained sovereignty was recognised by Britain upon the signing of the Anglo-Ethiopian Agreement in December 1944.

Haile Selassie's reign came to an end in 1974, when a pro-Soviet Marxist-Leninist military junta, the "Derg", deposed him and established a one-party socialist state.

The ensuing regime suffered several bloody coups, uprisings, wide-scale drought, and a massive refugee problem.

In 1977 Somalia attacked Ethiopia, but Ethiopia defeated them with Cuban military assistance the following year. The Derg regime was finally defeated in 1991 by the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), a coalition of rebel forces.

In 1993, the Province of Eritrea became independent from Ethiopia, following a referendum. In 1994, a constitution was adopted, that led to Ethiopia's first multiparty elections in the following year.

³ Interrupted only for a brief Italian occupation 1936-1941.

In May 1998, a dispute over the border with Eritrea led to the Eritrean-Ethiopian War that lasted until June 2000. This has hurt the nation's economy, but strengthened the ruling coalition.

On May 15, 2005, Ethiopia held another multiparty election, and resulted in the EPRDF's disputed return to power. In early June, police under the command of the EPRDF shot and killed demonstrators who were protesting the alleged election fraud.

The Ark of the Covenant

The Ark of the Covenant is described in the Hebrew Bible as a sacred container built at the command of Moses, wherein rested the stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments.

The general consensus of historians is that the ark was destroyed. In contrast to that, variant traditions about the ultimate fate of the Ark include the intentional concealing of the Ark under the Temple Mount and the removal of the Ark from Jerusalem by Menelik I, the purported son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Axum, claims to still possess the Ark of the Covenant.

Although it was once paraded before the town once each year, it is now kept under constant guard in a "treasury" near the Church of Our Lady Mary of Zion, and only the head priest of the church is allowed to view it. Most Western historians are skeptical of this claim.

Emperor Haile Selassie

His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I⁴ was the Emperor of Ethiopia between 1930–1936 and 1941–1974.

⁴ Born Lij Tafari Makonnen in July 23 1892 and died August 27 1975.

He was governor when empress Zewditu crowned him as negus (king) in 1928. The crowning of Tafari Makonnen was very controversial, as he occupied the same immediate territory as the Empress, rather than going off to one of the regional areas traditionally known as Kingdoms within the Empire.

When the empress husband died during a battle and the empress suddenly died a month later in flu-like fever Tafari Makonnen was proclaimed Emperor, and King of Kings of Ethiopia.

Following the invasion (1936) of Ethiopia by fascist Italy from its colonies in Eritrea and Somalia, Emperor Haile Selassie made an attempt at fighting back the invaders personally. But he was forced to exile in England.



The emperor Haile Selassie.

Haile Selassie returned to Ethiopia in 1941, after Italy's defeat in Ethiopia by United Kingdom and Ethiopian patriot forces. After the war, Ethiopia became a charter member of the United Nations.

In 1951 the former Italian colony of Eritrea was federated to Ethiopia as a compromise between the sizable factions that wanted complete Union with the Empire, and those who wanted complete independence from it.

A devastating drought in the Province of Wollo in 1972-73 caused a large famine which was covered up by the Imperial government and kept from Haile Selassie, who was celebrating his 80th birthday amidst much pomp and ceremony.

When a BBC documentary exposed the existence and scope of the famine, the government was seriously undermined, and the Emperor's once unassailable personal popularity fell. Simultaneously, economic hardship caused by high oil prices and widespread military mutinies in the country further weakened him.

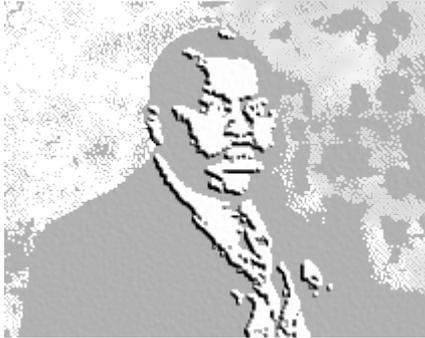
The Derg, set up to investigate the military's demands, took advantage of the government's disarray to depose Emperor Haile Selassie on September 12, 1974. The Emperor was placed under house arrest.

On August 28, 1975, the state media reported that the "ex-monarch" Haile Selassie had died on August 27, following complications from a prostate operation. His doctor denied that complications had occurred and rejected the government version of his death.

Some believe that he was suffocated in his sleep. Witnesses came forward after the fall of the Marxist government in 1991, to reveal that the Emperor's remains had been buried beneath the president's personal office. On November 5, 2000 Emperor Haile Selassie was given an Imperial funeral by the Ethiopian Orthodox church. The current post-communist government refused to give it the status of a state funeral.

Rastafari

Among many followers of the Rastafari movement, which developed in the 1930s in Jamaica under the influence of Marcus Garvey's "Back to Africa" movement, Haile Selassie is seen as God incarnate, the Black Messiah who will lead the peoples of Africa to freedom.



Marcus Garvey

Haile Selassie was never a member of the Rastafarian faith, nor did he have any role in organizing the religion. During his lifetime, the Emperor was a devout member of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

His views towards the Rastafarians varied from polite interest to unsettled concern. The Emperor did not personally believe the divine claims made of him by the Rastafarians. When interviewed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Bill McNeil in 1967, Haile Selassie denied that a man could be an emanation from God. Haile Selassie never claiming to be God, this never worried the believers, meaning that the real God would never claim to be so just to get worldly acclaim and power.

As a gesture of kindness to the Rastafarians and their aspirations of returning to Africa, the Emperor donated a piece of land at Shashamane, for the use of Jamaican Rastafarians.

Shashamane is a small town in the southern part of the Shoa province, 250 km south of Addis Ababa.

Between 1952 and 1974 approximately 22 families migrated to Shashamane. The vast majority of these early settlers came from Jamaica, as the Rastafarian groups in Jamaica were most appreciative of the Emperor's gift and stretched forth their hands to receive it.

There is still a community there, and it's rather well known among the Ethiopians and foreigners, but almost no one hears any news from them.

Some Rastafarians believe that Haile Selassie is still alive, and that his purported death was part of a conspiracy to discredit their religion. In addition to being a political and historical figure, Haile Selassie has become a popular culture symbol through the Rastafarian movement.

Medicines and diseases

The death is often painful in Ethiopia. Famine draws the hope out of humanity and hideous crimes are taking place in the search for food and water. But there are many with no hope at all, Kala Azar is damnation for the people. The skin and tissue falls apart and with a pain that darkened the pure souls of the victims, prays to god for help goes unheard.

It's not only famine that kills and brings suffering to the people in Ethiopia, there are several diseases. Here is a short list.

Rabies virus is usually present in the saliva of a symptomatic rabid animal; the route of infection is nearly always by a bite. By causing the infected animal to be exceptionally aggressive, the virus ensures its transmission to the next host.

Transmission from person to person is extremely rare, though it can happen through transplant surgery, or even more rarely through bites or kisses.

After a typical human infection by animal bite, the virus directly or indirectly enters the peripheral nervous system. Once the virus reaches the brain, it rapidly causes encephalitis (acute inflammation) and symptoms appear.

The period between infection and the first flu-like symptoms is normally 3-12 weeks, but can be as long as two years.

Soon after, the symptoms expand to cerebral dysfunction, anxiety, insomnia, confusion, agitation, abnormal behaviour, hallucinations, progressing to delirium. The production of large quantities of saliva and tears coupled with an inability to speak or swallow are typical during the later stages of the disease; this is known as "hydrophobia".

Death almost invariably results 2-10 days after the first symptoms; the handful of people who are known to have survived the disease were all left with severe brain damage

AIDS is defined as a collection of symptoms and infections resulting from the depletion of the immune system caused by infection with HIV.

Although treatments for both AIDS and HIV exist, there is no known cure.

The risk of being infected with HIV from a single prick with a needle that has been used on an HIV infected person though is thought to be about 1 in 150.

HIV can be transmitted by the sharing of needles by users of intravenous drugs. There is a 15–30% risk of transmission of HIV from mother to child during pregnancy, labour and delivery.

In Ethiopia there is 1½ million who is infected by the disease. It is mainly spread by heterosexual intercourse, but sometimes infected blood can be used in blood transfusions.

Malaria is an infectious disease spread by the bite of an infected Anopheles mosquito. Its remains a serious disease that occurs with varying frequency, more commonly during the rainy season.

Symptoms of malaria include fever, shivering, joint pain, vomiting and convulsions. There may be the feeling of tingling in the skin. Complications of malaria include coma and death if untreated - young children are especially vulnerable.

Leishmaniasis is a disease caused by parasites and is transmitted by the bite of certain species of sand fly. Synonyms include black fever and Kala Azar.

The symptoms are skin sores which erupt weeks to months after the person affected is bitten by sand flies.

Other consequences, which can become manifest anywhere from a few months to years after infection, include fever, damage to the spleen and liver, and anaemia.

The most common form causes sores on the body, which heal within a few months leaving unpleasant looking scars.

There are forms that produce widespread skin lesions which resemble leprosy and are particularly difficult to treat or cause tissue damage to (particularly) nose and mouth. The most serious form is potentially fatal if untreated.

There are no vaccines available.

Medecine sans frontiers

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), sometimes known as Doctors without borders in English-speaking countries, is a non-profit private organisation created in 1971 by a small group of French doctors.

The organisation was founded in the belief that all people have the right to medical care and that their need is more important than national borders. It received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.

They provide medical care in case of emergency and for the treatment of endemic diseases. It is active in more than 80 countries, particularly in poor third-world nations and states in war.

MSF consists of both volunteer and permanently employed staff and is funded by contributions from the general public, corporations and governments.



Most of its members are doctors and health workers, but many other support professions contribute to MSF's smooth functioning. All of them agree to honour the following principles:

Médecins Sans Frontières offers assistance to populations in distress, to victims of natural or man-made disasters and to victims of armed conflict, without discrimination and irrespective of race, religion, creed or political affiliation.

Médecins Sans Frontières observes neutrality and impartiality in the name of universal medical ethics and the right to humanitarian assistance and demands full and unhindered freedom in the exercise of its functions.

MSF volunteers promise to honour their professional code of ethics and to maintain complete independence from all political, economic and religious powers.

As volunteers, members are aware of the risks and dangers of the missions they undertake and have no right to compensation for themselves or their beneficiaries other than that which Médecins Sans Frontières is able to afford them.