

Landlocked Countries: Ethiopia, Part 3

by Geir Sør-Reime

Ethiopia after 1974

September 12, 1974, Emperor Haile Selassie was deposed by the Derg, a Soviet-backed military junta, and after harsh torture he died in August 1975.



1975 revolution
1 year Sc. 747



1978 revolution 4 years
Sc. 894



1982 revolution
8 years Sc. 1049

Stamps were also issued 1985 for the 11th anniversary of the revolution (three stamps), the 12th anniversary with four 1986 stamps, and the 13th anniversary with four 1987 stamps.



Left 1986, revolution 12 years Sc. 1154;
right 1987, revolution 13 years Sc. 1186



The Derg ruled Ethiopia from 1974 till 1991. In 1975, on the first anniversary of their revolution, a set of five stamps were issued 1975 to celebrate the fall of the monarchy. Stamps were also issued for the second anniversary of the revolution in 1976, and a definitive series of 18 stamps and showing the republican crest was also issued in 1976.



1976 revolutionary
definitive Sc. 801



1979 revolution 5
years Sc. 940



1984 revolution 10 years
Sc. 1105

The third anniversary of the revolution was celebrated with five 1977 stamps, the fourth anniversary with three 1981 stamps, the fifth with five 1979 stamps, the sixth with four 1980 stamps, the seventh with three 1981 stamps, the eighth with two 1982 stamps, the ninth with three 1983 stamps, and the 10th anniversary with a set of 10 stamps, all of which included an effigy of President Mengistu Haile-Mariam.



Left, 1988 people's republic 1 year Sc. 1226; right, 1990 flag Sc. 1282



In 1987 a "Democratic People's Republic" was proclaimed, and its first anniversary was celebrated on four 1988 stamps, one of which featured a portrait of President Mengistu Haile-Mariam. For the second anniversary of the People's Republic three 1989 stamps were issued. In 1980 a definitive series of 19 values featuring the flag of the People's Republic was issued.

Transitional Government



1994 transitional
government Sc. 1376



1994 definitive Simien Fox
Sc. 1393T

The Derg and its People's Republic was abolished in 1991, and a transitional government took over. The third anniversary of the transitional government was commemorated on four 1994 stamps, and a new definitive series featuring a fox also was issued.



Above, 1996 Democratic Federal Republic
Sc. 1437-41 on FDC; right, 2000 definitive



In 1995, Ethiopia was proclaimed as a democratic federal republic, and in 1996, five stamps were issued to celebrate that. A new definitive series of 23 values featuring a woodpecker was issued in 1998, and a similar series of 23 values featuring a Mene-



2000 Amhara flag Sc. 1540

lik's Bushbuck was issued in 2000. In 2005 a similar series featuring a Black Rhinoceros with 10 values was issued

The federal structure of the state was underlined with a 2000 set of 10 stamps displaying the flags of the (then nine) constituent states and of the federal republic.



2014 Southern Nation costume, Hamer, Sc. 1793

In 2014 a set of four stamps depicted costumes of four southern Ethiopian regions.



2008 martyrs, Sc. 1720

In 2008 three stamps were issued in memory of the victims of the 'Red Terror' by the Derg 1976-78, and in 2011 three stamps celebrated the 20th anniversary of the end of the military dictatorship.



2011 martyrs Monuments, Sc. 1760

In 2016 six stamps were issued to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the 1941 victory over the Italian occupation forces and the role Ethiopian patriots played in it.



2016 victory 75 years, Sc. 1844

The ethnic diversity of Ethiopia has sometimes led to armed conflicts between the central government and some of the larger ethnic groups. The most well-known of these are probably the Tigray War 2020-22 where around 500,000 people died of violence and famine.

In mid-2023 a war started in the Amhara Region between the Fano militia and the central government and this is still ongoing.



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