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ETHIO-JAPAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SINCE 1991

BY

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ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES PRESENTED
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ADVISOR

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SEPTEMBER 2021

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DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that this thesis, Ethio-Japan Diplomatic Relations since 1991, is my original work. Except where a proper citation has been made, this thesis contains no previously published material by any other person. Furthermore, I affirm that this thesis has not been presented or is currently being presented as part of the requirements of any other academic degree or publication, in English or any other language.

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CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Dessalegn Masrie entitled: Ethio- Japan Diplomatic Relations since 1991, submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Degree of Master of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy, obeys the regulations of the university and meets the accepted standards for originality and excellence.

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DEDICATION

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LIST OF ABRIVATIONS

| | |
|----------|--|
| AAU | Addis Ababa University |
| ACPST | African Centre for Peace and Security Training |
| AMISOM | African Union Mission to Somalia |
| AU | Africa Union |
| BBC | British Broadcasting Services |
| COVID-19 | Coronavirus international disease 2019 |
| EKI | Ethiopian Kaizen Institute |
| ENA | Ethiopian News Agency |
| ENDF | Ethiopian National Defense Force |
| EPA | Ethiopian Press Agency |
| EPRDF | Ethiopian People Revolutionary Democratic Front |
| ESLSE | Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Services Enterprise |
| FDI | Foreign Direct Investment |
| FDRE | Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GTP | Growth Transformation Plan |
| HOA | Horne of Africa |

| | |
|--------|---|
| IGAD | Inter-Governmental Authority Development |
| IR | International Relations |
| JEFA | Japan-Ethiopia Friendship Association |
| JETRO | Japan External Trade Organization |
| JICA | Japan International Cooperation Agency |
| MEXT | Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, And Technology |
| MoFA | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| PASDEP | Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty |
| Ph.D | Doctor of Philosophy |
| TICAD | Tokyo International Conference on African Development |
| UHC | Universal Health Coverage |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNAMID | United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur |
| UNECA | United Nations Economic Council for Africa |
| UNMISS | United Nations Mission in South Sudan |
| UNSC | United Nations Security Council |
| USD | United States Dollar |
| WIC | Walta Information Center |

WTO World Trade Organization

WWII World War Second

B2B Business to Business

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ABSTRACT

Restoring their relation in 1991, Ethiopia and Japan have enjoyed a robust diplomatic relation in many aspects. The study aims to analyze the diplomatic relation between Ethiopia and Japan since 1991 by focusing on political, economic, and people-to-people aspects of relations. To this end, the study employed a qualitative research approach. In doing so, key informant interviews, and document analyses were employed to collect the relevant data. The study tried to identify the political, economic, and people-to-people ties as the major themes that shaped the contemporary diplomatic relations of Ethiopia and Japan during the years (1991-2021). The political relation of Ethiopia and Japan mainly constitutes bilateral political consultations, diplomatic contacts through state visits, military cooperation, and regional peace and security. Policy dialogue, development cooperation, and trade relations altogether make up the economic relation. Sharing similarities in areas of culture, sport, common heritage, tourism, and intermarried, the people-to-people relations between the two countries have grown over the years. In short, this study revealed that the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan have grown and lingering in political, economic, and people-to-people ties since 1991.

Keywords: *International Relations, Diplomatic Relations, Political Relations, Economic Relations, People-to-people Relations*

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

International Relations (IR) is one of the sub-fields of Political Science which deals with a wide range of issues in the international system (Folarin, 2012). There are contending definitions provided by scholars to IR. For instance, Chris & Ainley (2005) define IR as the diplomatic relations of states. According to Peter and Juanita (2007), IR is the study of relations between nation-states. Likewise, Sutch and Elias (2007) in their work "International relations: The Basics", defined IR as the study of relations between nations. According to them, 'nations' intends here to refer to the interactions of nation-states-sovereign, territorially bounded political units.

From the above definitions, one can simply understand IR, as a field of study that deals with relations between states. But, if we take a glance at the world around us, we can understand that states are not the only actors in the international system. Rather, international and transnational governmental and non-governmental organizations have also a huge role (Carr, 1964, Glodstein, 2010). Hence, looking for more definitions would be compulsory.

In an attempt to define IR, Goldstein (2010)'s definition, "IR deals with interactions between state and non-state actors," appears appropriate for this study. Thus, in this study readers can sketch International Relations as a body of knowledge that studies the totality of relations between states and non-state actors beyond their national borders on matters of political, economic, and people-to-people relations at various levels, among other aspects of relations.

In today's world, where the nature of the international system requires more interconnectedness, many countries of the world established diplomatic relations with other states at bilateral, multilateral, and tri-lateral levels to deal on various issues of their common concerns. Similar to other states engaging in foreign relations, Ethiopia has a long history of relations with different countries of the world interacting with different cultures and civilizations (Richard, 1965, Bahru, 2002).

During the reign of Emperor Tewodros II (1855-1868), Ethiopia was highly aspired to establish foreign relations with foreign powers. Having strong aspired for modernization, Tewodros sought to cultivate friendly relations with European nations, it was towards the British that he manifested a special, almost affectionate (Bahiru, 2002, P.36). But he neither realized his longing for modernization nor centralized relations with external powers to achieve his modernization longing. According to Richard (1965), the foreign relation of Ethiopia was not centralized until the reign of Menelik II (1881-1906). After the death of Menelik II, continued to establish diplomatic relations with both western as well as non-western powers, such as Japan.

Ethiopia and Japan have a long history of relations that lasted for over a century (Reis, 2009). As Reise (2009) stated, the two nations started their relations soon after their war triumphs, Ethiopia at the Battle of Adwa against Italy during the first Italo-Ethiopia war of 1896, and Japan at Battle of Tsushima 1904-05, against Russia. According to Bahru (1990), both countries defeated their foreign aggressors and considered each other potential allies before World War II. In supporting the above arguments, Clarke (2004) also stated, sharing encouraging war triumphs, the two nations vow to start diplomatic relations in the early 1920s. Clerke (2009) further explained, the diplomatic relation between Ethiopia and Japan took its formal shape with the signing of a "treaty of amity and friendship" in 1930, which is the first of its kind with which both countries lap to deepen their relations with a strong motive through political and commercial exchange accounts.

Though the diplomatic relation between Ethiopia and Japan shows good progress at their early ages (the 1930s), their relations have been perverted during the time of WWII, due to global power balance, and during the post-war periods, due to regime changes in Ethiopia. For instance, following the revolution in Ethiopia, Japanese investor holdings were nationalized by the Derg regime that distorts the relation between Ethiopia and Japan for over a decade, until EPRDF, came to power and resume their relations in 1991.

However, the two countries restore their diplomatic relations in 1991; it is not well-known to what extent the diplomatic relationship between the two countries is thriving. The purpose of this study is to analyze the diplomatic relation between Ethiopia and Japan in terms of political, economic, and people-to-people ties since 1991.

1.2. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Ethiopia, located in the Horn of Africa. The headquarters of the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa are in Addis Abeba, making the city the epicenter of African diplomacy. According to World Bank, (2016) report, Ethiopia has sustained a high economic growth rate of around 10% on average annually in recent years certain results have shown improving agricultural productivity, primary education enrollment rates, and poverty reduction. While Japan, by now, is the third biggest global economy in the world and one of the most technologically advanced countries having achieved remarkable growth in the second half of the 20th Century. According to the World Economic Situation and Prospects (2019) report, Japan's role in the international community is considerable for its major donor and a source of global wealth. According to the Ethiopian Foreign Policy document (2002), Japan is one of Ethiopia's potential partners with its large development aid including technical assistance.

As indicated on the Country Assistance Policy for Ethiopia (2017), to support the Ethiopian government's efforts, Japan contributes to high-quality and stable economic growth in Ethiopia and the investment and advancement of Japanese companies, thereby enhancing bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries. While on the other hand, the people of Ethiopia and Japan share many similarities in terms of culture and traditions. Both nations have a culture of similar bowing when they greet elderly people to show their respect. Restoring their diplomatic relations in 1991, both Ethiopia and Japan have grown their diplomatic relations interacting through political, economic, and people-to-people ties.

Though the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan significantly increased in the post-1991 period, scholarly attention is lacking in the field. The diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan have not been adequately studied. Yet, there are few works of literature that worth mentioning in the field such as "*Alliance of the Colored Peoples: Ethiopia and Japan before World War II*" written by Clarke, J. (2011). Clarke explained the relation between Ethiopia and Japan during the second Italo-Ethiopian war of 1935-1936. Clarke's book is a watershed in our understanding of this topic and places it within a wider international perspective drawing on Japanese, Russian, Italian, French, and English foundations. Though it is an important contribution to the study of the diplomatic relationship between Ethiopia and Japan, Clerke fails

to analyze the relations between the two countries in the years after and more importantly since 1991.

Likewise, the veteran author Kebede Michael (1994), in his book "(ጃፓን እንደምን ሰለጠነች 'How has Japan Developed')", identifies many similarities between Ethiopia and Japan and summarizes despite the similarity in history, foreign relations, resource endowments, pressure for modern development, culture, Japan unlike Ethiopia achieved advanced economy. The literature attempts to answer the question 'what holds Ethiopia back not to follow Japan's development path?' then concludes that Ethiopia will benefit by sharing experiences of Japan. Thus, the author evoked Ethiopia should follow Japan's path of development endeavor without indicating the situations under which Ethiopia and Japan are within during and in the years now. The study became obsolete in time reportage. Hence, like Clerke, the literature fails to appropriately address contemporary relations of Ethiopia and Japan. Hence, this study is going to fill the time gaps by analyzing the post-1991 diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Foreign Affairs and National Security Policy and Strategy white document of Ethiopia (2002), underlined, how important is; to established and maintain strong diplomatic relation with Japan for its advanced economy, market, substantial aid, and technical assistance without to explaining how the bilateral relations between the two countries moved then. Furthermore, the document gave greater emphasis to economic relations and excluded political and social aspects of the relations. While conducting a study on the subject, the researcher identified the time gap, that most studies that were conducted before this study became obsolete (outdated) and incapable of analyzing the diplomatic relation between Ethiopia and Japan since 1991.

Moreover, there are other articles and scholarly opinions on the issue. Among these "*Japan and Ethiopia: An appraisal similarities and divergent courses*" written by Messay Kebede (1997) is one worth mentioning. The author puts the two countries into different weights and tries to balance their level of development based on the different variables each has. Hence, he concluded that despite the similarities Japan and Ethiopia have shared in common; the former is highly advanced using its resources and technology accordingly while the latter failed to do so. In addition, "*Learning from the East: Ethiopia-Japan Industrial Policy Dialogue*" was written by Kenichi and Izume (2012). The research focused only on the economic aspects of their relations.

The research doesn't perpetuate the current dynamics of the relations and showcases their relations in political and people-to-people ties.

The aforementioned two writings are not full-fledged researches rather scholastic opinions in form of articles. The arguments are not emanated from an extensive research study. Moreover, they did not analyze the political, economic, and people-to-people ties aspects of relations between the two countries. Thus, this study fills the gap by analyzing the political, economic, and people-to-people relation aspects of Ethiopia and Japan.

Addressing the gaps identified above, this study attempts to contribute to the scanty literature on the subject. Therefore, the study incorporates different aspects of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan since 1991. Accordingly, the political, economic, and people-to-people relations of the two countries are entirely discussed throughout this study.

Therefore, by addressing the limitations of previous studies mentioned above, the study intensively analyzes the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan since 1991, in terms of their political, economic, and people-to-people relations.

1.3. CORE ARGUMENT

The central argument of this research is; despite the fact that relations between Ethiopia and Japan have improved since 1991, it has been observed that the former is mostly a recipient of aid while the latter is mainly a donor.

1.4. OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

1.4.1. General Objective

This study aims to analyze the diplomatic relation between Ethiopia and Japan since 1991.

1.4.2. Specific Objectives

The Specific Objectives of the study is intended to be:

- To analyze the political relations between Ethiopia and Japan
- To explain the economic relations between Ethiopia and Japan

- To reveal the people-to-people ties between Ethiopia and Japan

1.5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1.5.1. Core Research Question

The central question of this study is "How has Ethio-Japan diplomatic relations improved since 1991?"

1.5.2. Specific Research Questions

The specific research questions are as follows:

- What explains the political relation between Ethiopia and Japan?
- What is the stale economic relation between Ethiopia and Japan?
- How are people-to-people ties between Ethiopia and Japan developing since 1991?

1.6. RESEARCH METHOD

The logic of development of the process used to generate theory is indicated by research methodology, which is a procedural framework within which the research is conducted (Remenyi et. al., 1998). According to Kaplan (1964), methodology suggests how inquiries should proceed by indicating what problems are worth studying, how to frame a problem so it can be explored, how to develop appropriate data generation, and how to make the logical link between the problem, data generated, analysis, and conclusions drawn.

While conducting this study, the researcher identified the appropriate research method; sampling technique, data collection instrument, data analysis procedure, and presentation. Thus, this study employed a qualitative research method. According to Creswell (2005), a qualitative method is required when a topic has never been addressed with a specific sample or group of people. As Mason (2002) indicated, "*qualitative inquiry helps to analyze the understandings, experiences, and imaginings of research participants, the ways that social processes, institution, discourse and relationship work and the significance of meanings that they generate.*" Moreover, the qualitative method is also important to discuss a complex political phenomenon (Khotari, 2004).

Therefore, the study was conducted with proper scrutiny of important documents and sources from key informants. Therefore, this study employed a qualitative research method.

1.6.1. SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Research is a scientific process of investigation and experimentation that involves the systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data to answer a certain question or solve a problem (Anand & Megha, 2004). Based on the research problem that the study aims to address; the researcher employed purposive sampling technique. Purposive sampling employed when the researcher decides what needs to be known and sets out to find people who can and are willing to provide the information by knowledge or experience (Bernard 2002, Lewis & Sheppard 2006).

While conducting this study, the researcher intended to interview 12 participants. However, the data saturated after interviewed 8 participants. Participants were selected based on their positions, experience, proximity to the study, and knowledge on the diplomatic relation between Ethiopia and Japan.

1.6.2. SOURCES OF DATA

In this study, the researcher referred both primary and secondary sources. Books, Journal Articles, Newspapers, Magazines, Letters, and Web sources were among the secondary sources, while data obtained from key informants' interviews contains the primary sources.

1.6.2.1. INSTRUMENTS OF DATA COLLECTION

1.6.2.1.1. KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW

According to Kumar (1989), Key informant interviews entail interviewing a small group of people who are likely to provide needed information, idea, and insights on a specific topic. In the long history of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan, quite a lot of scholars pursued their scholarship in Japan Universities and Japanese who live in Ethiopia. Thus, in this study, the researcher had interviewed some of those scholars who attend their education in different Japan Universities. Other than these scholars, the researcher has also interviewed ambassadors of Japan to Ethiopia, ambassador and Head of Mission of Japan to the African Union, diplomats who are

working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, higher governmental officials from the Ethiopian side, and people who have better understanding of the both nations.

1.6.3. DATA ANALYSIS PROCEDURE

As far as data analysis is concerned, the researcher has used a thematic way of data analysis. First, the researcher has transcribed the data which was collected through key informant interviews, and document analysis then organized the data by categorizing them thematically.

1.7. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

As Creswell (2003), has noted clearly, ethics in research is very crucial to come up with a credible and reliable study. Accordingly, in order to keep the anonymity and confidentiality of the interviewee the researcher refrained from using their names in this study.

1.8. SCOPE

Ethiopia and Japan have had diplomatic relations in many areas since the 1920s when the two countries started relations officially. However, this study analyzes issues of diplomatic relations between the two countries in political, economic, and people-to-people ties in terms of content. While on the other hand, in terms of time this study selectively focuses the post-1991 period. Hence, this study entirely focused on the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan since 1991.

1.9. SIGNIFICANCE

This study will have paramount importance for researchers, scholars, policymakers, interested bodies who aspire to conduct studies on the area. The study can initiate researchers to further study by indicating gaps in the area of political, economic, and people-to-people aspects of the relations between Ethiopia and Japan. Furthermore, since the issues conducted in this study are contemporary and ongoing, it would fill the existing gap in the area and serves as a reference for those who aspire to conduct a study on the area. Moreover, it also serves as an input for policymakers of the country.

1.10. LIMITATIONS

This study was conducted under certain challenging situations. The interviewees who take part in this study are ambassadors and higher governmental officials from both countries. So, COVID-19, pandemic, and its restrictive protocols were the most hindering part of the researcher to get data on time from the estimated interviewees. To surmount this challenge, the researcher had keenly followed up contacts and uses different means to communicate them in person and on online platforms. It was the challenge that the researcher encountered while conducting this study.

1.11. ORGANIZATION

The study consists of five chapters. The first chapter deals with the introductory part of the study which includes; the background of the study, statement of the problem, general and specific objectives of the study, research questions, significance, scope, and limitations of the study, as well as, methodology of the study. The second chapter deals with a review of literature. The third chapter mainly deals with the historical developments in the relations between Ethiopia and Japan; while the fourth chapter deals with data analysis and presentation that discusses and analyzes the major findings of the study. The last chapter deals with the Conclusion of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

2.1. CONCEPTUAL PERSPECTIVE

Under this chapter, the researcher will provide a discussion on concepts of International Relations and diplomacy to understand the link between IR and diplomacy, and the imperative for diplomatic relations. For this study, IR and Diplomacy are two sides of the same coin: one cannot exist without the other- both are mutually underpinning. To entertain the concept, this chapter has been divided into three major sections: the first section deals with IR, Diplomacy, and aspects of diplomatic relations, the second deals with theoretical perspective; while the third focuses on conceptual frameworks of the study.

2.1.1. DEFINATION OF CONCEPTS

2.1.1.1. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

However, there is no agreement among scholars in the field on how to best understand its subject matter, in both conceptual and theoretical terms and its methods of knowledge production; there are competing definitions. According to Peter and Juanita (2007), the study of international relations is primarily about the interaction of countries or states. As stated by Lake (2008), “*state is central to the study of international relations and likely to remain so into the foreseeable future*”. Keck and Sikkink (1998) argued in support of the above that IR as an academic discipline is primarily concerned with what states do and how their actions affect other states. However, for many, the state remains the primary actor in international politics, contrary to the narrow traditionalist realist view of international relations and foreign policy/relations, one needs to look wider on the physical security and protection of the territory of a state and its people.

Although 'international' literally means relations among nations, its relations among sovereign states are influenced by international governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations that necessitate the remit of our investigations to account for the diversity of actors and forms of interactions that take place in the international system. When considered in terms of the dynamics of change and how we provide explanations for change, the question returns to an

earlier issue, namely the ability to make a difference. When thought of in terms of 'capacity, the 'agency' of states is as much as that of the UN or Amnesty International, for each activity within a wider whole, whether this is conceived in terms of the international political economy or the international legal order, or indeed the anarchical international system (Giddens, 1984). According to Schielder and Spindler (2014), international relations, in the broadest sense, consist of all cross-border interactions between state and non-state actors that result in politically relevant value allocations in the spheres of security, economy, authority, and the social affairs. Hence, IR tends to focus on the study of actors in international politics, including states and non-state actors (Goldstein, 2010). Hence, this conventional view has been broadened over the years to include relationships between all sorts of political entities, including international organizations, multinational corporations, societies, and citizens.

According to Brown and Ainley (2003), the term "international relations" is used by both scholars and non-scholars to describe global relations between states, organizations, and individuals. Richard Devetak in his book, "An Introduction to International Relations" defined IR, as the external relations among nations, states, and peoples (PP.1-3). As individuals have relations with other individuals, states have to deal with each other in terms of cooperation as well as conflict (Carr, 2010). Considering all the above definitions and attempts to conceptualize IR, one can conceive IR, as a wide-ranging subject that allows students, teachers, researchers, academicians, and others to investigate and research the relation between countries and governments, and non-state actors.

2.1.1.2. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Any discussion of diplomacy will logically start with its definition, scope, and purpose. As with many similar issues, there is a lot of confusion about diplomacy, though some definitions have been attempted. Nicolson (1969) in his classic book "Diplomacy" argued, the word diplomacy was imprecisely employed to refer to several concepts. For Nicolson, diplomacy is:

A synonym for a foreign policy that signifies 'Negotiation' as the problem might be solved by diplomacy. It is sometimes used in the sense of processes and machinery by which negotiation is carried out. It sometimes denotes a branch of foreign services. It is a skill in the conduct of international negotiations (PP.23-24).

Nicolson's definition encompasses different concepts such as negotiation, processes, instruments, agencies, skills, even diplomacy itself. Unless and otherwise having other contending definitions, the above one will lead to confusion. So, looking for more definitions will be highly inevitable. Diplomacy, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is the negotiation-based management of international relations. It is the method by which ambassadors and envoys adjust and manage these relationships. It is the art or business of the diplomat. From this definition, we can get three concepts that are interrelated but indicating different aspects, levels, or portions of diplomacy. The first is substance, the second is a method and the third refers to the profession. Like the previous definitions, the Oxford English Dictionary lacks to come up with one clear-cut definition to conceive diplomacy in its full sense. So that we have to look at other definitions that went back and forth in time to provide a comprehensive definition to understand what diplomacy and diplomatic relations are.

J.H. Adam Watson, a preeminent figure in the study of international relations, defined diplomacy as a "negotiation of political entities that acknowledge each other's independence" in his book "Diplomacy: The Dialogue between States" (1982:33). According to Watson, in the contemporary international system, states use diplomacy mainly to gather information abroad, to analyze such information by their foreign ministries at home, to develop policy based on that information, and, to communicate with designed policies. Watson's definition is quite good compared to the others we have seen so far. But, in today's world, where international actors are not limited to states, a definition that has no room for non-state actors and public diplomacy is not said to be comprehensive. As a result, we should look to Barston (1985), who provided a more comprehensive definition of diplomacy, which reads as follows:

Diplomacy is concerned with managing relationships between states and other actors. Diplomacy is concerned with advising, shaping, and implementing foreign policy from the standpoint of a state. As such, it is how states use correspondence, private talks, exchange of views, lobbying, visits, threats, and other related activities to articulate, coordinate, and secure specific or broader interests. (Page 1)

Cultivating and managing a favorable world opinion toward a nation-state is the mandate of diplomacy. According to Kissinger (1999), diplomacy is the art of conducting relations (treaties,

external trade, peacemaking, and war, issues of environment, culture, and external representation) through a polite, non-hurtful manner on behalf of a state through the engagement of professionals. According to the ABC of Diplomacy (2008), diplomacy is how States throughout the world conduct their affairs in ways to ensure peaceful relations. Hence, diplomacy generally refers to a government's process of communicating with other states and non-state actors in an attempt to bring about understanding for its nation's ideas and ideals, its institutions, and culture, as well as its national goals and current policies. By this consensus, nation-states partake in the most pluralistic organizing institution in the international system. One state can confidently enter into diplomatic relations with another-states under a shared understanding (Ashari, n.y, P.2). Having all the above definitions and concepts, we can define and conceptualize the term "diplomatic relation" to refer to the diplomatic contacts between states, which involve permanent contact and communication.

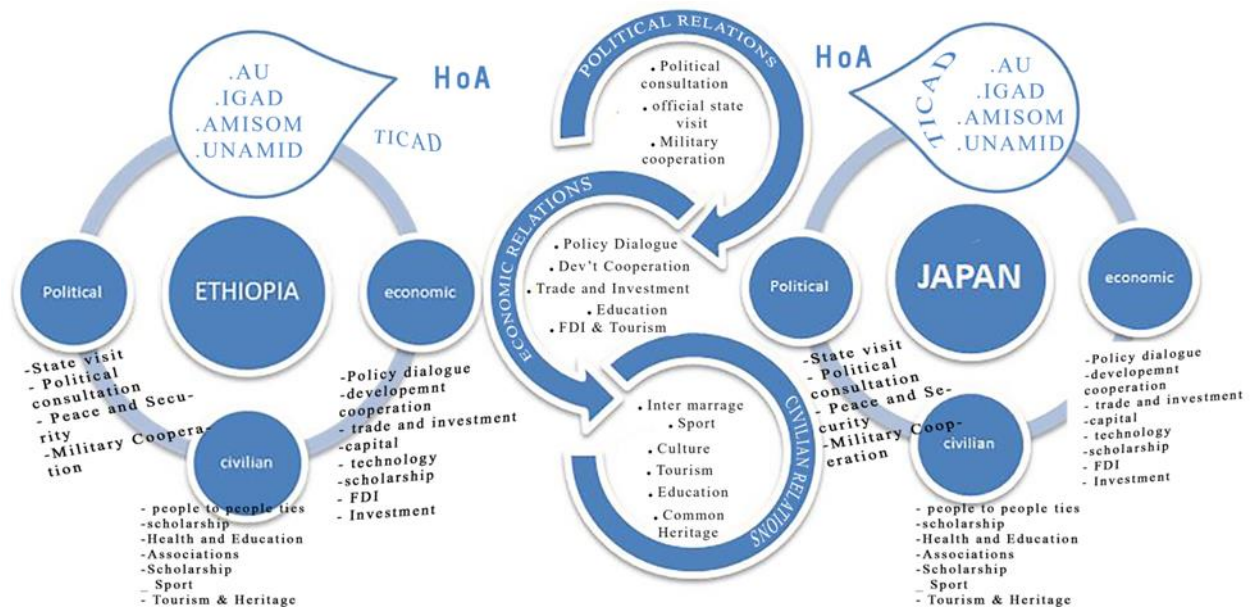
Moreover, diplomacy is the external action of the state, which adjusts and manages its relations with other states of the regional or global system. In doing so, as part of diplomatic relations, states usually fortune their relations at different levels and aspects. Berridge (2010) in his work "Modern Diplomacy" highlighted the interaction of states can take place at various levels, mainly political, economic, and civilian aspects of their common interests. He underlined that when states are in diplomatic relations they can, in principle, communicate freely with each other and, so, in the most effective manner possible.

To make it happen states established diplomatic missions abroad and designated delegates or exchange ambassadors. According to Burian (2000), the diplomatic mission is the primary tool for establishing and maintaining diplomatic relations, and as such it contributes openly and directly to inter-state cooperation. To establish relations with other countries, all states, regardless of size, economic power, or political regime, establish a greater or lesser number of diplomatic missions (2000, P.14). Once a diplomatic mission is established, states are involved in the conduct of diplomatic relations devoting most of their time to political and economic reporting, lobbying, supporting the activities of businesses from home, assisting distressed nationals, and propaganda.

2.1.2. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Accordingly, the reviewed literature and theories above, the conceptual framework of the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan are presented in SmartArt-diagram portrayed as below.

Figure 2.1; Conceptual framework of the diplomatic relations of Ethiopia and Japan



Source: Developed by the researcher

The preceding framework depicts the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan since 1991, in terms of their political, economic, and people-to-people aspects of relations. Thus, Ethiopia and Japan are represented by the radial circles on the left and right, respectively. While the middle circles arrow process (bilateral interaction area) depicts the bilateral aspects of relations between the two countries. In this area, political, economic, and people-to-people ties are written in a warped text with an arc line in bold. The elements that comprise the interaction are listed under each sphere of interaction (political, economic, and people-to-people as a result, Ethiopia and Japan's political relationship is primarily bilateral.

Based on this view, the political relationship between Ethiopia and Japan consists primarily of bilateral political consultations, diplomatic contacts through state visits, military cooperation,

and regional peace and security. While, the economic relation comprised of policy dialogue, development cooperation, and trade. Last but not to a lesser extent, culture, sport, common heritage, tourism, and intermarried constituents are examples of people-to-people ties. Texts written in country circles represent the tools and resources that each country employs in its political, economic, and people-to-people ties.

Outside of bilateral relations, the two teardrop shapes above country circles denote areas of common regional interest. As depicted in the image, Ethiopia and Japan have indirect political interactions through IGAD, and the AU due to the HoA. The issues of the three institutions' interactions are depicted by texts written within the circles that represent the institutions. As a result, Ethiopia and Japan collaborate in AMISOM, UNMID, and UNMISS, all of which operate under the auspices of the UN Security Council. At the continental level, TICAD represents one form of interaction between Ethiopia and Japan. Through IGAD, Japan and Ethiopia also have political interactions.

In general, the above conceptual framework depicts the nature and elements of bilateral, regional, and multilateral Ethiopia-Japan relations. Furthermore, the framework clarifies the tools and resources used by each country to achieve their respective political, economic, and people-to-people relationship goals through bilateral interactions.

2.2.1. ASPECTS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

According to Burian (2000), the diplomatic relation between states could be seen from three major aspects; political, economic, and people-to-people ties. This subsection will deal with the three aspects of diplomatic relations as follows:

2.2.1.1. POLITICAL RELATIONS

Diplomacy is an essentially political activity and, well-resourced and skillful, a major ingredient of power (Berridge, 2010). Using different diplomatic methods, states are involved in diplomatic relations at bilateral, trilateral, and multilateral levels (Barston, 2014). Regarding the various methods used by states in their diplomatic communication Barston stated as follows:

By using personal or direct diplomacy through visits, correspondence, and telephone conversations, heads of government and foreign ministers, envoys and other senior leaders establish contacts, promote their country's image, or try and improve bilateral, official, and other relations. Personal diplomacy through visits is also used frequently to put the seal of approval on a major project or agreement. Visits of this kind, whether they be ceremonial, psychological, or have a substantive purpose, reflect the growing involvement in the diplomacy of the head of state or government and a variety of key representatives of banks, corporations, regional institutions, and other organizations. (2014)

In the above statement, Barston underlined that the diplomatic system now encompasses considerably more than the work of resident missions and negotiation becomes more and more its operational focus as we move into the realms of multilateral diplomacy, summitry, and conference diplomacy engaged at bilateral and multilateral levels. That opens up a chance for home-based experts or, more rarely, government ministers to take part in the business of diplomacy during a bilateral negotiation abroad. But that doesn't mean missions abroad are becoming diminished in their role. Embassies still play an important role, although a less visible one. Gathering information on political - and, indeed, on the military, economic and other developments - and reporting it home has long been recognized as one of the most important functions of the resident embassy (Berridge, 2010, P.117). According to Henderson (1994), and Jackson (1981), in negotiation, the most important function of diplomacy is broadly conceived, resident ambassadors and their staff also continue to have more than a walk-on part. Indeed, the settlement of some matters such as amendments to existing agreements of greater significance, such as the rescheduling of the repayment of a loan; and important topics that require many months, perhaps years, to conclude and sometimes need great secrecy might still be left largely, or even entirely, to the embassy.

2.2.1.2. ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Economic diplomacy is a relatively new branch of diplomacy. As a result, it is inadequately researched and conceptualized. The study of diplomacy still requires gray areas. Thus, economic diplomacy has yet to be studied, conceptualized, and investigated to the fullest picture in terms

of what it means, what to do, and what it aims to study. Despite the shortcomings to quote scholarly arguments and definitions, as a scholar of IR, we can forward what economic diplomacy possibly means based on certain theoretical perspectives with which we could reflect our professional definition. If we define economic diplomacy from a realist perspective and liberalist perspective, we may get different meanings.

For instance, from the realist perspective, economic diplomacy is simply economic statecrafts as an aspect of diplomacy that has the aim of maintaining the economic security of the state. Therefore, the idea of economic diplomacy for the realist is rooted in their traditional conception of what they know as the international system; the global political system is "anarchy" in the absence of a central structure where there is not a central authority to regulate and govern the international system. So, therefore, for the realists, the international system is a self-help system. For the realist, the international system is the system in which where the fittest survives. To become the fittest in the anarchical nature of the international system states must maximize their power and this power could be maximized by the economy too. Michael Masanduno in his book "Economics and Security in Statecraft and Scholarship 1998:278) argued, economic diplomacy for the realist is "either economic statecraft or maintained the economic security of the state" so, therefore, economic diplomacy from the realist point of view could be perceived as perusing of the economic security of the state.

According to Brito, and Pelkmans (2016:40), if we try to conceived economic diplomacy from the liberalist theoretical perspective, it is "the creation, regulation, and developments of the market with the intent of assuring mutual benefits among the parties" by a system of rules, laws, international norms by which state are bid together with the common rules. There is a possibility where international actors, organizations, norms resolve the dispute and create a conducive environment for states to ally, cooperate to be strong in the economy, and generate and hammer out the incompatibility of goods. Because for liberalists, despite there is an incompatibility of the foreign policy of a state there is a great tendency of interdependency to one another through institutions. However, economic diplomacy has not a clear-cut definition in a study of diplomatic relations between states; it is common to see states conducting cooperation in trade, investment, aid, FDI, and other economic aspects of diplomatic relations.

The economic relations of states could be seen from the commercial or economic diplomacy perspectives. Until well into the twentieth century, the diplomatic services of most states regarded commercial work either as the responsibility of the socially inferior consul or of an autonomous or semi-autonomous foreign trade service. According to Berridge (2010), commercial diplomacy includes the use of embassy resources to promote both exports and inward investment, as well as the cultivation of aid donors in the case of poor countries. To boost their economic relations, states designated trade and economic attaches in their embassies and consulates to work as market intelligence, opening doors for trade missions and companies from home and contributing to the negotiation of bilateral commercial agreements. As a result, over the last few decades not only states, but also export promotion agencies, have emerged in many countries as popular agents to increase exports, both in developed and developing countries (Marie, Mina, and Peter, 2010). Export promotion agencies, operating at private and joint venture levels with no support from the business community and the public sector, look to access foreign markets in other countries. They began to use the network of embassies and consulates abroad for hands-on information about potential markets (Keesing and Singer 1991, Wulf, 2001). So, embassies and consulates become a means to foster bilateral trade and exports between countries. In line with this, and unlike the past, states have changed their foreign services in their embassies and consulates to oversee and facilitate trade and investment opportunities for their growing business firms and companies. To make that happen diplomats started to pay attention to the 'low politics' of trade and investment (Kostecki and Naray, 2007). Thus, economic diplomacy influences bilateral trade flows between countries. According to Rose (2007, ellipsis mine), states become more effective and beneficial in broadening their bilateral exports flows through frequent export promotion, official visits, embassies and consulates networking to increase cross-border economic activities of exports and imports, and truism by using economic diplomacy as an instrument to foster relations.

However, economic diplomacy shows promising results in nurturing trade/commercial flows, barriers in international trade still need to pay attention to maintain the good momentum among states. The direct and indirect role of the state through economic diplomacy helps export promotion agencies to be free from conventional trade barriers, many often intangible hurdles that need to be overcome in international trade. States through multilateral forums of WTO, be able to remove many trade barriers and reduce transportation costs. However, states do their level best

to reduce conventional trade barriers other factors (language, cultural and institutional gap) still triggers the international trade relations (Ramaswami and Yang, 1990). Such factors required states to work on civilian relations by developing people to people ties among nations with differences in language, culture, and values.

2.2.1.3. PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE RELATIONS

Diplomacy existed for a long root of earlier forms conducting public diplomacy going back to the time of ancient civilization during city-states of the time to manage to cultivate friendship among the public of the respective city-states (Glinchey, 2017). It was in practice in those times public diplomacy was largely dependent upon state-sponsored programs. As a result, unlike what it should be essentially it was under wavering of the domain of the foreign offices of the state concern. Using foreign services, states practice public diplomacy for understanding, informing, and influencing the foreign public. However, in today's world, where globalization has changed the nature of the world to be open to foreign culture and values, public diplomacy has become a means of collaborative engagement by the public, citizens of different states.

According to Stanzel (2018), unlike the past, where states use public diplomacy as an instrument of involving, understanding, influencing foreign publics, now a day's it becomes very significant to build people-to-people ties among nations to foster civilian relations with a different language, culture, values, and trends. Now a day's, states through their foreign services facilitate and provide educational programs, exchange programs, host cultural shows/events, arrange visitor programs, and offer language training programs to flourish civilian relations with foreign nationals as part of public diplomacy.

2.2. 2. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

Research is only meaningful when it relates to a theory (Yeraswork, 2010). Theories in social science in general and IR, in particular, are very crucial to analyze, explain and, reveal any sort of findings (Sharp, 2009). Theories in the study of International Relations are extremely valuable in helping us understand and make sense of the world around us through various lenses, each of which represents a different theoretical perspective.

Spindler M. and Siegfried S. (2014), in their idea of “Theoretical Pluralism” shows us the presence of different competitive and contested theoretical perspectives, approaches, and concepts that could be used to describe, explain and understand the global political system. However, there are many contending theories; in the discipline of International Relations, Liberalism and realism are the two most dominant. Peter Sutch and Juanita Elias (2007; P.65) in their book “International Relations: The Basics” stated:

Liberalism is therefore described in broad terms as relying on claims about the impact of interdependence, the benefits of free trade, collective security and the existence of a real harmony of interests between states. For the canonical thinkers in this tradition morality has a key place in our political thinking as ultimately it is individuals, rather than states, that are important in international relations (as in all life).

Likewise, as Jakobs (2014, P.22) indicated, “Realism is one of the dominant and highly influential theories of IR “since the late 1970s with its unique approaches and methodology to study International politics”. According to Jakobs, realism as a long theoretical tradition dating its time and tracing intellectual linkages to Thucydides, Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes and other prominent scholars. In his empirical and historical analysis approach, Jakobs emphasizes on “power” as a significant and key constitutive and regulative factor on the global politics system taking account on the works of prominent realist exponents who considered “power” as the strong motive by states that struggle for power intended to maintain, increase or demonstrate it. Thus, until late 1908s, Realism was a response to a type of political thought that declares the pursuit of power as the ultimate goal of politics” (Jakobs, 2014). However, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Neorealism as a theory brought a paradigm shift to the view of International system that reformulates the traditional realist thinking on international politics following Waltz aspires to develop a systemic theory of international politics (ibid,P.37).

During the same period, IR scholars such as Alexander Wendt, one of the most prominent figures led to the establishment of constructivist approaches within the theoretical spectrum of International Relations (Ulbert, 2014). According to him (P.250), “*constructivist is simply an approach, perspective, paradigm, methodology used to build theoretical perspectives in international relations to examine, understand, explain, describe and analyses the global political system*”. For constructivists, the world that we live in is socially constructed through the

way in which we deal with others, and the philosophy and psychological attachment we have to the surrounding environment mainly the meanings of objects and attitudes we have to it.

Even if there are many IR theories to be linked while conducting a particular study on the diplomatic relations of states under the realm of the international system, (liberalism, constructivism, and neo-realism) could potentially referred to discuss the relation between Ethiopia and Japan among other things.

2.2.2.1. NEOREALISM

Neorealism is an ideological departure from Morgenthau's writing on classical realism (Simt and Sndial, 2008). The term was outlined by Kenneth Walt. Neorealism is a theory of international relations that emphasizes the power of the state (Sagan, 2004). The theory holds that states are the only rational actors in international politics. According to Keohane, states are unitary rational actors who carefully calculate the costs of alternative courses of action and seek to maximize their expected utility, despite the fact that they do so under conditions of uncertainty and without necessarily having enough information about alternatives or resources to conduct a full review of all possible courses of action (1986, p. 164). According to realists like Keohane, states are sovereign over their internal and external affairs- that no external bodies exist to command them. Based on this view, realists argued that states selfishly pursue their national interests against other states. To this end, states maximize their power.

For realists, power is the possible and the way to realize their interest in the competing and anarchical nature of the international system. In this anarchical system, realists believe that there is a relative gain in the international system of state-to-state interactions. In this sense, with the relative strong power they possessed, states are the only rational actors to secure their interests against others.

According to Waltz (1979), the relativity of power requires states to be more concerned with relative strength than with absolute advantage. Hence, states will act to pursue their abatable conditions based on the cost-benefit analysis states make a cost-benefit analysis they made. Yet, in any way, there are only relative gains. While on the other hand, neorealists believe the international system is left anarchical in which stats involve according to their capability. As

Donnelly (2000), stated that “*states must rely on their power to minimize security dilemmas caused by the anarchic nature of international relations*”. The absence of 'world government' to enforce rules of game forces state to rely on their capability in dealing with others (Waltz, 1979).

Base on the accounts of realists discussed above, it is possible to analyze the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan. As a unitary actor in the international system, both Ethiopia and Japan were there dealing with their affairs without the influence of any external authority. If we could look at the contemporary relations between the two countries, we found that the relation between the two countries reminds only based on state-to-state. However, since Ethiopia and Japan have a mutual interest in the politics of the Horn of Africa, since has a political influence on the region, Japan insists to support the former. Similarly in the economic aspects, Ethiopia and Japan have possessed different capabilities. The latter is more powerful than the former as far as an economic power is concerned. This means Japan is more powerful than Ethiopia.

Under such circumstances, the realists emphasize power difference as a determinant of what states gain in relation with others is correct as the uneven nature of Ethiopia and Japan is concerned. To sum up, realism accurately explains some aspects of Ethiopian-Japanese relations. Security-based historical relations, differences in the trade balance, and varying degrees of influence within and outside respective regions, among other things, are better explained by realism arguments as far as the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan are concerned.

2.2.2.2. LIBERAL THEORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

The term "liberalism," from the Latin "liber" meaning "free," referred originally to the philosophy of freedom. To lay a flash at the outset and to dismiss semantics, a liberal is here defined as one who believes in utilizing the full force of government for the advancement of social, political, and economic justice at the municipal, state, national, and international levels (Mises, 2005). According to Atlantic (1953), a liberal believes the government is a proper tool to use in the development of a society that attempts to carry moral principles of conduct into practical effect (as cited in Mises, 2005).

According to Brown and Ainley (2005), *“Liberalism as the theory of International Relations explains how and why different actors conduct relations with each other. It is based on the assumption that there are multiple channels of access between states, different branches of the state apparatus as well as non-state actors”* (as cited in Mamo, 2015). The hypothesis is given above by the two scholars who involve both state and non-state actors can best explain the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan. Other than their respective embassies of Ethiopia and Japan [the former in Tokyo and the latter in Addis Ababa] both countries conduct their bilateral relations at various levels interacting through different firms and organizations such as JICA, TICAD, IGAD, e.t.c.

According to liberals the interests of states are multiple and changing. Mutuality of interests will grow with increased interdependence and the spread of democratic values; states and other actors will be better able to understand their common interests with improved knowledge and communications (Mansbridge.e.tal., 2010). According to the liberal argument, with the proper institutions and diplomacy, liberals believe that states can work together to maximize prosperity and minimize conflict. Liberalism aims at peaceful cooperation just as much between nations as within each nation both at domestic and abroad. The starting point of liberal thought is the recognition of the value and importance of human cooperation, and the whole policy and program of liberalism are designed to serve the purpose of maintaining the existing state of cooperation among the members of the human race and of still extending it. When it comes to Ethiopia and Japan, the opening of Embassies in Tokyo and Addis Ababa respectively, by respective states, had played a crucial role in facilitating communications between the two countries to attain their multiple and changing interests.

Liberals argued that with the spread of free trade and capitalism, through the efforts of powerful liberal states and international organizations, there will be mutually beneficial between states to decreases conflict and makes war less likely (Mcglinchey, Walters & Gold, 2017, P.24 States with extensive trade ties have a strong incentive to keep their relations peaceful. Therefore, establishing and maintaining interdependence with economic, political, people-to-people relations, and other means would be sufficient to foster an era of peaceful coexistence among states (Ravenhill, 2016). Encapsulating the above liberalist argument, one might think the relations between Ethiopia and Japan, are good enough to be an applicable theory in the conduct

of research on the diplomatic relation between Ethiopia and Japan, to be effective than ever before.

When we look at the early relations between Ethiopia and Japan, the major emphasis was an aspiration to have engagement and cooperation in trade and commerce (Clarke III, 2004). As Clarke (2014) indicated, trade and friendship were mainline of relations between the two geographically far nations. Therefore, this study employed 'Liberal Theory' to analyze the diplomatic relation between Ethiopia and Japan since 1991.

2.2.2.3. CONSTRUCTIVISM

The term “*constructivism*” has introduced to the IR theory at the end of the cold war, an event that the traditional theories such as realism and liberalism failed to account for (Theys, 2018). Nicholas Onuf has been credited for coining the term constructivism for the first time to describe theories that stress the socially constructed character of international relations (Martha, 1996). According to Jakson and Sorensen (2010), since the late 1980s and early 1990s, constructivism has become one of the major schools of thought within international relations.

Constructivism primarily seeks to demonstrate how, contrary to the assumptions of neorealism and neoliberalism, core aspects of international relations are socially constructed, that is, they are given shape by ongoing processes of social practice and interaction (Wendt, 1999). Constructivism, according to proponents such as Alexander Wendt, is based on two main assumptions. These are that the structures of human association are determined primarily by shared ideas rather than material forces, and that the identities and interests of purposeful actors are constructed rather than given by nature (1999; P.11). Writers who identify as constructivist theorists, according to constructivists, share the belief that international relations are influenced not only by power politics, but also by idea. This leads social constructivists to argue that changes like social interaction between states can bring a fundamental shift towards greater international security (Baylis, John, 2011). Moreover, proponents of the constructivism theory of International Relations see the world based on two assumptions. The first assumption is that the fundamental structure of international relations is socially constructed. The second is that changing the way we think about international relations can help bring about greater international security (Theys, 2018).

Constructivists believe that social structures are made up of elements such as shared knowledge, material resources, and practices (Baylis 2003). Hence, one may perceive constructivism as a social theory that contends that important aspects of international relations are shaped by ideational factors other than material ones. Furthermore, Donnelly et al. (2005) provided the following explanation:

Through imagination, communication, and constraint, normative and ideational structures shape actors' identities and interests. Concerning the first of these, constructivists contend that non-material structures influence what actors perceive to be the realm of possibility: how they believe they should act, what the perceived constraints on their actions are, and what strategies they can imagine achieving their goals.

The above statement implies that states have an identity, which is detrimental to their interaction with others in which the identity of the state infers its preferences and consequent actions. According to constructivist assumptions, a state understands others based on the identity it assigns to them, while also reproducing its own identity through daily social practice. Understanding how actors develop their interests, according to constructivists, is critical to explaining a wide range of international political phenomena to explain interest formation, constructivists focus on the social identities of individuals or states. This is due to the fact that 'Identities are the foundations of interests' (Wendt 1992). Hence, states' actions in the foreign policy realm are constrained and empowered by prevailing social practices at home and abroad. States develop their relations with, and understandings of others through the media of norms and practices.

Considering the assumptions above, one can apply the theory of constrictive to explain the diplomatic relation between Ethiopia and Japan-since the bilateral relations between the two countries are influenced by social practices at both domestic and international levels. For instance, in Ethiopia, a new social practice is underway since 1991 and resulted in the formation of ethnic-based federalism under FDRE. Following this, in post-1991 Ethiopia, various social, economic, and political transformations are taking place along with these social identities.

According to Mamo (2015), federalism, free market, secularism, democratization, and agrarian economy are some of the features that explain the identity of contemporary Ethiopia, under its

federal state structure. This means the identity of Ethiopia is built along with these features. This social structure at home shaped the formation of external relations including bilateral relations with Japan. This shows how the non-material resources are also important in the course of their diplomatic interactions at various levels.

CHAPTER THREE

ETHIOPIA AND JAPAN RELATIONS: THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

In this chapter, we will explore the historical background of Ethiopia-Japan relations. By reviewing the various sources (written and oral) of the two countries' the chapter elucidate the basis of their today's relation.

3.1. ETHIOPIA AND JAPAN: EARLY CONTACTS

Ethiopia has had multilateral historical contacts with countries in East Asia since ancient times. Ethiopia-Japan relations are included as one of the earliest bilateral links. The Ethiopia-Japan relationship could be viewed as part of the early Japan-Africa contacts. According to Clarke (2011), the Japanese-African relationship dates back to the seventh century, when Japanese and Africans presumably met in China and other parts of East Asia. Since then, the bilateral relations between the two countries have evolved and passed through various situations.

3.1.1. THE BATTLE OF ADWA: A VICTORY THAT TRESPASSES TO JAPAN

The Adwa victory over European imperialism is an important event in the shared memory of Ethiopia and Japan. Paulos and Getachew (2005) stated, Ethiopia's victory at Adwa allowed many countries from Europe and Asia, including Italy, which had lost the war, to forge closer ties with Ethiopia. According to Levine (2007), the Battle of Adwa in 1896, in which Ethiopia became the first non-white country to defeat a European colonial power, this victory put Ethiopia on the map, and within a few years dozen European countries had established diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa. The Adwa victory was instrumental for Ethiopia for its victory against Fascist Italy and maintained its sovereignty. As people in the other world, the Japanese know Ethiopia for its war triumph against Italy.

According to Clarke (2011), Japan from Asia, like European countries, insisted on establishing contact with Ethiopia and wrote its name in its Foreign Ministry document in April 1896. Around the same time that Italy was defeated at Adwa, news of the First Sino-Japanese War reached Ethiopia. According to the Biannual Newsletter of the Ethiopian Embassy in Tokyo (2015), Dr. Tomizu Hirono published the first pamphlet about Africa in Japan in 1899 under the

title “The Future of Africa,” advocating Japanese involvement in Africa (Clark, 2011). Not long after, Japan defeated Russia in the 1904-05 war, becoming the second such non-white country. Soon after their war victories, the two countries established diplomatic relations (Reis, 2009).

Adwa's victory gave Africans the freedom to fight for Europe and Japan to win the war against Russia. Like Ethiopians, the Japanese have won a victory against Russia in the early 20th century. Defeating their foreign invaders, with their strong resistance both nations proud of their brevity and sought to establish closer relations.

For that matter, the battle's significance was tremendous and served as a precedent for the equally shattering result of the battle of Tsushima (Zewde, 1990). According to Zewdie (1990), both countries came to recognize themselves as staunchly independent nations with a long political history and a traditional society centered on the institutions of an ancient sacral monarchy.

3.2. PRE-WAR RELATIONS (1920-1935)

Sharing encouraging war triumphs, the two nations vow to start relations since the first decade of the 20th century with a commercial exchange between the two. For example, during the Russo-Japanese War, the Japanese took approximately 60,000 stands of arms and 6,000,000 cartridges from Port Arthur and sold them to Ethiopia. Apart from trade and commerce, both Ethiopia and Japan started series of visits to expand trade between Japan and Ethiopia (Clarke III, 2004). After diplomat Sugimura Yotaro stated that Ethiopians could be good trade clients, the Japanese foreign ministry dispatched Kuroki Tokitaro to negotiate with them. According to Clarke (2011):

Tokitaro arrived in Djibouti on November 16, 1924, and after negotiating with Ethiopians in Addis Abeba, reported that Ethiopia could meet Japan's cotton needs and offer cultivable land. On November 26, 1926, Tokitaro was sent back to Ethiopia to negotiate a trade treaty, but he was told to postpone his trip because the government was still debating whether or not to establish a legation in Ethiopia.

In 1927, the Japanese government dispatched an Economic Survey Party led by Oyama Ujiro to British East Africa, Portuguese Mozambique, Madagascar, and Ethiopia to investigate the political and economic conditions of the regions before returning to Japan via Djibouti on

February 20, 1928. (Clarke, 2011; pp. 39-44). The negotiations continued after the Japanese ambassador to Romania, Mushanokoji Kintomo, provided support, and on June 21, 1927, the two countries signed a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce written in Japanese and French, which was ratified on November 15, 1930. Both nations signed a treaty of amity and friendship to deepen their relations in areas such as politics, economics, exchange, and people-to-people relations. This is stated in the following excerpt from Jun Morikawa's book "Japan and Africa: A Big Business and Diplomacy, 1997:89-91":

Emperor Haile Selassie requested a special delegation of ambassadors to Japan in 1931. The delegation, led by foreign minister Heruy Wolde Selassie and including Teferi Gebre Mariam, Araya Abeba, and Daba Birrou, departed Addis Abeba on September 30, 1931, with a Japanese diplomat and sailed to Japan from Djibouti on October 5. The delegation traveled to Japan to inspect the Japanese Army and learn how Ethiopia could modernize its country in the same way that Japan has. The Ethiopian delegation arrived in Addis Abeba on January 29, 1932, after departing Japan on December 28, 1932.

After they established a formal relationship, leaders from both countries began to exchange visits. Foreign Minister Heruy Welde Sellase visited Japan in late 1931, according to Zewde (2001). Heruy's trip to Japan inspired him to use Japan's best practices as a model for the country's modernization efforts. According to Levine (2007), during their early contacts, not only leaders but also scholars from both countries were inspired to learn about each other's cultures and to develop a thesis about fundamental similarities between Ethiopia and Japan. As a result, writers in both countries expressed their awareness of their mutual affinities (Zewde 1990). However, by the early twentieth century, interest in and study of Japan had become so widespread among Ethiopia's educated that the term "Japanizers" was coined to refer to those intellectuals inspired by the Meiji restoration who compared Ethiopia to Japan and encouraged young and educated Ethiopians to create a modernization movement similar to the Meiji Restoration. These intellectuals argued for more reforms to Ethiopia's imperial regime.

According to Levine (2007), the process culminated in 1931 with the adoption of Ethiopia's first constitution, which directly incorporated many passages from the Meiji Constitution. As a result, the framers of Ethiopia's 1931 Constitution were inspired by and incorporated ideas and

principles from the Meiji constitution. Tekle Hawariat Tekle Mariyam, an Ethiopian intellectual, used the Meiji Constitution as a model for the Ethiopian Constitution of 1931 (Zewde, 2001). One of the reasons why the progressive Ethiopian intelligentsia associated with Tekle Hawariat were dubbed "Japanizers" was because of this. Three notable Ethiopian writers and their works were very influential during this time. They were Gebrehiwot Bayikedagn (Nigidina Yehizib Astedader: The State and Economy, 1924), Heruy Woldeselassie (Dai-Nihon and Mahidere Birhan: Hager Japan 1934), and Kebede Michael (Japan Endemin Seletenech? "How Did Japan Develop? This was evident in a 1933 issue of "The Japanese Weekly Chronicle," which celebrated "the spiritual affinity between Japan and Abyssinia (Biannual newsletter, 2015).

According to Levine (2007), Emperor Haile Selassie I (1931-74) was the 126th monarch of a continuous Solomonic dynasty, while Showa Emperor Hirohito (1926-89) was the 124th monarch of a continuous Jimmu dynasty. During Emperor Haile Selassie's reign, Ethiopia sought Japan as an appealing, potential source of military and political aid, and cooperation began. To base their relations on legal institutions, the Ethiopians established an honorary consulate-general in Osaka, Japan, in 1933, and on January 1, 1936, the Japanese established an embassy in Addis Abeba. Ethiopia and Japan established formal relations by opening consulates in each other's countries. In 1934, the two countries agreed to collaborate on an irrigation development project in which 100,000 Japanese planters would assist with irrigation systems around Lake Tana and the Japanese legation. In the same year, two Japanese gunboats visited Djibouti, Ethiopia's primary maritime entry point, and the Japanese government dispatched Tsuchida Yutaka on an inspection tour of Ethiopia. Despite his desire to protect Ethiopia's independence from the predations of the United Kingdom, France, and Italy, and his optimism about commercial opportunities, Tsuchida believed that Japan, being so far away from Ethiopia, could not have an impact on imperialist ambitions there.

Simultaneously, there was widespread speculation about a royal marriage between the two countries, involving Prince Lij Araya Abeba and Masako Kuroda, daughter of Viscount Hiroyuki. However, tense pressure from Western countries, particularly Italy, undermined the arranged marriage due to concerns about the marriage's 'anti-white supremacy' nature, and the arrangement didn't materialize. According to the following excerpt from Clerke III's book, "Alliance of the Colored Peoples: Ethiopia and Japan before WW II: 2011":

With the Japanese posing as the leader of the worlds "colored" peoples before World War II, many Ethiopians looked to Japan for inspiration and support as a stronger Italy encroached on their country. Europeans were more concerned about Japan's growing economic and political influence in the colonial world than they were about Italy's imperial ambitions. Before the war, collaboration between 'Yellow' Japanese and 'Black' Ethiopians reveals the pernicious and flexible use of race in international diplomacy. As a result, the Japanese used race to justify their bias toward Ethiopia, while Ethiopia used race to rally support, and 'colored' peoples around the world responded to Ethiopia's interest.

However, Ethiopia and Japan, sought formal diplomatic relations through their established legations; they were unable to progress due to Italy's colonial ambitions in Ethiopia. In August 1935, as Italy was nearing the end of its preparations for an attack on Ethiopia, Emperor Haile Sellase I dispatched Daba Birrou to Japan to secure political and military assistance (Clarke, 2006). Japan, on the other hand, has not responded to Ethiopia's request and prefers to remain neutral. As a result, the relationship between the two countries remained stale until the end of WWII.

3.3. POST-WAR RELATIONS (1956-1974)

Following the liberation, Japan and Ethiopia re-established diplomatic ties in 1955, and three years later they exchanged ambassadors (MoFAJ, 2019). The official state visit of Emperor Haile Selassie to Japan in 1956 marked the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Emperor was overjoyed with the visit and was awestruck by the beauty of Japan and the Japanese garden.

3.3.1. JAPANESE GARDEN: A COMMON HERITAGE OF ETHIOPIA AND JAPAN

His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie was captivated by the Japanese Garden during a state visit to Japan in November 1956. During his visit to Japan, the Emperor is said to have been enthralled by the traditional Japanese gardens he saw. The Emperor made the decision to recreate the Japanese garden in his palace. As a result, when Emperor Haile Selassie requested that the

Japanese Government dispatch advisers and experts in various fields such as legal affairs, public administration, agriculture, and economic issues, he specifically requested a landscape gardener.

The Ethiopian government hired two Japanese fresh graduate ladies, Marico Mazunato and Akiko Fukumoto, to work at the Jubilee Palace in 1957. Later that month, in February 1958, Mr. Noboru Hashimoto, a Japanese expert in landscape gardening, arrived in Addis Abeba. He designed the Japanese Garden in the Palace's backyard per the Emperor's instructions. In October 1958, the Emperor approved of his garden design. Engineers in Ethiopia worked on his plan, while Italians took care of the gate, hut roofs, and some stone sculptures. Many of the trees in the garden were seedlings imported from Japan. They included Japanese black pines, maples, azaleas, camellias, and other plants, but only a few of them are still alive today. The Garden was 4,240 square meters in size and featured a small cascade, a stream, a pond, two huts, stone lanterns, bamboo bushes, and other features that created a beautiful landscape. As a result, the Japanese Garden was built in the late 1950s.

After resuming relations-following WWII, Ethiopia and Japan attempted to deepen their bilateral relations. The establishment of the Japanese Embassy in Ethiopia in 1958 bolstered this. Ethiopia established an embassy in Tokyo the same year. Both nations maintained their relations by opening embassies in each other's capitals and exchanging high officials. The Emperor and Empress of Japan, Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Akihito and Crown Princess Michiko, paid an official visit to Ethiopia in November 1960, their first overseas trip following their royal marriage. They stayed at the Jubilee Palace and strolled through the Japanese Garden.

3.3.2. ATHLETE ABEBE BIKELA: AN ETHIOPIAN MAN WHO HAS CAPTURED THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE JAPANESE

Aside from the Japanese Garden, Abebe Bikila, the Marathon Gold Medalist, was a notable post-World War II figure. During the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, Abebe Bikila's marathon victory captivated Japanese attention and played an important role in raising public awareness of Ethiopia in Japan (Biannual Newsletter of Ethiopian Embassy in Tokyo, 2015). 1960 was also a memorable year because Abebe Bikila became the first African to win a gold medal in barefoot running at the Rome Olympics. As a result, the Crown Prince invited Abebe to the next Olympics in Tokyo in four years. Abebe kept his promise and traveled to Tokyo, where he won

his second gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 1964, providing the Japanese with yet another unique opportunity to learn more about Ethiopian. When many Japanese talk about the two countries, Abebe's victory in the Marathon and gold medal award in Tokyo becomes a point of reference. Not less than Ethiopians at home, the Japanese never forget Abebe Bikila and his gold medal award at Tokyo Olympic Games.

According to the biannual newsletter, Emperor Haile Selassie's visit to the Osaka Expo in 1970 marked the pinnacle of Ethiopian-Japanese relations before 1974. Before 1974, the two countries' relations were defined by business, political cooperation, and close ties between their respective royal families. Moreover, the diplomatic relationship between Ethiopia and Japan in the postwar period was showing positive momentum in political, economic, and people-to-people ties. Commercial ties between the two countries were strengthened during the imperial reign.

3.4. ETHIOPIA AND JAPAN: DURING THE DERG REGIME (1974-1991)

Because of the ideological orientation and dictatorial nature of the revolutionary regime in Ethiopia that overthrew the imperial government after 1974, diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan faced numerous challenges between 1974 and 1991. During this difficult time, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe's visit to Ethiopia in 1984 demonstrates Japan's unwavering support. However, following the revolution, the Derg regime nationalized Japanese investor holdings, perverting the relationship between Ethiopia and Japan for over a decade until the EPRDF came to power and reestablished relations in 1991. The purpose of this study is to examine Ethiopia and Japan's diplomatic relations in terms of political, economic, and people-to-people ties since both countries restore diplomatic relations in 1991.

CHAPTER FOUR

ETHIOPIA AND JAPAN SINCE 1991: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

In this particular chapter, the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan will be discussed on their political, economic, and people-to-people aspects relations. While analyzing the diplomatic relations of Ethiopia and Japan since 1991, throughout the chapter, discussions are supported by data collected from in-depth interviewees, key informant interviews, and published and unpublished documents of various sources.

Diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan have included a variety of political consultations and high-level official state visits through regional and global frameworks since 1991. Ethiopia and Japan are currently concerned about the Horn of Africa's peace and security. As a result, the two countries' bilateral and multilateral peace and security cooperation is discussed in this study under the political aspect of their relations.

Japan is providing Ethiopia with substantial development aid including technical assistance (Foreign Policy Document, 2001). Post-1991, the economic relation between Ethiopia and Japan is progressing in a wide range of issues, especially concerning trade and investment. This is discussed in the second section of this study, which is economic relation. Therefore, under this particular theme of the study, different documents such as seminar reports, press releases, and web sources along with sources obtained from informants are duly used to analyze the economic relation between Ethiopia and Japan since 1991.

According to the FDRE Foreign Affairs, National Security and Policy Strategy document (2002), quite some Japanese people are positively inclined towards Ethiopia. Sharing many similarities in common Ethiopia and Japan are working to boost the people-to-people ties. This also converses in the third section of this study, which is a people-to-people aspect of the relation of the two nations.

4.1. ETHIOPIA AND JAPAN: POLITICAL RELATIONS

Using different diplomatic means, states are involved in diplomatic relations at bilateral, trilateral, and multilateral levels (Barston, 2014). Both Ethiopia and Japan exchanged visits and

conducted political consultations to heighten their political relations at a different time since 1991. According to key informant (03), to heighten their political relations, one very good example is an exchange of higher officials between the two countries. Since EPRDF came to power in 1991, there was an exchange of visits between the head of states of both countries and those were very instrumental for both Ethiopia and Japan to improve their political relations.

Like the key informant above, the researcher supposed the interaction of Ethiopia and Japan at the official level played a crucial role in their post-1991, political relations. Concerning this G.R. Berridge in his work “Modern Diplomacy” highlighted the importance of the interaction of states at various levels, mainly political, economic, and people-to-people ties of their mutual concerns help for in principle, communicate freely with each other and, so, in the most effective manner possible (2010). Likewise, Burian (2000) indicated, once a diplomatic relation is established, states are involved in the conduct of diplomatic relations devoting most of their time to political and economic reporting, lobbying, supporting the activities of businesses from home, assisting distressed nationals, and propaganda.

The political relation between Ethiopia and Japan could be manifested in their high-level political engagement between and among governmental officials happened both at bilateral and multilateral levels. Under this particular theme, to analyze the political relation between Ethiopia and Japan, the study categorized into two sub-topics [Political Consultation and Exchange of Visits], and [Military cooperation]. The former compiled with five sub-topics; the first at ministerial levels from the foreign affairs ministry of both countries, the second, visits at heads of states level, third, visits made at party-parliamentary-house level, fourth, visits at the various ministry level, and fifth, visit paid at a multilateral level, while the latter analyzed their relations at a multilateral level only.

4.1.1. POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF VISITS

State visits are one of the oldest forms of diplomatic contact between the leaders of states (Goldstein, 2008). States through their formal and other representatives, as well as other actors, articulate, coordinate, and secure particular or wider interests, using correspondence; private talks, exchange of views, lobbying, visits, threats, and other related activities (Barston, 1985). According to the basic data chronicled on the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of Japan, since the two countries restored their diplomatic relation in 1991, there were exchanges of state visits at Heads of State, Ministerial, State Ministerial, and Party levels from Ethiopia to Japan and vice versa through their established missions (November 14, 2019). During the years from 1992- late 2019, Ethiopia and Japan have had 61 visited of which the former 32 and the latter 29 (see Appendix II).

The official visit by the Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyum Mesfin’s in 1992 and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in 1996 marked the stimulation of the bilateral relations of both countries while, a decade, in 2014, the visit paid by Shinzo Abe Prime Minister of Japan further cement the bilateral relationship between the two countries on political, economic, and people-to-people ties. Regarding the role of state visits at various levels in their diplomatic communication to boost their diplomatic relations, Barston stated as follows:

By using personal or direct diplomacy through visits, correspondence, and telephone conversations, heads of government and foreign ministers, envoys and other senior leaders establish contacts, promote their country’s image, or try and improve bilateral, official, and other relations. Visits of this kind, whether they be ceremonial, psychological, or have a substantive purpose, reflect the growing involvement in the diplomacy of the head of state or government and a variety of key representatives of banks, corporations, regional institutions, and other organizations. (2014, P.79)

According to the researcher, the visits accompanied by both Ethiopia and Japan were significant in strengthening the diplomatic relationship between Ethiopia and Japan at the political, economic, and people-to-people levels.

4.1.1.1. EXCHANGE OF VISITS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL

Table 4.1: Political consultations and exchange of visits from the MOFA of Ethiopia and Japan

| YEAR | NAME | POSITION | FROM | VISIT TO |
|-------------|------------------|--|-------------|-----------------|
| 1992 | Seyoum Mesin | Foreign Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 1998 | Keizo Takemi | State Secretary for foreign affairs of Japan | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2002 | Yoriko Kawaguchi | Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |

| | | | | |
|------|---------------------|--|----------|----------|
| 2003 | Tetsuro Yano | Senior Vice-Minister for foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2010 | Tetsuo Fukuyama | State secretary for foreign affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2011 | Takeaki Matsumoto | State Secretary for foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2012 | Ryuji Yamane | State Minister for foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2012 | Ryuji Yamane | State Minister for foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2013 | Masaji Matsuyama | State Minister for foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2013 | Fumio Kishida | Minister of Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2014 | Norio Mitsuuya | State Minister for foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2015 | Berhane G/Kirstos | State Minister for foreign Affairs | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2015 | Minoru Kiuchi | State Minister for foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2016 | Seiji Kihara | State Minister for foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2017 | Taro Kono | Minister of Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2017 | Masahisa Sato | State Minister for foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2019 | Taro Kono | Minister of Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2019 | Aklilu Hailemichael | State Minister for foreign Affairs | Ethiopia | Japan |

Sources: Ethiopia-Japan Relations (see Appendix II)

According to the table above, three Japanese foreign ministers and 11 state ministers paid official visits to Ethiopia during the years (2002, 2013, and 2019) to strengthen political ties between the two countries. Among these was Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono's two-day visit to Ethiopia on May 4 and 5, 2019. During his visit to Ethiopia, he met with Ambassador Markos Tekle, the then-State Minister of Foreign Affairs, and paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Africa News, May 05, 2019).

Representatives from the Ministry of Finance participated in consultations with Ambassador Markos Tekle, and the discussions focused on deepening and strengthening bilateral cooperation on regional and international issues of mutual concern. The two parties agreed to work together to promote trade and investment while also encouraging new areas of cooperation. State Minister Dr. Marcos praised Ethiopia and Japan's long-standing relationship, noting that Japan was a major development partner for Ethiopia and thanking Japan for its development assistance. He also briefed Minister. Kono on Ethiopia's political and economic reforms under Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, including the expansion of political space, media freedom, and institutional capacity building. He praised Ethiopia for its constructive role in maintaining peace and security in Africa in general, and in the Horn of Africa in particular, including its contribution to regional peacekeeping forces. He also praised Ethiopia's role as IGAD chair in bringing the revitalized peace agreement in South Sudan to fruition last September. Minister Kono

emphasized Japan's commitment to working with Ethiopia to promote regional peace and prosperity.

The above excerpt is from the Ethiopian Herald Newspaper; however, the content is geared toward economic cooperation, and we can deduce that the exchange of visits through the formal missions of both countries is a foundation for cementing the two countries' diplomatic relations.

4.1.1.2. VISITS AT HEADS OF STATE LEVEL

Table 4.2: Political consultations and exchange of visits Leader's level of Ethiopia and Japan

| YEAR | NAME | POSITION | FROM | VISIT TO |
|-------------|----------------------|---|-------------|-----------------|
| 1996 | Meles Zenawi | Prime Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2006 | YasuhisaShiozaki | Senior Vice-Minister | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2014 | Shinzo Abe | Prime Minister | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2015 | Debretsion G/Michael | Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Communications and Technology | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2017 | Demeke Mekonen | Deputy Prime Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2018 | Kenetaro Sonoura | Special Advisor to the Prime Minister | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2018 | Seyum Mesfin | Special envoy of the Prime Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |

Sources: Ethiopia-Japan Relations (see Appendix II)

Between 1996 and 2019, Ethiopia and Japan exchanged seven visits at the head of state level, with four visits from Ethiopia to Japan and three from Japan to Ethiopia, according to the table above. The late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's official visit to Japan in 1996 opened his eyes to the possibility of collaboration with Japan. According to the Joint Communiqué between Japan and Ethiopia, Prime Minister Abe's State Visit to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, both leaders engaged in constructive dialogue for bilateral, regional, and international cooperation (13th January 2014). According to the joint communiqué, high-level visits at the level of leaders were very important for further strengthening the two countries' close and cooperative relationship.

According to Kissinger (1999), diplomacy is the art of conducting relations on behalf of a state in a polite, non-harmful manner through the engagement of professionals. In line with this view, the researcher found, former Japanese Prime Minister Abe's official visit to Ethiopia has a far-

reaching implication in the two countries diplomatic relations. Because, as a result of his visit, leaders from both countries pledged to strengthen bilateral and multilateral relations even further.

As Kissinger (1999), argued that diplomacy is the art of conducting relations through polite, non-hurtful manner on behalf of a state through the engagement of professionals, the researcher considered the former Japanese Prime minister Abe’s official visit to Ethiopia has a far-reaching implication in the diplomatic relation of the two countries. Because following his visit, leaders of both countries were committed to reinforce their relations at both bilateral and multilateral levels more.

4.1.1.3. VISITS AT PARTY’S LEVEL

Party-to-party exchange visits could be used to express state political relations. States have traditionally shared their political philosophy through various political consultations and visits at the parliamentary or party levels. From 1999 to 2017, there were 12 parliamentary (party to party) visits between Ethiopia and Japan, with three from Ethiopia to Japan and nine from Japan to Ethiopia, as shown in the table below.

Table 4.3: Political consultations and exchange of visits party level of Ethiopia and Japan

| YEAR | NAME | POSITION | FROM | VISIT TO |
|------|---------------------|---|----------|----------|
| 1999 | Almaz Meko | Speaker to the House of Federation | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2008 | Yoshiro Mori | Senior Vice-Minister | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2008 | Yasuhide Nakayama | parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2008 | Nobuhide Minorkawa | parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2009 | Yasutoshi Nishimura | parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2013 | Toshiko Abe | parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2014 | Hiroataka Ishihara | parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2015 | Hitoshi Kikawada | Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2015 | Kazuyuki Nakane | parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign | Japan | Ethiopia |

| | | | | |
|------|----------------|---|----------|----------|
| | | Affairs | | |
| 2015 | Takashi Uto | parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2016 | Abadula Gameda | Speaker to the House of People Representatives | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2016 | | | | |

Sources: Ethiopia-Japan Relations (see Appendix II)

As shown in the table above, Speaker of the House of Peoples Representatives Abdulla Gameda visited Japan in 2014 as an official guest of the House of Representatives. According to the Biannual newsletter of the Ethiopian embassy in Japan, Abadula Gameda, Speaker of the House of People's Representatives, met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in October (2014). Their conversation focused on bilateral and international collaboration between Ethiopia and Japan. The newsletter went on to say:

During the five-day visit, the Speaker led an Ethiopian parliamentary delegation and met with the President of the House of Counselors, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Chairman of the Japan-Africa Parliamentary League. The two sides discussed ways to strengthen Ethiopia-Japan parliamentary friendship and cooperation. In Japan and Ethiopia, the Ethio-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Groups were formed in 1985 and 1997, respectively.

According to the excerpt above, the official visits to Japan of Ethiopian Speaker Abadula Gameda and other high-level officials have further strengthened the excellent relations between Ethiopia and Japan, with far-reaching success in establishing joint parliamentary groups through which both countries can elevate their political relations.

4.1.1.4. VISITS FROM OTHER MINISTRY (ECONOMIC AFFAIRS)

As indicated in the table below, from 1993- 2019, both Ethiopia and Japan exchanged 13 visits at various ministry levels in line with economic affairs of which 13 were from Ethiopia to Japan.

Table 4.4: Political consultations and exchange of visits party level of Ethiopia and Japan

| YEAR | NAME | POSITION | FROM | VISIT TO |
|------|------|----------|------|----------|
|------|------|----------|------|----------|

| | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|--|----------|----------|
| 2001 | Mulu Ketsela | State Minister of Finance and Economic Development | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2006 | Yasuhide Nakayama | parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2006 | Tekeda Alemu | State Minister of Foreign Affairs | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2006 | Girma Biru | Minister of Trade and Industry | Ethiopia | Japam |
| 2009 | Nobuhide Minorkawa | Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2009 | Junedin Sado | State Minister of Trade and Industry | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2009 | Tadess Haile | State Minister of Trade and Industry | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2011 | Yacob Yalla | State Minister of Trade | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2011 | Hailemariam Dessalegn | Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affair Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2011 | Ahmed Shide | State Minister of Finance and Economic Development | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2012 | Tedros Adhanom | Health Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2013 | Haile Michael Tefera | State Minister of Urban and Development, Housing and Construction | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2014 | Tefera Derbew | parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2014 | Fitsum Arega | Director General of Investment Commission | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2015 | Hitoshi Kikawada | Minister of Agriculture | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2015 | Kazuyuki Nakane | parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2015 | Takashi Uto | parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2016 | Abadula Gameda | Speaker to the House of People Representatives | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2018 | Arkebe Oqubay | Head of Economic Planning and Supporting Sector for the Office of Prime Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2019 | Afewerk Kassu | State Minister of Science and Higher Education | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2019 | Mulatu Teshome | Former President | Ethiopia | Japan |

Sources: Ethiopia-Japan Relations (see Appendix II)

As shown in the table above, Ethiopia and Japan exchanged 19 visits at various ministry levels in economic affairs from 2001 to 2019, 15 of which were from Ethiopia to Japan, and 4 were from Japan to Ethiopia.

4.1.1.5. MULTILATERAL POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS & EXCHANGE OF VISITS

Ethiopia and Japan exchanged 12 multilateral visits between 1998 and 2019, all of which were from Ethiopia to Japan, as shown in the table below. The majority of these visits took place at various times during TICAD's bilateral summit meetings. Key informant (02)¹ stated:

Every five years, when TICAD is held, African leaders have the opportunity to participate in a bilateral summit meeting. In such bilateral meetings, African leaders discussed various priorities or directions for African development as a whole, as well as strategies for enhancing bilateral cooperation. Both Ethiopia and Japan met during the TICAD plenary sessions and bilateral meetings to strengthen our bilateral relations.

Concerning this, Barston (2014) argued that the diplomatic system now encompasses much more than the work of resident missions and negotiation becomes an increasingly important operational focus as we move into the realms of multilateral diplomacy, summitry, and conference diplomacy engaged at bilateral and multilateral levels. As stated previously by Barston, the bilateral negotiation of TICAD summit meetings provides an opportunity for home-based experts or, more rarely, government ministers from both countries to participate in the business of diplomacy.

Table 4.5: Political consultations and exchanges of visits party level of Ethiopia and Japan

| YEAR | NAME | POSITION | FROM | VISIT TO |
|------|-----------------------|---|----------|----------|
| 1998 | Meles Zenawi | Prime Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2003 | Seyum Mesfin | Foreign Affairs Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2013 | Meles Zenawi | Prime Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2004 | Katsuyuki Kawai | Japan-Au Parliamentary Friendship League, Parliamentary Vice Minister | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2008 | Mekonen Manyazewal | State Minister of Finance and Economic Development | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2013 | Yasutoshi Nishimura | parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs | Japan | Ethiopia |
| 2013 | Hailemariam Dessalegn | Prime Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |

¹ Mr. Fumio Shimizu, Ambassador and Head of Mission of Japan to the Africa Union, (2017-2020)

| | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|--|----------|-------|
| 2013 | Tedros Adhanom | Ministry of Foreign Affairs Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2013 | Belete Tafere | Ministry of Environment and Forestry | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2015 | Tedros Adhanom | Minister of Foreign Affairs Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2016 | Abadula Gameda | Speaker to the House of People Representatives | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2017 | Tedros Adhanom | Ministry of Foreign Affairs Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2017 | Ahmed Abitew | Minister of Industry | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2017 | Tagesse Chafo | Ministry of Public Service and Human Resources Development | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2018 | Afewerk Kassu | State Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2019 | Fetlework G/Egziabher | Ministry of Trade and Industry | Ethiopia | Japan |
| 2019 | Abiy Ahmed | Prime Minister | Ethiopia | Japan |

Sources: Ethiopia-Japan Relations (see Appendix II)

As shown in the table above, bilateral and multilateral visits were paid for. On the margins of the Seventh International Conference on African Development, Ethiopian and Japanese leaders held a special meeting (TICAD 7). The special conference is devoted to the pursuit of peace, stability, and security in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopian News Agency, October 8, 2019).

According to a study conducted by the University of Oana Iucu (2010), diplomatic activity grew in the political field, particularly through intense bilateral and multilateral negotiations in international conferences and organizations. According to the researcher's statement above, the TICAD meetings are critical for both Ethiopia and Japan to strengthen their political relations.

4.1.2. MILITARY COOPERATION

Ethiopia, located in the Horn of Africa, plays an important role in many African issues. Its contribution to regional peace and security is something worth mentioning. Not only does its strategic location make it a regional beacon, but so does its extensive peacekeeping experience in the region. Sharing a political interest in the Horn of Africa, both Ethiopia and Japan are working in collaboration to bring peace and stability to the region. As a result, the two countries are working together through regional frameworks such as IGAD, and the two jointly supported AMISOM and UNAMISS.

Ethiopia's security interest in Somalia is straightforward; political developments in Somalia have had an impact on Ethiopia's national security for decades. Somalia's last security threat came in

2006 when the terrorist organization known as the Union of Islamic Courts declared Jihadi war on Ethiopia. The Islamic Court leadership declared a "holy war" against Ethiopians in Somalia on July 21, 2006, and Ethiopia's parliament passed a resolution on November 30, 2006, authorizing the government to take all legal and necessary steps to counter what it calls an invasion by the UIC (BBC News, 2009). Until 2009, Ethiopia fought alongside the group in Somalia. The time, AMISOM has been present in Somalia since 2007. In March and December 2007, Uganda and Burundi were the first and second countries to send troops into Somalia under AMISOM, respectively. AMISOM peacekeeping troop contributors include Djibouti, Kenya, and Sierra Leone. Ethiopia becomes the sixth country to contribute troops to the Africa Union Mission in Somalia in 2014 (AMISOM, 2015).

According to a joint communique issued by Japan and Ethiopia in 2014, during Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's official state visit to Ethiopia, both leaders reaffirmed the importance of cooperation in combating terrorism and agreed that terrorism is a threat to international peace and should not be tolerated under any instances. Ethiopia has been committed to fight terrorism in the region and bring peace and stability. In this regard, Prime Minister Abe praised Ethiopia's contribution to regional peace and security. Ethiopia's role in promoting political dialogue in Sudan and South Sudan, as well as Somalia, was also lauded by Prime Minister Abe.

During the occasion, Japan committed to providing \$11.6 million in grant aid through international agencies, as well as a \$500 thousand donation to the African Centre for Peace and Security Training, to boost Ethiopia's attempts to bring peace and security to the region (Ibid). Japan is good at helping institutional capacity building on their legal and capacity of peace-keeping operations. According to key informant (02), *“As part of an international effort to combat piracy in the Gulf of Aden, Japan sent Military Engineer Personnels to the two Peace Keeping Operation Training Centers, Ethiopia International Peace Keeping Training Centre, and the ACPST, in 2011”*.

Former Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn praised Japan's commitment to assisting Ethiopia's efforts for peace and stability in Africa, emphasizing that Japan's position in the Horn of Africa is vital. According to him, counter-piracy operations by the Japan Self Defense Force and others off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, as well as Japan's

commitment to the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, are extremely important to Ethiopia. He also stated that Japan's assistance to UNMISS had a positive influence on South Sudan (Hailemariam, 2014).

4.2. ECONOMIC RELATIONS

The economic relations of states could be seen from the commercial or economic diplomacy perspectives. As Berridge (2010) stated, commercial diplomacy includes the use of the embassy's resources to promote both exports and inward investment. To this happen, states designated trade and economic attaches in their embassies and consulates to work as market intelligence, opening doors for trade missions and companies from home and contributing to the negotiation of bilateral commercial agreements.

Countries become more effective and beneficial in widening their bilateral export flows through frequent export promotion, state visits, embassies, and consulates networking to raise cross border economic activities of exports, imports, and truism using economic diplomacy as an instrument to fostering relations between states (Rose (2007)). The Ethiopian-Japanese economic relationship, which has developed on a unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral basis, is based on mutual benefit principles. The most important aspects of Ethiopia's post-1991 economic relationship with Japan include policy dialogue, development cooperation, and trade and investment.

4.2.1. ETHIOPIA-JAPAN INDUSTRIAL POLICY DIALOGUE

In their theory of international relations, liberals argued that multiple channels of access between states through various branches of their state apparatus as well as non-state actors were necessary for encouraging economic relations (Brown, & Ainley, 2005). Ethiopia and Japan have economic relations that involve both state and non-state actors. Both countries conduct their bilateral relations at various levels, interacting through various firms and organizations such as JICA, TICAD, IGAD, and so on. Ethiopia and Japan have had several policy discussions through these routes.

According to key informant (02), since the start of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 1993, Japan has engaged in policy dialogue with dozens of

African countries, including Ethiopia. Each TICAD meeting provides an opportunity for official supporters and private businesses to collaborate bilaterally (Ochiai, 2001). When late Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi attended the TICAD IV conference in 2008, he was moved by the themes and decided to accelerate Ethiopia's learning from Japan (policy dialogue, 14 October 2008). The following year, on July 10-11, 2008, Professor Joseph Stiglitz hosted the third Africa Task Force meeting of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at the Sheraton Addis, which was supported by JICA. Meles attended most of the sessions in which the presenters discussed the concept of Dynamic Capacity Development. Meles later explained that TICAD IV and conversations with GRIPS researchers convinced him that the time had come for direct intellectual exchange with Japan. Immediately following the conclusion of the sessions, the late Meles requested from the Japanese government a two-part bilateral industrial cooperation consisting of a quality and productivity (kaizen) project and regular policy discussions with National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS). Later that year, Meles participated in two (unofficial) policy dialogue sessions. As the two scholars elaborated above, Ethiopia under Meles was keen to adopt the Japanese way of policy, with the bilateral industrial policy dialogue and the kaizen project officially launching in May 2009, and both countries holding separate policy sessions at high level Ministerial and Prime Ministerial levels.

According to Ohno and Ohno (2012), between 2009 and 2017, eighteen policy discussion sessions at the Prime Ministerial level, nineteen high-level forum sessions at the ministerial and state ministerial levels, and sixteen policy research visits to third countries in Asia and Africa were held in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia. The topics discussed at High-Level Forums are depicted in the table below. According to Ohno & Ohno, these forums were used not only to disseminate desired ideas and experiences to Ethiopian policymakers but also to test and propose new policy directions that were lacking but thought necessary in the context of Ethiopian policy evolution.

Table 4.6 Phase 1: Topics discussed at high-level forums (ministerial level)

| | Presentations by Japan or third country | Presentations by Ethiopian government |
|------------------------|--|---|
| <PHASE 1> | | |
| Session 1 June 2009 | (1) JICA's plan for policy dialogue (2) ADLI and future directions for industrial development | (1) Evaluation of current PASDEP focusing on industrial development and related sectors |
| Session 2 Sep. 2009 | (1) Cross-cutting issues on industrial policy & East Asian policy menu (2) Organisational arrangements for industrial policy formulation (3) SME policies in Japan | (1) Comments and feedback by the Policy Dialogue Steering Committee on Japanese presentations |
| Session 3 Nov. 2009 | (1) Designing industrial master plans: international comparison (2) Industrial policy direction of Ethiopia: suggestions for PASDEP II | (1) Concept for the industrial chapter of PASDEP II and the formulation plan |
| Session 4 Mar. 2010 | (1) Basic metals and engineering industries: international comparison of policy framework & Ethiopia's case | (1) Draft of industry sector for PASDEP II (2) Overview, contents of PASDEP II draft of chemicals sub-sector |
| Session 5 July 2010 | (1) Result of basic metal and engineering industries firm-level study – parts conducted by MPDC and JICA | (1) Report of kaizen training in Osaka (2) Report of kaizen training in Chubu (3) Current status of kaizen project and institutionalisation of kaizen |
| Session 6 Oct. 2010 | (1) Singapore's experience with productivity development: internalisation, scaling-up, and international cooperation | (1) Contents of industry sector in GTP (2) Singapore's productivity movement and lessons learned |
| Session 7 Jan. 2011 | (1) The making of high-priority development strategies: international comparison | (1) Organisational structure of MOI and linkage with other ministries |
| Session 8 May 2011 | (1) Ethiopia's industrialisation under GTP (2) Achievements of Kaizen Project (3) Kaizen movement in Asia & Africa (4) Taiwan: policy drive for innovation | (1) MSE development strategy of Ethiopia (2) Kaizen dissemination plan (3) Botswana's productivity movement and its implications for Ethiopia |
| <PHASE 2> | | |
| Session 1 Jan. 2012 | (1) Export orientation: three policy directions (2) Export promotion: JICA's experience (3) Export promotion centre in Egypt | (1) Export promotion of Ethiopia (2) Assessing Ethiopian investment and export policies |
| Session 2 Aug. 2012 | (1) Results of champion product seminar (2) Export promotion of Malaysia (3) Economic diplomacy in Thailand | (1) Performance of export promotion in Ethiopia (2) Export promotion by foreign mission |
| Session 3 Jan. 2013 | (1) Proactive FDI policy (2) FDI policy experience of Malaysia (3) JICA's assistance in Zambia etc. | (1) FDI inflow into Ethiopia |
| Session 4 Jul. 2013 | (1) JICA's PSD assistance in Indonesia (2) FDI-linked technology transfer | (1) Malaysia's strategic FDI policy (2) Revision of Investment Proclamation |
| Session 5 Feb. 2014 | (1) International comparison of manufacturing performance (2) Handholding programmes | (1) Sectoral institutes: roles & performance (2) Kaizen in GTP II and long-term vision |
| Session 6 Aug. 2014 | (1) FDI-led industrialisation in East Asia (2) FDI inflow into latecomer Asia | (1) Proposal for key ideas in GTP II (2) Current status of Ethiopian FDI |
| Session 7 Jan. 2015 | (1) Modality & key points of Japanese-run industrial zones in Vietnam & Thailand (2) Industrial zones & foreign currency issues in Myanmar & India | (1) Productivity & competitiveness chapter, industry chapter & kaizen in GTP II |
| Session 8 Oct. 2015 | (1) Remaining industrial issues ahead (2) Industrial zone experience in Cambodia | (1) Discussion on GTP II draft (2) Ethiopian wage & labour productivity survey |
| <INTERIM> | | |
| Jul. 2016 | (1) Japan's alignment to Industrial objectives of GTP II | (1) Macro issues related to GTP II (2) Industrial policy of GTP II (3) Hawassa Industrial Park |
| <PHASE 3> | | |
| Session 1 Feb. 2017 | (1) Japan's industrial cooperation for GTP II (2) Asian experience of high growth & income polarisation/equalisation | (1) Anti-export bias & effects of export incentives (2) Youth Revolving Fund (3) Impact of urban job application assistance |
| Session 2 Nov. 2017 | (1) Productivity in Ethiopia & Sri Lanka (2) Productivity issues in Vietnam | (1) Productivity of garment & metals sectors (2) Mini review of productivity studies & data |

Sources: Ethiopian Handbook Projects (Oxford University Press), Draft Chapter 45

As shown in the table above, during the first phase of the Industrial Policy Dialogue, both parties gained a better understanding of each other. The second phase of policy dialogue (2012–15) started with an idea to boost export promotion. The third phase, which began in 2017, focused on productivity as the primary issue for Ethiopia in the coming years.

4.2.2. TRADE RELATIONS

This sub-section of the economic relation of Ethiopia and Japan analyses the trade relationship between the two countries. When we look at the early relations between Ethiopia and Japan, the major emphasis was an aspiration to have engagement and cooperation in trade and commerce (Clarke III, 2004). As Clarke (2014) indicated, trade and friendship were mainline of relations between the two geographically far nations. Liberals argued that with the spread of free trade and capitalism, through the efforts of powerful liberal states and international organizations, there will be mutually beneficial between states (Mcglinchey, Walters & Gold, 2017). In line with this, Berridge (2010) reasoned that:

Commercial diplomacy entails using the embassy's resources to promote both exports and inward investment, as well as cultivating aid donors in the case of poor countries. States designated trade and economic attaches in their embassies and consulates to work as market intelligence, opening doors for trade missions and companies from home, and contributing to the negotiation of bilateral commercial agreements in order to strengthen their economic relations.

As conversed in the above statement, as part of their economic relation, Ethiopia and Japan are working on the attraction of FDI and trade promotion to lift their economic relations. The long-standing economic relation between Ethiopia and Japan is progressing in a wide range of issues, especially concerning export and imports from both countries (ENA, Sep 25, 2020).

4.2.2.1. ETHIOPIAN EXPORTS TO JAPAN

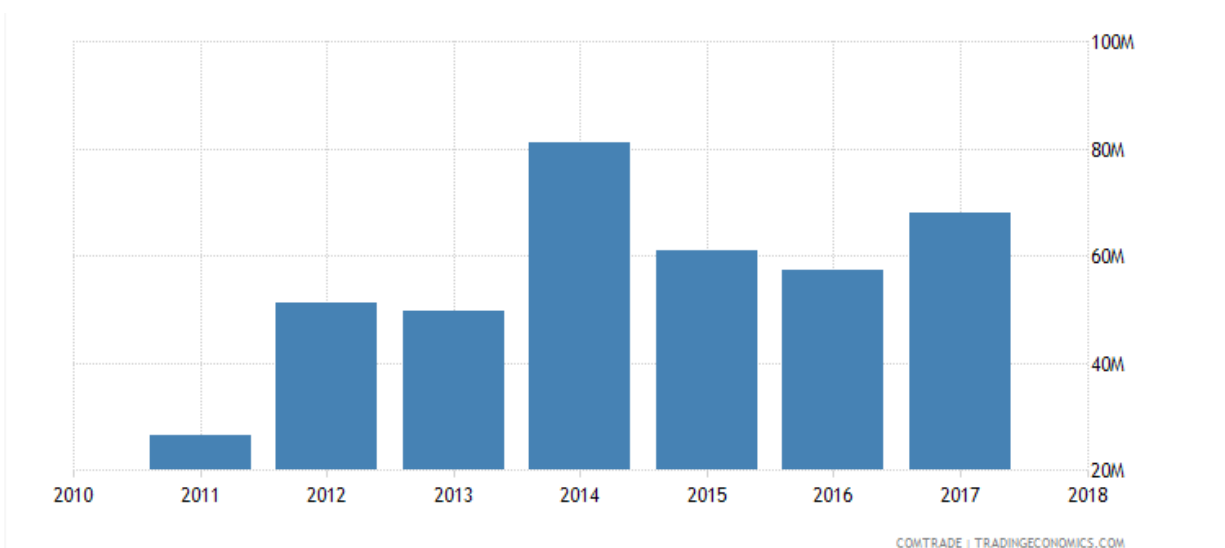
As Japan is the third-largest economy in the world, Ethiopia has also a lot to export to the Japanese market. According to a key informant (03), Ethiopia is one of the largest exporters of coffee to the Japanese market. According to them, Japan is also one of the destinations for much of our coffee export market. According to a key informant (08) said, nowadays it is common to

serve coffee in any Japanese home. Close-fitting the fact to his justification, key informant (01)² further stated the following:

We are working on facilities for quality coffee supply chain and one of the Japanese companies imported coffee at the highest ever recorded price. Back in Japan, my house is very close to that coffee shop. I realized that Japanese firms are eager to import Ethiopian coffee and other products and traditional imported commodities such as coffee, leather goods, and seas. However, we want to diversify our Ethiopian imports.

According to the above-mentioned key informants, Ethiopia exports primary agricultural products to Japan. According to the United Nations COMTRADE international trade database, Ethiopian exports to Japan totaled US\$67.85 million in 2017. From 2010 to 2017, the top Ethiopian exports to Japan were coffee, tea, meat and spices, oilseed, organic fruits and grains, knitted or crocheted articles of clothing, and so on (see Table 4.7 in the appendix section of this study).

Figure 4.1. Ethiopia exports to Japan



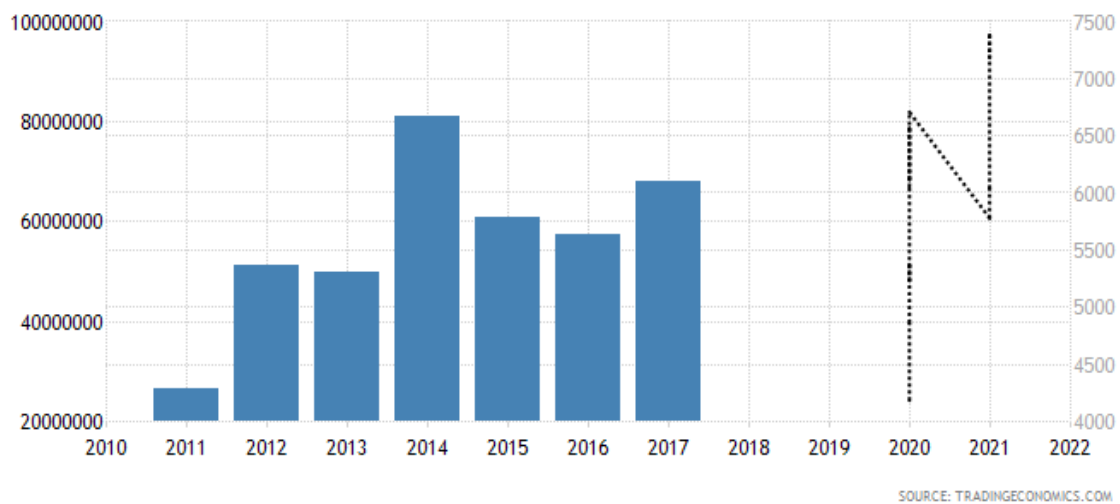
As we can understand from the graph above, the trends of export trade between Ethiopia and Japan during the years 2010-2017, was increasing. The trade exchange between the countries has shown positive progress not only in the coffee sub-sector but also in tea, meat, and other trading items (key informant, 01).

² Mr. Daisukie Matsunaga, Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia, (2018-2020)

4.2.2.2. ETHIOPIA IMPORTS FROM JAPAN

According to tradingeconomic.com, Ethiopia's imports from Japan totaled US\$723.95 million in 2017. As shown in the graph below, Ethiopia imports the majority of its goods from Japan in 2017, with vehicles accounting for \$558.72 million (see Table 4.8 in the appendix).

Figure 4.2: Ethiopia Imports from Japan



From the graph above, Ethiopia during the years 2010-2017, Ethiopia increasingly imported from Japan.

4.2.2.3. TRADE BALANCE

According to key informant (01):

Our bilateral trade is pretty well balanced according to Japan's statistics. In 2018, they show imports from Ethiopia to Japan as 11 billion Japanese Yen, and exports from Japan to Ethiopia as 5 billion Yen. However, according to Ethiopian statistics, the situation is reversed, with exports from Japan to Ethiopia exceeding imports from Ethiopia to Japan. There are many reasons for such discrepancies, depending on which country's statistics are used. However, in terms of macroeconomics, global trade balance and global current account balance are more meaningful than this kind of bilateral trade balance.

As we could understand from the above key informant, though the official figures on both sides on import and export differ, both Ethiopia and Japan are working to rise their trade balance and through export promotion via different business forums and workshops, to increase business interaction and strengthening the trade relations between the two countries.

The Ethiopian Embassy in Tokyo, for example, hosted a seminar on agribusiness and light manufacturing in 2014. The seminar helped show Japanese companies' growing interest in Ethiopia (Biannual News Letter, 2014). According to key informant (01), in 2016, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) opened its office in Addis Ababa intending to strengthen such kinds of business seminars. Then in February 2017, a workshop in Tokyo, on investment opportunities in Ethiopia was held, which attracted many Japanese businesses interested in making investments in Ethiopia. The workshop succeeded in arousing even more interest in Ethiopia as a prospective investment destination, so many Japanese companies formed a mission led by JETRO in September of that same year and visited the country. Thus, the Ethio-Japan Business forum generated greater interest among Japanese corporations.

4.2.3. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

According to key informants, Ethiopia and Japan are collaborating on development areas as part of their development cooperation. This includes a variety of development projects carried out by Japanese organizations such as JICA. According to data on the official website of Japan's embassy in Ethiopia, Japan has provided 9.2, 114.8, and 46.4 billion yen in loans, grants, and technical assistance, respectively, since 1991. (January 2019).

Japanese development cooperation in Ethiopia is concentrated in the form of developmental aid to support the Ethiopian government's efforts for sustainable development. Japan contributes to high-quality and stable economic growth in Ethiopia thereby enhancing bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries. As part of their developmental cooperation Japan assists Ethiopia in (01), agriculture, (02), industrial promotion, (03), infrastructure development, and (04) education and Health through JICA, and other projects in Ethiopia.

4.2.3.1. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

According to the Ethiopia Year Book (2015/16), agricultural output and productivity have increased as a result of government support for agriculture and rural development programs, as well as long-term support from partners for Ethiopian development programs. In the meantime, to achieve "becoming a low middle-income country by 2025", which is itemized as a goal by the Government, Japan further accelerates the growth of the agricultural sector, which accounts for about 40% of GDP, and also strengthen the production system to be resilient to natural disasters (Country Assistance Policy for Ethiopia, 2017). Key informant (02):

Also in agriculture, maybe you know the Japanese people have a culture of eating rice so we have a good experience and technology to cultivate rice. Now Japan is supporting Ethiopia to improve the productivity of rice production. Japan is also supporting Ethiopian farmers to introduce what we call market-oriented agriculture.

Based on these circumstances, in addition to improving agricultural output and productivity, Japan supported the Government's efforts on the whole agricultural product value chain, such as improving market access and improving small-scale farmer income.

4.2.3.2. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION IN ETHIOPIA

Japan's Industrial development support for Ethiopia is promoted through two synergistic components: (i) policy dialogue on industrial development; and (ii) a specific project on Kaizen (GRIPS Development Forum-JICA Seminar, 2014). To achieve modernized economic structures by shifting the focus from agriculture to industry, it is critical to develop industries through industrial policy development, labor productivity improvement, and the attraction of high-quality foreign direct investment. According to sources, Ethiopia and Japan have prioritized industrial policy dialogue as a top priority for cooperation in order to improve Ethiopia's industrial policy.

Several areas of cooperation were identified as priorities by Japan and Ethiopia. For example, industrialization, (which is critical for Ethiopia), the Kaizen/improvement/initiative introduced by Japan in 2011. In the same year, the Ethiopian government established the Ethiopia Kaizen Institute (informant 02). According to the informant, Ethiopia-Japan industrial cooperation began with kaizen, with the former establishing the Ethiopian Kaizen Institute (EKI) entirely on

Ethiopian pledge. According to the informant, once the Ethiopian Kaizen Institute (EKI) is established, Ethiopia will offer a variety of Kaizen training programs to the industrial sector. The Institute also dispatches experts to individual companies throughout the country. According to the key informant, the kaizen philosophy has played an important role in assisting Ethiopia in its industrialization efforts.

Following the establishment of Kaizen, over 600 Ethiopian companies implement Kizan/improvement initiatives, with an average rate of improvement or productivity of around 40%. Key informant (07), in support of key informant (02) above, affirmed that Japan has been helping Ethiopia's industrialization to raise their productivity applying the 5S's constituted the core of the Kaizen concept; namely, Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain. Sharing his experience during his mission to Ethiopia, particularly his visit to Ambassador Garment, the biggest Ethiopian suits maker and one of the companies that adopted Kaizen activities highlighted as follows:

I was pleasantly surprised when I observe that the factory was clean, workplaces were logically organized and compartmentalized by colored tapes according to the fabrication process, and that workers were absorbed in their works. The situation before Kaizen was different. For example, stocktaking needed 15 days but it took only 3 days the year (after Kaizen).

He also witnessed that the kaizen has promoted by the Ethiopians themselves as the Kaizen unit was created after the initial JICA technical cooperation. In addition to his knowledge of how Kaizen has aided Ethiopian businesses, key informant (01) shared the following experience:

I went to a rural health center that had implemented Kaizen. Medicines are arranged in such a way, that the most frequently used ones are near the counter, and the others are also arranged in the order of their frequency of use." This concept [Kaizen] was also applied to the operations of the Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Services Enterprise (ESLSE). I went to their truck repair shop. The difference is visible in photos comparing their use of Kaizen "before" and "after."

To promote industrialization in the GTP2, the Ethiopian government focuses on development, specifically by strengthening agricultural market access, improving the quality and productivity of industries through Kaizen, developing quality infrastructure, developing human resources, and promoting science and technology. Japan has been assisting Ethiopia's efforts in the aforementioned priority areas (Country Assistance Policy for Ethiopia, 2017). As a result, the researcher discovered that Kaizen is a key indicator of Japan's cooperation in the field of industrial promotion in Ethiopia.

4.2.3.3. INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Neoliberals believe that states are primarily concerned with the absolute benefits of cooperation (Atlantic, 1953). In line with the liberalist argument, one might think the relations between Ethiopia and Japan, are good enough to show the increased interdependence of development cooperation on the areas of infrastructure. According to key informants, Japan supports the development of high-quality infrastructure through the use of Japanese technology to encourage investment in areas such as transportation, urban infrastructure, electric power, water supply, and sewerage. Key informant (no. 02):

Japan backed the expansion of road maintenance capacity. Japan, for example, has supported infrastructure development such as road construction between Addis Abeba and Debre Markos. When we construct large-scale important infrastructure, we consider the financial sustainability of the recipient countries.

Other than supporting quality infrastructure in Ethiopia, Japan formulates projects for developing measures against natural disasters such as droughts and floods, and for renewable energy. According to key informant (01), Japan has provided grant assistance for projects such as geothermal power generation in the Alato-Langano-Addis Abeba City Environmental Preservation Project, which includes cleaning and safety-improvement efforts at the Koshe waste site. To mitigate the effect of climate change and combat the adverse effect of drought that comes following a lack of timely rain, Ethiopia has been planting trees since 2018. With a keen interest to support Ethiopia's determination in solving climate change issues, Japan supports Ethiopia utilizing the framework of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

Japan is also planning a future Official Development Assistance (ODA) project to improve Addis Abeba's electricity supply. The “Addis Ababa Transmission and Distribution System Rehabilitation and Upgrading Project” is the name of this project. It has not yet been officially adopted, but it is being considered for the future (key informant 01). According to the informants above, Japan's infrastructure assistance is playing a critical role in pursuing sustainable development in Ethiopia through job creation, human resource development, technical transfer, and the improvement of a business environment.

4.2.3.4. EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Liberalism seeks peaceful cooperation between nations as well as within each nation, both at home and abroad. In this sense, liberalism is humanism; and the liberal is a global citizen, a cosmopolite (Mises, 2005). Human capacity building through education is critical for this to occur. Japan provides various scholarship programs for Ethiopian students and professionals at various levels as part of their development cooperation. Japan supports improving the quality of education and developing human resources required by industry by developing comprehensive educational cooperation focusing on science and mathematics education in order to strengthen individual capacity and expand employment opportunities. Japan also supports Ethiopia's industrialization by improving science and technology education and research capacity. Japan supports the development of a health system and the improvement of medical service quality based on the Universal Health Coverage philosophy (UHC). According to key informant (02):

Japan wants to help Ethiopia build its capacity in areas such as education, infrastructure, and other socioeconomic endeavors. Education, according to Japan, is the foundation for development. As a result, Japan is constantly working on personal education and training for business and industry. Japan, for example, established 11 human resource development centers in 11 African countries, including Ethiopia, as part of the TICAD initiative.

According to the above key informant, Japan through TICAD has been supporting Ethiopia in its effort to expand basic education, infrastructure, telecommunication, energy, and other developmental projects. In support of the informant above, key informant (04)³ elucidates the following:

In the area of social infrastructure such as education, Japan provided equipment for 23 thousand children in the southern tribal state. Concerning water, Japan provided safe water supply facilities for 750 thousand people in Ethiopia. Japan trained 4000 Ethiopian experts in water management. So that Ethiopia established the Ethiopian water management institute. So, these are examples of Japan Ethiopia's cooperation in line with human capacity building.

From the above key informants, we can understand that Japan is known for its quality education, technology advancement, and industrial economy in which Ethiopia has a lot to learn from Japan. According to informant (01, and key informant 04), through a program called Monbukagakusho Scholarship, Japan has offered a chance for young Ethiopians who have finished their secondary schools and aspire to join Universities. Sharing his best experience while he was in Japan to pursue his doctoral degree, key informant (04), point out as follows:

As I know, I can witness that, the Japanese education system is unique in its various particularities. Japanese education has a very deep foundation. Their primary and secondary education systems are built on a solid foundation. They have technology-based education and training, research systems. Ethiopia can share many Japanese experiences if the two countries take their bilateral relations to a higher level.

According to the aforementioned key informant, the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) provides a variety of scholarships for non-Japanese nationals who wish to study in Japan. Scholarship programs are available in Ethiopia through the

³ Prof. Afework Kassu (PhD), Biomedical Sciences (University of Tokushima); MSc. Applied Microbiology (Addis Ababa University); BSc. Biology (Addis Ababa University, Deputy State Minister of MoSHE, Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

Ministry of Education for research students, undergraduate students, and college of technology students. Recalling the exposure, he furthermore, stated that:

In the field of education, the Government of Japan has provided free scholarships to the Government of Ethiopia following the bilateral agreements reached between the two countries over the years. There is a scholarship program, called Monbukagakusho that offered an opportunity for many Ethiopians, including me, to go to Japan to pursue their graduate and postgraduate studies, and return to our homeland.

From the above key informant, it is to be understood that, there are opportunities offered by the government of Japan for Ethiopian students who would love to study in different universities of Japan. According to one of the former students in Kyoto University in Japan University and key informant in this study said that: as part of capacity building in the education sector in Ethiopia JICA, also offers scholarship programs for Ethiopian learners. Experts from various sectors went for short-term and long-term training.

The government of Japan has a different scholarship program to which Ethiopians can pursue their study. According to key informant (07)⁴, there is a scholarship mechanism in which university professors and researchers can take the opportunity for further study and cooperation between the two countries. He said:

Post-doctoral research positions are available through the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Some Ethiopian scholars have taken advantage of this opportunity to conduct advanced research at Japanese universities, research institutes, and industries for periods of three months, six months, nine months, one year, and two years. During this research period, they will also establish public-to-public and government-to-government links.

The above key informant reasoned that, unlike other scholarship programs, post-doctoral scholarship programs are very important to create networks among study centers of universities in both countries. They can create opportunities for future connections to be created and for other researchers to go and train through the connections once created.

⁴ Anonymous, diplomat at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia

as a country, we have to work with the relevant authorities to provide more educational opportunities, increase partnerships, create student exclusion, not only for Ethiopian students to go to Japan but also for Japanese students to come to Ethiopia for a semester and more”, said key informant (07).

Ethiopia is working to increase the number of postgraduate university professors, especially in higher education. According to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education recent data, there are about 35,000 teachers in higher education in Ethiopian universities of which less than 20 percent have a Ph.D. The ministry is working to ensure that 30 percent of Ethiopia's university teachers have a Ph.D. degree. And this can be achieved not only through a postgraduate education program in the country, but also by asking for scholarships from friendly countries such as Japan so that scholars can go there and study (MOSHE, 2020). Therefore, building and developing strong ties with Japan in the education sector is crucial for Ethiopia.

4.3. PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE RELATIONS

Under this particular theme of the study, the people-to-people relations between Ethiopia and Japan since 1991 will be discussed. Through analyzing the people-to-people ties between Ethiopia and Japan the study will reveal the various ways to enhance the people-to-people relations to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

According to recent research conducted by a German institute for international and security affairs, diplomacy existed for a long root of earlier forms conducting public diplomacy going back to the time of ancient civilization during city-states of the time to manage to cultivate friendship among the public of the respective city-states (SWP Research Paper 11, 2018). Unlike the past, where states use public diplomacy as an instrument of involving, understanding, influencing foreign publics, now a day's it becomes very significant to build people-to-people ties among nations to foster people-to-people relations along with a different language, culture, values, and trends. As part of people-to-people relations, Ethiopia and Japan through their foreign services facilitate and provide educational programs, exchange programs, host cultural shows/events, arrange visitor programs, and offer language training programs to flourish their people-to-people ties since 1991.

4.3.1. ETHIOPIA AND JAPAN: NURTURING BEST OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE THE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES

Ethiopia and Japan are the two most distant peoples in the world. However, there have been events in the history of the two countries that have historically been similar and interconnected. The two peoples have been ruled under emperors from the line of the royal family for a long time, and as a result, they share similar social values, hard-working culture, language, and way of life. The researcher found the role of such affinities and historical similarities in their potential for further enhancing public-to-public relations.

The people-to-people relation between Ethiopia and Japan is closely related to four basic events that have greater implications for nations of both countries. These are the war thumps of both nations, the talk of an arranged marriage between the two princes, the Japanese garden, and the Gold medalist winner, Abebe Bikila (Athlete). As constructivists focus on the social identities of individuals as means to explain interest formation, the people of Ethiopia and Japan constructed social identities that could be capitalized for the people-to-people ties between the two countries.

In the early 1930s, when there was a greater desire to strengthen people-to-people ties between Ethiopia and Japan, there was widespread speculation of a royal marriage between the two countries, between Prince Lij Araya Abeba and Masako Kuroda, daughter of Viscount Hiroyuki Kuroda. However, tense pressure from Western countries, particularly Italy, undermined the relationship due to concerns about the marriage's 'anti-white supremacy' nature, and the arrangement was happened. However, nationals from both countries are marrying these days.

4.3.1.1. FROM A TALK OF MARRIAGE TO INTER-MARRIAGE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND JAPANESE CITIZENS

Unlike in the past, where the people-to-people relations between Ethiopia and Japan were deterred by external powers, these days, there are many Japanese and Ethiopian who married and bearded babies with dual citizenship. According to key informant (06)⁵:

⁵ Anonymous, Lecturer at Addis Ababa University

at one time, there was talk of a marriage between Haile Selassie's nephew and a Japanese lady. But because of some intervention from a foreign country, it did not happen. But, later on, these days, ordinary Japanese citizens of two nations-many Ethiopians get married to Japanese and bear children.

From the above key informants, we can understand that, however, the arranged marriage between the two royal families, the initiative remained part of the history of both nations that tied up their nations. Henceforth, irrespective of their colors, and language, the people of Japan and Ethiopia have a positive inclination for one another. During the study, the researcher found that many Ethiopians and Japanese married and had children. He also noted that the two citizens of Ethiopians and Japanese families have been active in facilitating people-to-people relations between the two countries. Key informant (05)⁶, is a Japanese citizen who considered himself as a true son of Ethiopia, witnessing as follows:

Ethiopians have taught me a lot since I arrived in the country in 1984. I have shared many of their personalities. This was exhibited when I went to Japan to marry my Japanese Fiancé and came back to Ethiopia. Since then, I have been living separately but I have three children. My wife has been complaining to me; saying that 'she married with Ethiopian nations, not with me. That was a sort of the feeling so I have been together with my wife.

From the key informant above, it is possible to drive a statement that the Japanese have a positive inclination towards Ethiopian people and culture. In my communication with the above key informant earlier before I conduct this study and onwards, the researcher found that the Japanese love Ethiopia and Ethiopians. The similarities between in culture, traditions, social values , and similarities to that of Japan, help them to see Ethiopia and can easily establish family relationships with Ethiopians. In my communication with Mr. Girma Dessalegn who is a close friend of key informant (05), said told me that when he got married to his wife 26 years ago, one of his main mates along with other cohorts during his marriage ceremony was this Japanese person.

⁶ Hisada Shinichiro (PhD), Chairperson of Japan-Ethiopia Friendship Association, and Former Researcher Assistant Professor of Kyoto University to Addis Ababa University.

According to Mr. Girma, the Japanese have a special love, respect, and place for Ethiopians. Having witnessed the long friendship that has lasted over 26 years, he confirmed that the cultural and value similarities between the Japanese and the Ethiopians make it easy for the two peoples to live in harmony and intimacy. In supporting the above statement, the key informant (05) sharing his experience realizes how the Japanese are attracted to Ethiopia and its cultures.

I have to be honest, I married with Japanese. My wife is Japanese. But many other friends of mine married Ethiopian wife and husband. I am expecting them to form intermarriage associations. Children of intermarriage citizens of both nations are future assets for the friendly relation between the two countries.

From the above key informant, we can clearly understand that how he was greatly debited and trapped with Ethiopians. Let alone the culture, but also the way of life he was enjoying in the village where he lived. His wife's compliment was not from the inception of that she didn't like Ethiopians but, how she explained her husband was completely associated with Ethiopians. This can also be understood from his strong desire to see Ethiopians and Japanese live together through a strong bond created with intermarriage associations. For him, those who married each other are future assets of both nations which are something amazing.

4.3.1.2. RENOVATING JAPANESE GARDEN: COMMON HERITAGE OF ETHIOPIA AND JAPAN

Japanese Garden; is a common heritage for both Ethiopia and Japan. People from Japan and Ethiopia wonder not merely how beautiful the garden is, but the initiative to replicate the Japanese garden here in Ethiopia. Those who visit the garden in the backyard of the grand palace considered it as a shared asset between the two nations. The 60-year-old garden still took the breath of both nations. The following excerpt is taken from a remark delivered for the gatherings on the renovation day of the garden in 2015, by Hiroyuki Kishino, former ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia:

After some time had passed, this Garden underwent a major renovation in April 2005. It's fascinating to think back over 50 years and imagine the Japanese Garden under

construction in this Palace, as well as the close exchanges between our two Royal Families back then.

This Garden commemorates the long history of Japan-Ethiopia relations, which began in 1930 with the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. This Japanese Garden is also a symbol of our two peoples' long friendship and cooperation.

As the former ambassador clearly explains, the garden is not only the remainder of the long history of the diplomatic relation between Ethiopia and Japan. The government of Japan through its embassy in Ethiopia have had renovated the garden several times to kept in good condition with dedicated maintenance and management to make it a living heritage that both the people of Ethiopia and Japan able to enjoy Garden shortly. This could be seen in the impression of the key informant (05):

The garden was built in 1957 (in the years) where I was born, by two Japanese fresh graduate ladies Marico Mazunato and Akiko Fukumoto were employed at the Jubilee palace by the Ethiopian government. The two ladies were used to live at Ghion Hotel until 1960. Those ladies house still have existed at the Gihon Hotel serve as an employee's office. Two of the ladies are now 85 years old and living in Tokyo in good health.

From the key informant above, we can understand that this Japanese garden is a symbol of good relations between the two nations, a common story for both Ethiopian and Japanese nationals. In December 2019, the researcher personally was having a chance to visit the house in Ghion Hotel were two of the Japanese ladies used to live and work with Ethiopians in Ethiopia.

During the time, the above key informant was urging Ethiopians to take care of and to preserve not only the garden but also the ladies' house at Ghion Hotel in the good condition for many years to come so that they can be an instrument to foster civilian relations between the two countries.

4.3.1.3. COMMOMURATION OF ATHLET ABEBE BIKILA'S VICTORY DAY: A MAN IN HEART AND MIND OF JAPANESE

Ethiopia and Japan have shared and build common identities that could potentially be nurtured to enhance the people-to-people ties between the two nations. 1964 was also a remarkable year for both Ethiopia and the Japanese. During that year, Abebe Bikila was won a gold medal in the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, that makes him become not only the first African to win a gold medal after running barefoot at the Rome Olympics but also a socially constructed identity among Ethiopia for Japan's people.

According to key informants (03)⁷, “when he won his second gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 1964; the Japanese got another unique incident to get to know more about Ethiopians. In support of the above key informant, recalling the time, key informant (02), said;

the 1964 Summer Men's Tokyo Olympic Games was hosted for the first time in Japan. At that special game an athlete from Ethiopia and won a gold medal. He was Capitan Abebe Bikila. And that was an exciting moment for Japanese people to get to know Ethiopia more.

As stated above, it is clear that Abebe's victory and his gold medal award in Tokyo become a point of reference for many Japanese when they talk about the two countries. For instance, Key informant (05) explained his memory as follows:

When Abebe Bikila won a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympic Marathon, I was 7 years old. He was our hero because we used to run barefoot on a playground at elementary school. You wouldn't believe it but that is true. Abebe Bikila wore a shoe at the Tokyo Olympics in 1964. 20 years after the Tokyo Olympics when I came to Ethiopia in 1984, I only knew the emperor Hailesellassie and Abebe Bikila. At that time, I remember that I was felt confident enough that I was going to somewhere in Africa that I consider my second home, Ethiopia.

⁷ Samuel Tefera Alemu (PhD) is an Assistant Professor and Asian Desk Coordinator at the Center for African and Oriental Studies and Associate Dean for Research and Technology Transfer of the College of Social Sciences at Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia).

From the above key informants, we can understand that not less than Ethiopians at home, the Japanese never forget Abebe Bikila and his gold medal award at Tokyo Olympic Games. It is very surprising that most Japanese associate with his gold medal awarded and remember him in their lifetime. In support of the above witness, the news article shared by a Relief-web, on Oct 2008, of a Private Japanese donor, Mr. Kihachiro Onitsuka honors the memory of athlete Abebe Bikila with \$1 million donations for nutrition programs in Ethiopia, read as follows:

Mr. Kihachiro Onitsuka, a private Japanese donor and founder of the multinational sporting goods company, donated one million dollars to UNICEF Ethiopia. The money was given to UNICEF by the Japanese National Committee to support the Community-Based Nutrition Program in Tigray and the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). Mr. Onitsuka made a donation in memory of renowned Ethiopian Athlete Abebe Bikila, who won and broke the Marathon world record at the Olympics in Rome in 1960 and Tokyo in 1964, respectively.

Mr. Onitsuka's family recalled their father's special relationship with Athlete Bikila and his concern for Ethiopian children's well-being. Mr. Onitsuka visited Abebe in his hotel and measured his feet when he ran the Mainichi Marathon in Japan because he was impressed by Abebe's victory in running barefoot in the Rome Olympics.

From the above excerpt, one can draw that, how Abebe Bikila becomes a socially constructed identity that both Ethiopian and Japanese used to bridge the people-to-people ties between the two nations. Especially the second paragraph of the above excerpt stressed that how individual Japanese were highly fascinated by Abebe and developed a positive inclination towards Ethiopians.

This is also accepted by the Ethiopian side. “We note that quite many Japanese people are positively inclined towards Ethiopia” (The FDRE, National Security and Strategy Policy document (2002; p86).

As a result, Ethiopia and Japan are working to maintain such kinds of personality cult and achievement to enhance the people-to-people ties between the two nations at various times.

4.3.4. CULTURE: A FOUNDATION FOR PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND JAPAN

There are many similarities that Ethiopia and Japan shared in terms of culture, tradition, and way of life that both nations accommodate in their people-to-people aspects of relations. According to informants both nationals of Ethiopia and the Japanese shared similarities in terms of culture, way of life, traditions, and other social values. According to key informant (01), both Ethiopia and Japan have a lot in common appearances of national characteristics. In support of the informant above, key informant (03), affirmed that the bowing culture of Ethiopia and Japan are quite similar. According to him, in terms of patriotism, and love of their countries, the Japanese are also very much nationalists as Ethiopians despite some exceptions. Similarly, one of the key informants who attended his Ph.D. shared his experience that he has been exposed for in Japan while he was in Japan as follows:

Living in Japan exposes you to some unique Japanese culture. Some of the cultures, I have been exposed to in Japan have in one way or another was similar to the culture we have in Ethiopia. For example, in the bowing culture, whenever we meet our elders in most rural parts of Ethiopia, the first thing we do is bowing to show our respect and love. That is what you can see in Japan too (Key informant, (04).

Saying both Ethiopia and Japan have many similarities in terms of culture and tradition key informant (02) said, the coffee and tea ceremony has a lot in common. *“We enjoy our good time together and enjoy the quiet time together, quiet and relaxed time with friends, acquaintances, and guests. So, I find a lot of similarities between our two nations”.*

From all the above key informants, we can understand that nation of both countries has many similarities to share and nurture in their people-to-people ties. The hard-working culture of the Japanese is similar to that of the hard-working culture of our farmers in Ethiopia. *“Over 80% of our citizens are rural residents living on subsistence farming that makes their daily life very hard, working for many hours a day. That also is another similarity I learned and I always nurture that from my experience” (Key informant, 04).*

Unlike the past, where states use public diplomacy as an instrument of involving, understanding, influencing foreign publics, now a day's it becomes very significant to build people-to-people ties among nations to foster relations with a different language, culture, values, and trends. Ethiopia and Japan through their foreign services facilitate and provide educational programs, exchange programs, host cultural shows/events, arrange visitor programs, and offer language training programs to flourish the people-to-people relations.

Japan Embassy in Ethiopia often held cultural events at the embassy ground every year at some point to promote the people-to-people relation between the two nations. The embassy also takes part in the public events prepared by Ethiopians. But this is not enough to foster the people-to-people ties. Hence, the embassy along with stakeholders, friendly people from both countries has established an association called Japan-Ethiopia Friendship Association (JEFA), non-profit in its nature by both nationals intending to flourish the people-to-people ties between the two countries.

4.3.5. JAPAN-ETHIOPIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION (JEFA)

Ethiopia and Japan are working to institutionalize their bilateral relations. Ethiopians and Japanese who are fascinated with the long-existing relation of the two countries take the initiative and established an association called “Japan-Ethiopia Friendship Association (JEFA) in late December 2019, intending to establish, promote, and develop the growth of friendship between Ethiopia and Japan by sharing each other’s culture and working together for a prosperous future. During the inauguration ceremony (in which I took part on the occasion), the chairperson said organizations like JEFA are a bridge for the civilian relationship between two nations which is good to make the relationship between Ethiopia and Japan.

Key informant (04), who was a guest speaker on the occasion said, the establishment of such an institution would have a pivotal role in uplifting the people-to-people relation between the two countries. The following quote is taken from the remark he made:

In Japan, the Ethiopian Association of Japan was established 48 years ago in the year after emperor Haile Selassie was visited Osaka Expo in 1970. Then, however, in Ethiopia none of the Japanese associations were formed yet after 90 years since the treaty of amity

and friendship was made, until the end of December 2019, when the Japan-Ethiopia Friendship Association (JEFA) was established by both Ethiopian and Japanese nationals in Ethiopia.

The researcher found associations like JEFA would be helpful to promote culture, language, tradition, and exchange of knowledge through various programs that don't need formal means of operations under the embassy of both countries. Talking with, chairperson of JEFA (Personal communication, January 2020), there are also associations called "Adey Abeba Association, and others in Japan, where Ethiopians and Ethio-Japan nationals engaged themselves to enjoy weekends and visited each other at some occasional days" But, all of them needs to be supported and nurtured in the way to enhance the people-to-people ties between Ethiopia and Japan.

5. CONCLUSION

The objective of this study was to analyze the diplomatic relation between Ethiopia and Japan since 1991. To accomplish this goal, the study assessed the bilateral relations between Ethiopia and Japan from the political, economic, and people-to-people aspects. To carry out the study, the qualitative research method has been extensively employed. The data collection tools have provided the study with a steady flow of data from relevant sources, including in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, and relevant documents.

Ethiopia and Japan have enjoyed a robust diplomatic relation in many aspects. The political relation mainly constitutes bilateral political consultations, diplomatic contacts through state visits, military cooperation, and regional peace and security. Ethiopia's strategic location in the Horn of Africa has also assisted both countries in strengthening their respective foreign policies. Thus, Japan recognizes Ethiopia's strategic position in the Horn of Africa in order to mark the region's peace and security activities. From the Ethiopian perspective, the importance of Japan's initiative through TICAD is heavily influenced by its economic diplomacy goals. As a result, Ethiopia and Japan recognizes and value their strategic alliance.

Ethiopia and Japan have economic relations that involve both state and non-state actors. Both countries conduct their bilateral relations at various levels, interacting through various firms and organizations such as JICA, TICAD, IGAD, and so on. Since the start of the Tokyo International

Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 1993, Japan has engaged in policy dialogue with dozens of African countries, including Ethiopia.

However, geographically speaking, Ethiopia and Japan are the two most distant peoples in the world; both nations shared similar historical accounts. The war thumps of both nations, the talk of an arranged marriage between the two princes, the Japanese garden, and the Gold medalist winner, Abebe Bikila (Athlete) are just some of the examples of how the two nations have been linked in the past. Their inclination towards similar social values; such as hard-working culture, bowing culture, coffee and Tea ceremony, sense of nationalism, and others play positive role in inspiring their diplomatic relations since 1991. People of Japan and Ethiopia have a positive inclination for one another, irrespective of their colors, and language. The two citizens of Ethiopians and Japanese families have been active in facilitating people-to-people relations between the two countries. Sharing similarities in areas of culture, sport, common heritage, tourism, and intermarried, the people-to-people relations between the two countries have grown over the years.

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APENDEXIES

ANNEX I: INTERVIEW GUIDING QUESTIONS

Dear informant/s! Thank you for your cooperation in this research. My name is Dessalegn Masrie, and I am MA student at Addis Ababa University. I am here to ask you some questions for my study “*Ethio-Japan diplomatic Relations since 1991*”, that aims to analyses the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan, on their political, economic, and people-to-people aspects of their relations. Your participation in this study shall be based completely on your willingness and you are guaranteed to withdraw from the interview at any time or refuse to answer any questions should you feel uncomfortable about it.

The study will be conducted for academic purpose and any personal information you share with the researcher will be kept confidential. Cognizant of this and the importance of the information that you give towards the achievements of the research objectives, you are required to give genuine and honest information.

Thank you once again!

Guiding interview questions

Part One: Questions on Political relations

1. How do you explain the diplomatic relation between Ethiopia and Japan?
2. How do you explain the government-to-government relations between Ethiopia and Japan?
3. How the state visits between Ethiopia and Japan could help them to enhance their political relations?
4. What do the two countries work together on political development?
5. How do you get Ethiopia’s peace keeping role in East Africa?
6. What is the Japan’s role to support Ethiopia’s effort to maintain peace and Security in the region?
7. How do you explain the advantage of TICAD to heighten the political aspect relations of the two countries?

Part Two: Questions on Economic Relations

1. How do you see the economic relation between the two countries?
2. Japan is developed and the third largest economy in the world, what can Ethiopia learn from Japan's way of development?
3. How do you assess the investment opportunities in Ethiopia?
4. Does Ethiopia attract Japanese firms to invest?
5. Which areas are the focusing areas that Ethiopia and Japan work together?
6. How do you explain the trade volume between the two countries?
7. What is the advantage of TICAD for Ethiopia?
8. How do you explain the advantage of TICAD to heighten economic relations between Ethiopia and Japan?
9. What are the areas Japan and Ethiopia work together via TICAD?
10. How does TICAD help Ethiopia to scale up its capacity diplomatic aspirations at multilateral levels?
11. What are the economic roles of TICAD for Ethiopia on its aspiration for development?
12. And what would be the significance of having Japan's firms like JICA, and Associations like JEFA, to assist the activities of TICAD to booster its relations with Ethiopia?

Part Three: Questions on People-to-people relations

1. How do you get the people-to-people relations between Ethiopia and Japan?
2. How do you get the culture, tradition, values, and traditions of Ethiopians?
3. How the relations between Ethiopia and Japan could be foster?
4. What initiatives are being done to develop the people to people ties between the two nations?
5. How do you get the people-to-people relations between Ethiopia and Japan having long years of relations?
6. What should be done to foster the civilian relations between the two nations?
7. What could be the role of associations like Japan-Ethiopia Friendship Association, to enhance the relation between the two nations?
8. What activities are being underway for exchange programs?

9. How do you explain the role of scholarship and exchange programs between the two countries to flourish their diplomatic relations?
10. How learning Japanese Language and culture could help to enhance the diplomatic relationship between Ethiopia and Japan?
11. How do you see the TVT program of Ethiopia, and what can Ethiopia learn from Japan?
12. What does Tokyo Olympic mean for Ethiopia and Japan?

APPENDIX II: JAPAN-ETHIOPIA RELATIONS

Japan-Ethiopia Relations (Basic Data)

- 1930 Japan and Ethiopia signed Treaty of Amity and Commerce.
- 1933 Ethiopia established an honorary consulate-general in Osaka.
- 1936 Japan established a legation in Ethiopia.
- 1955 Japan restored diplomatic relations with Ethiopia.
- 1958 Both Japan and Ethiopia established embassies in each capital.

Sources: November 14, 2019 retrieved at <https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ethiopia/data.html>, on April 2021

VIP VISITS

| From Japan to Ethiopia: | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Year | Name |
| 1984 | Minister for Foreign Affairs Shintaro Abe |
| 1985 | Multi-party Delegation of the members of the House of Representatives |
| 1998 | State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Keizo Takemi |
| 2002 | Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoriko Kawaguchi |
| 2003 | Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tetsuro Yano |
| 2004 | Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Katsuyuki Kawai |
| 2006 | Senior Vice-Minister Yasuhisa Shiozaki Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi |
| 2008 | Former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasuhide Nakayama Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuhide Minorikawa |
| 2009 | Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasutoshi Nishimura |
| 2010 | State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Tetsuo Fukuyama |
| 2011 | State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Takeaki Matsumoto |
| 2012.1 | State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ryuji Yamane |
| 2012. | State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ryuji Yamane |
| 2013.1 | State Minister for Foreign Affairs Masaji Matsuyama |
| 2013.3 | Minister for Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida |
| 2013.4 | Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshiko Abe |
| 2014.1 | Prime Minister Shinzo Abe |
| 2014.1-2 | State Minister for Foreign Affairs Norio Mitsuya |
| 2014.8 | Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hirotaka Ishihara |
| 2015.1 | Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Takashi Uto |
| 2015.7 | State Minister for Foreign Affairs Minoru Kiuchi |
| 2015.9 | Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Kazuyuki Nakane |
| 2015.12 | Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hitoshi Kikawada |
| 2016.1 | State Minister for Foreign Affairs Seiji Kihara |
| 2016.5 | Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Tsuyoshi Hoshino |
| 2016.8 | Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League |
| 2017.5 | Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Hiroyuki Miyazawa Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Shunsuke Takei |
| 2017.8 | Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Kono |

| | |
|---------|---|
| 2017.11 | State Minister for Foreign Affairs Masahisa Sato |
| 2018.8 | Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Kentaro Sonoura |
| 2019.5 | Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Kono |

| From Ethiopia to Japan: | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Year | Name |
| 1992 | Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin |
| 1993 | Minister of Planning and Economic Development Mohammed Duri |
| 1996 | Prime Minister Meles Zenawi (official visit) |
| 1998 | Prime Minister Meles Zenawi (TICAD II) |
| 1999 | Speaker of House of Federation Almaz Meko |
| 2001 | State Minister of Finance and Economic Development Mulu Ketsela |
| 2003 | Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin Prime Minister Meles Zenawi (TICAD III) |
| 2006 | Minister of Trade and Industry Girma Biru State Minister of Foreign Affairs Takeda Alemu |
| 2008 | State Minister of Finance and Economic Development Mekonen Manyazewal Prime Minister Meles Zenawi (TICAD IV and G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit) |
| 2009 | State Minister of Trade and Industry Tadesse Haile Minister of Science and Technology Junedin Sado Speaker of House of Federation Degefe Bula |
| 2011 | State Minister of Trade Yacob Yalla State Minister of Health Kesetebirhan Admasu Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hailemariam Desalegn State Minister of Finance and Economic Development Ahmed Shide |
| 2012. | Minister of Health Tedros Adhanom |
| 2013.5-6 | Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom (TICAD V) |
| 2013.10 | Minister of Environment and Forestry Belete Tafere (The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the “Minamata Convention on Mercury”) |
| 2013.11 | State Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Construction Hailemeskel Tefera |
| 2014.5 | Minister of Agriculture Tefera Derbew, Director General of the Ethiopian Investment Agency Fitsum Arega |

| From Ethiopia to Japan: | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Year | Name |
| 2014.10 | Speaker of the House of Peoples Representatives Abadula Gameda (Official guest of the House of Representatives) |
| 2015.4 | State Minister of Foreign Affairs Berhane Gebre-Christos |
| 2015.11-12 | Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Communications and Information Technology Debretsion Gebremichael |
| 2015.12 | Minister of Foreign Affairs Tedros Adhanom (Universal Health Coverage Forum) |
| 2016.4 | Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives Abadula Gameda and members of the House of Peoples' Representatives (GCPPD2016) |
| 2017.4 | Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Tedros Adhanom (Election for WHO Director-General) Minister of Industry Ahmed Abetew (JETRO Seminar and Embassy) |
| 2017.5 | Ministry of Public Service and Human Resource Development Tagese Chafo (JICA Program) |
| 2017.6 | Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, Minister of Science and Technology Getahun Mekuria |
| 2018.2 | State Minister of Foreign Affairs Aklilu Hailemichael |
| 2018.8 | Special Envoy of the Prime Minister Seyoum Mesfin |
| 2018.10 | State Minister of Foreign Affairs Afework Kassu Gizaw (TICAD Ministerial Meeting) |
| 2018.11 | Head of Economic Planning, Monitoring and Supporting Sector of the Office of the Prime Minister Arkebe Oqubay Metiku (To receive The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star) |
| 2019.3 | State Minister of Science and Higher Education Afework Kassu Gizaw (Invitation by Tokushima university) |
| 2019.5 | Minister of Trade and Industry Fetlework Gebre-Egziabher (Invitation by UNIDO) |
| 2019.8 | Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, Minister of Foreign Affairs Gedu Andargachew, Minister of Water Irrigation and Energy Sileshi Bekele, Minister of Innovation and Technology Getahun Mekuria etc. (TICAD7) |

| From Ethiopia to Japan: | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Year | Name |
| 2019.10 | Former President Mulatu Teshome Wirtu (Ceremony of Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor) |

Source: Japan-Ethiopia Relations (Basic Data) November 14, 2019

APPENDIX III: TABLE 4.8: ETHIOPIAN EXPORT TO JAPAN

| Ethiopian exports to Japan | Value | Year |
|---|-----------|------|
| Coffee, tea, mate and spices | \$58.36M | 2017 |
| Oil seed, oleagic fruits, grain, seed, fruits | \$7.01M | 2017 |
| Articles of apparel, knit or crocheted | \$766.25K | 2017 |
| Animal, vegetable fats and oils, cleavage products | \$626.67K | 2017 |
| Live trees, plants, bulbs, roots, cut flowers | \$283.28K | 2017 |
| Raw hides and skins (other than furskins) and leather | \$175.51K | 2017 |
| Articles of leather, animal gut, harness, travel good | \$158.89K | 2017 |
| Ores slag and ash | \$101.22K | 2017 |
| Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers | \$98.05K | 2017 |
| Articles of apparel, not knit or crocheted | \$73.06K | 2017 |
| Dairy products, eggs, honey, edible products | \$67.46K | 2017 |
| Optical, photo, technical, medical apparatus | \$46.96K | 2017 |
| Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins | \$20.80K | 2017 |
| Furniture, lighting signs, prefabricated buildings | \$15.35K | 2017 |
| Machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers | \$8.33K | 2017 |
| Special woven or tufted fabric, lace, tapestry | \$7.11K | 2017 |
| Other made textile articles, sets, worn clothing | \$5.40K | 2017 |
| Vehicles other than railway, tramway | \$4.11K | 2017 |
| Electrical, electronic equipment | \$3.77K | 2017 |
| Ceramic products | \$1.99K | 2017 |
| Wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal | \$1.95K | 2017 |

| Ethiopian exports to Japan | Value | Year |
|--|-----------|------|
| Printed books, newspapers, pictures | \$1.75K | 2017 |
| Articles of iron or steel | \$1.19K | 2017 |
| Toys, games, sports requisites | \$1.13K | 2017 |
| Footwear, gaiters and the like, | \$1.01K | 2017 |
| Glass and glassware | \$331 | 2017 |
| Plastics | \$305 | 2017 |
| Musical instruments, parts and accessories | \$298 | 2017 |
| Manufacturers of plaiting material, basketwork | \$295 | 2017 |
| Nickel | \$282 | 2017 |
| Headgear and | \$278 | 2017 |
| Paper and paperboard, articles of pulp, paper and board | \$224 | 2017 |
| Miscellaneous articles of base metal | \$95 | 2017 |
| Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques | \$69 | 2017 |
| Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products | \$13 | 2017 |
| Miscellaneous manufactured articles | \$9 | 2017 |
| Base metals not specified elsewhere, cermets. | \$136.32K | 2016 |
| Products of animal origin | \$14.78K | 2016 |
| Iron and steel | \$713.83K | 2015 |
| Wadding, felt, nonwovens, yarns, twine, cordage | \$19.84K | 2015 |
| Tools, implements, cutlery of base metal | \$7.61K | 2015 |
| Tanning, dyeing extracts, tannins, derivatives, pigments | \$5.91K | 2015 |

| Ethiopian exports to Japan | Value | Year |
|--|-----------|------|
| Rubbers | \$4.44K | 2015 |
| Aluminum | \$3.76K | 2015 |
| Carpets and other textile floor coverings | \$523 | 2015 |
| Beverages, spirits and vinegar | \$188 | 2015 |
| Railway, tramway locomotives, rolling stock, equipment | \$49.13K | 2014 |
| Edible fruits, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, melons | \$0 | 2014 |
| Soaps, lubricants, waxes, candles, modelling pastes | \$127.43K | 2013 |
| Live animals | \$1.18K | 2013 |
| Essential oils, perfumes, cosmetics, toiletries | \$172 | 2013 |
| Vegetable, fruit, nut food preparations | \$24 | 2013 |
| Cotton | \$794 | 2012 |
| Pharmaceutical products | \$16 | 2012 |
| Clocks and watches | \$5 | 2012 |
| Salt, sulphur, earth, stone, plaster, lime and cement | \$7.35K | 2010 |

SOURCES: <https://tradingeconomics.com/ethiopia/imports/japan>, by clicking the “+” sign from the link it is possible to see the volume of imports that Ethiopia from Japan in the years 2010-2018. Data, historical chart and statistics - was last updated on June of 2021.

APPENDIX IV: ETHIOPIA IMPORTS FROM JAPAN

Appendix IV: Table 4.9 (Table that shows Ethiopian Imports from Japan 2010-2017)

| Ethiopian Imports from Japan | Value | Year |
|---|-----------|------|
| Vehicles other than railway, tramway | \$558.72M | 2017 |
| Machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers | \$87.18M | 2017 |
| Rubbers | \$25.50M | 2017 |
| Iron and steel | \$22.12M | 2017 |
| Optical, photo, technical, medical apparatus | \$6.68M | 2017 |
| Zinc | \$6.07M | 2017 |
| Electrical, electronic equipment | \$5.72M | 2017 |
| Articles of iron or steel | \$1.65M | 2017 |
| Stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials | \$1.32M | 2017 |
| Glass and glassware | \$1.31M | 2017 |
| Organic chemicals | \$901.87K | 2017 |
| Tanning, dyeing extracts, tannins, derivatives, pigments | \$865.25K | 2017 |
| Plastics | \$834.15K | 2017 |
| Aircraft, spacecraft | \$613.20K | 2017 |
| Miscellaneous chemical products | \$584.51K | 2017 |
| Manmade filaments | \$565.06K | 2017 |
| Paper and paperboard, articles of pulp, paper and board | \$456.64K | 2017 |
| Knitted or crocheted fabric | \$453.58K | 2017 |
| Miscellaneous articles of base metal | \$429.64K | 2017 |
| Aluminum | \$218.61K | 2017 |
| Miscellaneous manufactured articles | \$209.28K | 2017 |

| Ethiopian Imports from Japan | Value | Year |
|--|-----------|------|
| Tools, implements, cutlery of base metal | \$177.09K | 2017 |
| Articles of apparel, knit or crocheted | \$173.74K | 2017 |
| Fertilizers | \$151.60K | 2017 |
| Pharmaceutical products | \$149.65K | 2017 |
| Printed books, newspapers, pictures | \$115.36K | 2017 |
| Clocks and watches | \$74.79K | 2017 |
| Soaps, lubricants, waxes, candles, modelling pastes | \$71.58K | 2017 |
| Furniture, lighting signs, prefabricated buildings | \$67.73K | 2017 |
| Railway, tramway locomotives, rolling stock, equipment | \$60.74K | 2017 |
| Photographic or cinematographic goods | \$53.42K | 2017 |
| Wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal | \$52.32K | 2017 |
| Special woven or tufted fabric, lace, tapestry | \$46.02K | 2017 |
| Articles of apparel, not knit or crocheted | \$42.95K | 2017 |
| Ships, boats, and other floating structures | \$40.65K | 2017 |
| Manmade staple fibers | \$39.20K | 2017 |
| Impregnated, coated or laminated textile fabric | \$27.73K | 2017 |
| Cotton | \$27.68K | 2017 |
| Beverages, spirits and vinegar | \$18.28K | 2017 |
| Musical instruments, parts and accessories | \$14.90K | 2017 |
| Wadding, felt, nonwovens, yarns, twine, cordage | \$13.88K | 2017 |
| Copper | \$12.34K | 2017 |
| Toys, games, sports requisites | \$11.68K | 2017 |

| Ethiopian Imports from Japan | Value | Year |
|---|----------|------|
| Headgear and | \$10.92K | 2017 |
| Oil seed, oleagic fruits, grain, seed, fruits | \$9.77K | 2017 |
| Ceramic products | \$9.72K | 2017 |
| Other made textile articles, sets, worn clothing | \$9.63K | 2017 |
| Albuminoids, modified starches, glues, enzymes | \$7.19K | 2017 |
| Cork and articles of cork | \$5.96K | 2017 |
| Inorganic chemicals, precious metal compound, isotope | \$5.49K | 2017 |
| Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products | \$4.84K | 2017 |
| Footwear, gaiters and the like, | \$4.56K | 2017 |
| Articles of leather, animal gut, harness, travel good | \$3.40K | 2017 |
| Miscellaneous edible preparations | \$2.34K | 2017 |
| Live trees, plants, bulbs, roots, cut flowers | \$945 | 2017 |
| Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques | \$746 | 2017 |
| Umbrellas, walking-sticks, seat-sticks, whips | \$486 | 2017 |
| Salt, sulphur, earth, stone, plaster, lime and cement | \$313 | 2017 |
| Carpets and other textile floor coverings | \$225 | 2017 |
| Dairy products, eggs, honey, edible products | \$159 | 2017 |
| Essential oils, perfumes, cosmetics, toileteries | \$37 | 2017 |
| Animal, vegetable fats and oils, cleavage products | \$11 | 2017 |
| Cereals | \$2.11K | 2016 |
| Cereal, flour, starch, milk preparations and products | \$1.34K | 2016 |
| Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers | \$1.29K | 2016 |

| Ethiopian Imports from Japan | Value | Year |
|---|----------|------|
| Base metals not specified elsewhere, cermet. | \$885 | 2016 |
| Manufacturers of plaiting material, basketwork | \$315 | 2016 |
| Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins | \$25 | 2016 |
| Pulp of wood, fibrous cellulosic material, waste | \$3.07K | 2015 |
| Meat, fish and seafood preparations | \$2.46K | 2015 |
| Live animals | \$111 | 2015 |
| Fish, crustaceans, molluscs, aquatics invertebrates | \$100 | 2015 |
| Lac, gums, resins | \$12.04K | 2014 |
| Residues, wastes of food industry, animal fodder | \$3.90K | 2014 |
| Edible fruits, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, melons | \$20.48K | 2013 |
| Vegetable, fruit, nut food preparations | \$8.16K | 2013 |
| Vegetable plaiting materials, vegetable products | \$4.56K | 2013 |
| Furskins and artificial fur, manufactures | \$2.71K | 2013 |
| Arms and ammunition, parts and accessories | \$1.40K | 2013 |
| Coffee, tea, mate and spices | \$336 | 2013 |
| Explosives, pyrotechnics, matches, pyrophorics | \$24 | 2013 |
| Milling products, malt, starches, inlin, wheat gluten | \$4.47K | 2012 |
| Raw hides and skins (other than furskins) and leather | \$58 | 2012 |
| Lead | \$341 | 2011 |
| Sugars and sugar confectionery | \$30 | 2010 |

SOURCES: <https://tradingeconomics.com/ethiopia/imports/japan>, by clicking the “+” sign from the link it is possible to see the volume of imports that Ethiopia from Japan in the years 2010-2018. Data, historical chart and statistics - was last updated on June of 2021.