Hadiyya (Hadiya): History

An Overview of the Hadiyya History from the 12th to 18th Centuries

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Historical Overview: Ethnic Origin

1. Historical Evidence Suggests Hadiyya to be the result of ethnic mix of Arab Muslim and indigenous people
   - According to legend – Hadiyya ancestor(s) originated from Sana’a in Yemen ~ b/n the 10th & 11th centuries
   - First destination – most likely the northern Somali coast
     - A place called Hadey~ (Hadeytaweyne Hadeytacawl located on maps?)
   - Quickly absorbed into Cushitic and Semitic (Harare) speaking autochthonous groups

2. Another claim – Hadiyya as a son of Abadir (the founding father of Harare) and a local woman
   - Hence the Harar Plateau as the origin of political and ethnic entity ‘Hadiyya’
Historical Overview: Pedigree

- Most Hadiyya groups claim one or more of the following historically recorded ancestors from around 12th century:
  - Gadayto Garad, Gudola Garad, Diho-, Hadabo-, Ganazo (Ganz), Saga, Gadab, Qaben, Gogala, Halab
    - Garad (Gerad) = governor(ruler)

- For many of us; however, Manchchicho is the progenitor/ancestor
  - Father of Garad Bamo (Booyyaamo) and Garad Mehamad (Bimaddo – noted as the ancestor of the Libido, among others)
  - Can be traced most likely to 12th to 13th Century
  - Genealogy beyond Manchchicho to Hadiyya inconclusive
  - Oral traditions suggest long/short lineages

- Some difficulty to trace back beyond 12th century
Historical Overview: The Kingdom of Hadiyya

- An ancient kingdom (r. 12th - 15th centuries); Proof:
  - Chronicles: Attempts by Emperor Amde Tsiyon (1314–1344) to submit the King of Hadiya, Ammano, who refused - many killed, but no total control
  - During Emperor Zara Yaqob (1399–1468), the Garad of Hadiya, Mahikko, repeated his predecessor's actions
    - **Eleni or Helena** (died April, 1522) - was Empress of Ethiopia
    - Daughter of Mehamad (Bimaddo) - king of Hadiyya, converted to Christianity
    - PS: Mahikko Garad (Eleni’s brother/son of Bimaddo) later pursued and killed by Zara Yacob forces
  - Mention of powerful Sultanates and Kingdoms of Adal, Hadiyya, Dawaro, Fatagar, by many sources, e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Zeila Confederation (1185–1415) – on the next Map:
  - Made up of the Sultanates: Hadiyya, Dawaro, Fatagar, Adal, Yifat
Muslim States: Hadiyya Kingdom in 13th Century
Historical Overview: The Kingdom of Hadiyya (continued)

- Most scholars agree that the (Islamic) kingdom of Hadiyya covered:
  - Arsi, most of Bale (east of Ganale and upper Wabi Sheballe rivers)
  - Border regions of Hararge and Sidamo including lakes

- Hadiyya experienced its greatest territorial expansion around 16th century
  - Evidence: Genealogy, migration traditions

- As a leading political and territorial entity,
  - Hadiyya’s influence reached parts of Kambata, Fatagar, and Gurage
  - Very close ethnic mix & relationship with Wag/Maya, Bale, Dawaro
  - Played predominant role within those ethnic clusters
Hadiyya & Other Closely Related Ethnic Mix

Approximate boundaries of political control of the Christian Ethiopian Empire
Approximate boundaries of the provinces and tributaries
Approximate extension of Hadiyya state
Territories largely inhabited by populations of Hadiyya stock or related to the Hadiyya
Subgroups
Political entities

6. Approximate extension of Hadiyya c. 1500
The Hadiyya Kingdom on the Map (12th - 16th Century)
16th Century & Later: Great Migrations

- Marks the beginning of the end of the kingdom
- Devastating effects of wars on Hadiyya
  - By the Christian empire & Holy war of Ahmad Ibrahim (Gragn, the left handed); Wars among ethnic groups
    - Portuguese helped Galawdewos defeat the Muslim: Emir Ahmed’s was forced to call for support from the Ottoman Empire that never came
    - Portuguese/Galawdewos victory near Lake Tana in 1543; E. Ahmed killed
    - The Gragn campaign culminated in 1568 with the defeat of Adal/Hadiyya/Dwaro alliance & mysterious death of Gragn himself

- Effects on the demographics – Ethnic Upheaval
  - Various war-torn Hadiyya groups moved to North & North-west
    - Leaving the war zones, their original settlements, empty
    - This eventually gave rise to easy movement for Oromo crossing Ganale from the West
      - Marks the start of Oromo migration to various parts
  - Other reasons:
    - Weakness of the Christian empire to hold conquered territories together
    - Nomadic lifestyle of the Hadiyya; sedentary lifestyle could have prevented overrun from Oromos
16th Century: Great Migrations (Continued)

- Some Hadiyya groups migrated along with other ethnic groups such as Sidama and either assimilated or maintained their identity
  - A good example - the prominent/dominant Sidama group Buchche (Bushe)
  - Mentioned by many Hadiyya informants as being part of their ancestors, and Hadiyya being Buchche’s forefather

- Oromo expansion accelerated and the Hadiyya kingdom disintegrated
  - Hadiyya sub-groups continued to migrate north, west, and north-east
  - Oromo followed the Hadiyya movement from behind
  - But Hadiyya eventually overrun by Oromo pastoralists in many cases
  - Major role of Gada system in convincing Hadiyya to integrate
  - Those who were overrun, faced pressure and had no choice
    - Gave up their socio-cultural & linguistic identity (totally assimilated), and
    - Either settled or continued migration with Oromo (e.g. a number of Hadiyya clans among Maaca around Neqamt (Wolega)
Subjugation, Assimilation, and Migrations continued

- Ethnic clashes, pushes, attempts of conquest continued until the beginning of the 17th century
  - Emperor Jacob (engaged to a Hadiyya princess) - declared Hadiyya was secured
  - Although this never ensured a total surrender for the empire until the 18th

Hadiyya no longer a territorial power

- Hadiyya, once a powerful territorial entity, finally got disbanded and its people scattered, mixed neighboring ethnic groups or assimilated by Oromos, inter alia
- Some maintained their identity to this date; most Hadiyya have been totally assimilated
- Clan names ending with –manna survived as witness of those absorbed
  - ~manna undoubtedly points to those clans being of Hadiyya descent
  - Several of Hadiyya clans (classified at manna level = several thousands each) exist within the current Oromo territories
- Those managed to preserve what is left faced another pressure by hegemonic religion, language, culture, and feudal rulers - Forced to adhere to those practices and subjected to brutal exploitation
Beyond 17th Century: **Feudalism & Class**

- **Marked by atrocities from the Christian empire**
  - Especially Minelik and his puppets
    - Far reaching territorial conquest and harsh treatment of conquered territories
      - **Gabar system and its colonial features**
        - Gave rise to harsh exploitation of peasants by the church, malkegna, naftagna, balabat (local collaborators)
        - Peasants were subjected to hard labor and liable both personally and with their properties to their land owners
        - Draconian treatment of Gabar subjects (e.g. ‘afarsat’ = indiscriminate criminal investigation for minor offenses against ‘noble’ class)
        - Hence Italian occupation was considered a relief for the south – better of two evils
  - **H/Selassie’s superficial attempt to end Gabar**
    - Led to massive land ‘gasha’ ownership by few melkagna, etc who were either war lords or various beneficiaries of the regime
    - A new form of exploitation – land rent vs. resta-gult
    - No wonder the 1975 land ownership decree welcomed by southern peasants, Hadiyya in particular, more so than anywhere else
Hadiyyisa Language: Evolution, Hegemonic Pressures, Decline/Extinction

➢ Who does or does not speak Hadiyyisa, and why?

- Semitic speaking
  - Selte/Silxe – Wolane – Ulbarag – Zay (around Zway & islands) cluster: ethnic groups include Azernet, Barbare, Ulbarag, Woriro, Wolane, etc
  - Linguistic status of some of the recorded ancestors: Gadayto, Diho-, Hadabo-, Ganazo, Saga, Gogala unknown
    - But more likely Semitic for some since they were situated in the same region as Harare
- Cushitic speaking
  - Alaaba and Qabeena (originally spoke Silxe/Selte – related to Harare as they lived in Carcar range areas, before their west bound migration)
  - Hadiyya groups later assimilated in various neighboring regions (Arsi, Sidama, Wolayta, Bale, Wolega, parts of Shoa, who lost their original language
  - Current Hadiyyisa speaking groups “Hadiyya proper”
- Spoken by only Hadiyya proper
  - Faces pressure by dominant languages, cultural hegemony, religions
  - Loss of vocabularies, diminishing use - lack of preference by young generation
  - Loss of many cultural practices & music traditions that would otherwise promote Hadiyyisa
  - Future extinction – a possibility?
Hadiyya Clans based on ‘manna’ level classification
(total around 356 ~manna/sub groups)

➢ Mine ➔ Moollo ➔ Sulla ➔ Giichcho ➔ Ooso/manna
(population size = few hundreds to 10’s of thousands)

Libidoo (Maraqo) (total 27 sub groups)
  • Abaachche, Agabeello, ...., waaremanna, weerarmanna, etc

Qabeena (total 37 sub groups))
  • Abaakiro, ... Buko, Damo, etc

Leemo (total 28 sub groups)
  • Abdaachcho, Aryyanna, Oodro, Sawwoore, etc

Sooro (total 24 sub groups)
  • Ajaaranna, Allaabo, Ammachcho, Harbooyye, Guxxichcho, Miroore, etc

Shaashhoogo (total 5 sub groups)
  • Annoosichcho, Danniyye, Shokmoollo, Xarachcho, etc (total 5 sub groups)

Baadawwaachcho (total 42 sub groups)
  • Baadeooso:
    – Abbure, Annmanna, Baabooso, etc.
  • Uruusso:
    – Ansoomooso, Bosha, Dawwe, Oyye, etc
  • Others: Haballo, Hojje, Sha’ammanna, Gabara
Hadiyya Clans, ~manna sub groups (Continued)

**Baadoogo** (Weexo Giira) (total 20 sub groups)
- **Baadoogo:**
  - Abaayyo, Baaiso, Meere’e, etc
- **Haballo:**
  - Ankatmanna, Hawwiso, Samaano, etc
- **Others:** Bargaago, Hanqallo, Hayyibba, Hojje, Waayyabo

**Alaaba** (total 12 sub groups)
- Bukaanna, Kitaabo, Kolmine, Shaamanna, etc

**East-Gurage** (total 31 sub groups)
- **Selte/Silxe – Wolane – Ulbarag – Zay** (around Zway & on islands) cluster:
  - Ethnic groups include Azernet, Barbare, Ulbara, Woriro, Wolane, Gadabaano
- Abeechncho, Aboosare, Abbiyyo, Gamoso, Wosharmine, Qaalisha, Shandar, etc

**Hadiyya Clans in Wolayta** (total 11 sub groups)
- Ansoomooso, Bohalmanna, Doodichchmanna, Haballooso, etc

**Hadiyya Clans in Arsi** (total more than 109 sub groups)
- Abaanna, Abbayymanna, Abbure, Aboosara, Holbaatmanna, Wonamanna, Woshermine, Yabsanna, Oodomanna, Lataamanna, Insemanna, etc

**Hadiyya Clans in Sidama** (total sub groups yet to be identified)
- Buchche (Bushe) (5 Clans): Fakisa, Hollo, Malga, Hadichcho and Awacho;
- Hadiyya claimed as a progenitor per oral traditions

**Hadiyya Clans in Harar** (among Ittu Oromo) (total 5 sub groups)
- Abosaara, Asalmanna, Dooyyomanna, Horsumanna, Tokkomanna

**Hadiyya Clans in Wolega** (among Maaca Oromo around Neqamt) (total sub groups yet to be identified)
Kinship Hierarchy

Ooso/manna
Giichcho
Sulla
Moollo
Mine