

Glossary

- Aba Gadaa** – the political leader of the *gadaa*;
- Awraja** – an administrative unit in the Imperial era, roughly equivalent to a county;
- Bao-jia** – a system of local organisation and control in Imperial China and Taiwan;
- Birr** – the Ethiopian currency;
- Chat** – known as *khat* in Arabic, a mild stimulant and a major cash crop in Ethiopia;
- Chika shum** – a village headman who acted as intermediary between the landlord and peasants;
- Derg** – literally a committee (Amharic), the name given to the committee of junior military officers that overthrew Haile Selassie in 1974;
- Gadaa** – the customary age-grade system of social and political organisation in Oromo society;
- Garee** – development team (Afaan Oromo);
- Gebbar** – a tribute-paying peasant;
- Gim Gema** – a system of evaluation used by the TPLF and then extended to the civil service;
- Gott** – a sub-kebele administrative unit;
- Gult** – non-hereditary land held as a fief;
- Kebele** – a sub-wereda administrative unit;
- Kushet** – a sub-tabiya administrative unit;
- Neftegna** – literally a rifleman (Amharic), the name given to military leaders rewarded with land grants in southern Ethiopia as part of the Shewan-Amhara conquest;
- Qarree** – an Afaan Oromo term meaning an unmarried young woman, approximately 20–36;
- Qeerroo** – an Afaan Oromo term meaning an unmarried young man, approximately 20–36;
- Qubee** – the Afaan Oromo alphabet;
- Rist** – a descent-based land tenure system common in much of northern Ethiopia prior to the 1974 revolution;
- Tabiya** – a sub-wereda administration in Tigray, equivalent to the kebele in the rest of Ethiopia;
- Tehadso** – literally renewal, the purge of opposing factions and reorganisation of the EPRDF undertaken under Meles' leadership in the early 2000s;

Were – a cell, a unit of party-state organisation;

Wereda – an administrative district;

Weyane – a revolt, refers to the revolt in south and east Tigray in 1943 sparked by tax reforms. The TPLF's insurrection against the Derg was framed as a second Weyane.