

Italian Colonial Rule in North and East Africa 1869-1945

1869

Raffaele Rubattino, Italian businessman, bought the Bay of Assab

1882

The Italian Government buys the land of Eritrea from Rubattino

1889

The decree signed in Ucciali, in Ethiopia, defines which lands are Italian and which ones Ethiopian under negus Menelik II.

1890

The Italian government declares Eritrea an Italian colony

1922

Fascist rule begins

1923

Italy begins military operations in Tripolitania

1924

Britain concedes Kismayu (Somalia) to Italy

Italy bombards northern Somalia

1927

Italian declaration of sovereignty over Somalia

1931

Italians defeat the Cyrenaica resistance

1934

Italy unifies Cyrenaica and Tripolitania and name them Colony of Libya

1935

Italy invades Ethiopia and starts the Italo-Ethiopian conflict, imposition of sanctions by the League of Nations

1936

End of the Italo-Ethiopian conflict; Mussolini proclaims the Italian Empire; Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia united under the name Italian East Africa

1937

Lessona decree (law on concubinage); Italy leaves the League of Nations

1938

Italy proclaims the Racial Laws

1939

Italy invades and conquest Albania

1940

Italy officially enters the conflict on the side of Germany; Italy begins military campaigns against Greece

1941

Britain gains control over Italian East Africa

1943

Britain and France occupy Italian Libya