Unit 5
Patriotism

Introduction
You have learnt the importance of justice and equality in the previous unit. As citizens you can help to make sure that we have justice and equality in our society. The focus of this unit is patriotism. Some people think that patriotism means only loving one’s country and fighting against its enemies. But this is not the only kind of patriotism. People who work hard to fight poverty are also patriots. Athletes who win gold medals in the Olympic Games and glorify the name of Ethiopia are also patriots. In this unit, you will explore new meanings of patriotism.

Lessons
1. Citizenship and Patriotism
2. Objectivity in Ethiopian History
3. Duties of a Patriot
4. Patriotism and the Fight Against Poverty
5. Voluntarism

Key words and concepts
- Absolute poverty
- Basic needs
- Chauvinism
- Citizenship
- Ethics
- Fascism
- Naturalization
- Patriotism
- Prejudice
- Relative poverty
- Standard of living
- Terrorism
- Volunteering
- Warmongering

What you will learn
You will:
• explain what citizenship means.
• appreciate the different kinds of patriotism and the Ethiopian flag.
• recognize that it is important to be a volunteer.

A sign of patriotism — Tirunesh Dibaba winning an Olympic gold medal
By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- define citizenship and patriotism.
- explain ways of getting Ethiopian citizenship.
- describe the real meaning of patriotism under a democracy.
- be dedicated citizens of Ethiopia.
- explain the disreputable form of patriotism.
- explain what a flag represents and its use for a country and its people.

Name two Ethiopian patriots: a man and a woman. What makes them patriots?

Citizenship means belonging to a state. A person who belongs to a state is a citizen of that state. Citizenship gives you basic rights. In a democracy citizens have the same basic rights such as the right to vote and be elected. But they also have responsibilities and duties.

There are different ways of getting citizenship. They are citizenship by birthplace, by blood relationship and citizenship by naturalization. If you are born in the United States you would get American citizenship because you are born in that country. This is citizenship by birthplace. If you are born in Kenya but to Ethiopian parents you would get Ethiopian citizenship because of your blood relation with Ethiopian citizens. Though you are born in Ethiopia, you may get American citizenship if you live there for many years. This is citizenship by naturalization.

In a democracy, men and women, the rich and the poor and people of different colour all have the same basic rights. This is what we call universal citizenship. This was not true in the past. For example, in Athenian democracy only men enjoyed citizenship; women and slaves did not have citizenship. The same was true in the United States. Black and other non-white people and women did not have American citizenship until the beginning of the 20th century.

CASE STUDY

Beredu is a 15-year-old girl. Her parents, Ato Gemechu and W/ro Gadissie, were born in Ethiopia. They have lived in the USA for more than 20 years. Beredu was born in the United States. Beredu has got American citizenship because she was born in that country. She is also an Ethiopian because her parents were born in Ethiopia. Beredu’s parents acquired American citizenship after living there for several years.
Patriotism and citizenship are related to each other. Patriotism can mean: pride in the achievements and culture of one’s country; respect for national symbols such as the flag and national anthem. It also means that you should place the common good above your own personal interests. A patriot shows positive and supportive attitudes to his/her country. In wartime, citizens die to protect their country. This is a typical example of patriotism. Citizens who defend their country from enemies are heroes and heroines. For example, Ethiopians who fought at the Battle of Adwa were patriots. This is one form of patriotism.

In a democracy there are other forms of patriotism. Those who work hard, increase productivity and fight poverty are patriots. Scientists who invent new medicine, machines etc. are also patriots. Ethiopian athletes who won Olympic medals are also patriots. As a student, if you work hard and become a scientist, you too may be a patriot. The new perspective of patriotism in Ethiopia includes respect for the law of the country, tolerating diversity and respecting the rights of others.

List some characteristics of patriotic citizens in democracy and read your list to the class. Here are two examples:

1. Respect the rights of others.
2. Tolerate religious diversity.
3.
4.
Citizenship and Patriotism

**Patriotism and Chauvinism**

War-loving characters are not patriotic. Chauvinism is a belief that one group of people is superior to others. Hitler was a chauvinist leader. During the Second World War, he invaded other countries of Europe because he believed that Germans were superior to peoples of other countries. These kinds of leaders are also war lovers (warmongers) because they lead their people to war.

**CASE STUDY**

**Shewareged Gedle: A Lion Hearted Woman**

Shewareged was a famous patriot during the Italo-Ethiopian war (1936–1941). She supported Ethiopian patriots in many ways. She did this by collecting and passing on information, food, medicines, bullets, guns and clothes to the patriots. Shewareged was also a good organizer. She was a leader of women patriots who were ready to fight and die for their country. She played an important role when Ethiopian patriots attacked an Italian camp at Addis Alem. Ethiopian patriots destroyed the camp, released Ethiopian prisoners and collected more than 2000 rifles.

Shewareged suffered a lot in the hands of the Italians. She was detained in Italy but released after two years and came back to Ethiopia. She suffered more when the Italians detained her again in 1940. Shewareged was tied to a tree, badly beaten and sent to prison. Finally, she became free in 1941 when Italian soldiers left Ethiopia.

*Source: Minale Adugna*

**CASE STUDY**

**Mussolinl: A Fascist Leader**

Benito Mussolini was the founder of Fascism. He was the Prime Minister of Italy (1922–1943). Mussolini wanted to be a famous and powerful leader. He planned to achieve his goal through military success. Mussolini wanted to control Ethiopia. He built a strong military power to invade Ethiopia. On 3 October 1935, he declared: “We have tolerated Ethiopia for forty years. Now it is enough.” Mussolini motivated the Italian people in the name of patriotism. He sent more than 200,000 soldiers who invaded Ethiopia in 1936. He ordered his troops to use all types of weapons including poison gas to destroy the Ethiopian resistance.

Mussolini had a friendly relationship with Hitler, the leader of NAZI Germany. As he supported Hitler, Mussolini led his country into the Second World War (1939–1945). Italy was defeated at the end of the war; Mussolini was killed.

*Source: Encarta 2007*

Discuss these questions as a class.

- Both Shewareged and Mussolini were wartime leaders. Who was a real patriot?
- Do you consider Mussolini as a patriot? Why or why not?
- Who was a war-loving leader?
Citizenship and Patriotism

Flags are used as symbols to represent an organization, such as a football club, or a country. Most flags are rectangular but some may be triangular or square. Every country in the world has a different flag, often representing the history and culture of its peoples. The present Ethiopian flag is green, yellow and red. According to Article 3, sub-article 2 in the Constitution:

"The national emblem on the flag shall reflect the hope of the Nations, Nationalities, Peoples as well as religious communities of Ethiopia to live together in equality and unity."

Today, the flag representing Ethiopia is known by the community of nations in the world. So, the name Ethiopia and its flag are synonymous.

The Ethiopian flag is permanently hoisted in the UN and AU headquarters. It is also hoisted in compounds of Ethiopian embassies in countries where diplomatic missions exist. It is customary to see the flag of Ethiopia flying in compounds of government establishments and private organizations. In your own school yard the Ethiopian flag flies during the day. On occasions, streets and buildings are ornamented with flags in honour of national holidays and celebrations. During the celebration of the Ethiopian 2nd millennium, Addis Ababa and the cities and towns in the country were decorated with the national flag. Therefore, the flag can be seen as a source of pride and unity of purpose.

Form groups to discuss the different purposes that flags serve for countries, organizations, etc.

The Ethiopian Flag

REMEMBER

- Citizenship is legal membership of a state.
- You can get citizenship by birth, by blood relationship and by naturalization. Citizenship is associated with rights and responsibilities.
- Patriotism means showing concern and devotion to your country, to its symbols, national anthem and constitution.
- Patriotism has different forms. Some of them are defending one’s country, concern for the common good, and fighting against poverty and corruption.
- Flags are used as symbols to represent an organization or a country.
- Flags can be seen as a source of pride and unity of purpose.
Objectivity in Ethiopian History

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- describe the importance of objectivity in Ethiopian history.
- explain the history of Ethiopia as the history of its nations, nationalities and peoples.

What is the significance of the victory of Adwa?
What contributions did Ethiopian people make to achieve the victory of Adwa?

When they wrote Ethiopian history, most writers gave much attention to the role of kings. They gave less attention to the contribution of nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia. In the past, the wisdom and contributions of kings were magnified while the roles of peoples undermined. History has to be written to reflect the role of all members of society. This is what we call objectivity in history. History, which undermines the contribution of the people, lacks objectivity. Some writers wrote history favouring their own religious groups. Some writers exaggerated the contribution of their own ethnic groups. This kind of history is biased and it lacks objectivity.

We need to write our history considering the contributions of nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia. The history of Ethiopia is not limited to the history of its kings. Neither is it limited to the history of one or two ethnic or religious groups.

The history of Ethiopia is the history of different groups of people who speak different languages and have different religions. It is the product of the contributions of all its peoples. Ethiopia has been the symbol of freedom and independence because of the sacrifice made by its peoples. People from different cultural backgrounds sacrificed their lives to defend the independence of Ethiopia.

The battle of Adwa is a good example. The victory at Adwa (1896) shows the contribution of the peoples of Ethiopia. The victory has made Ethiopia the symbol of freedom and independence in Africa. It has also been a source of pride for Ethiopians and other black peoples. Patriots from all nations, nationalities and peoples sacrificed their lives at Adwa to defend the independence of Ethiopia. About 100,000 people from all regions of the country fought at the battle of Adwa.

When the Italians invaded Ethiopia in 1936, patriots from different religious and ethnic backgrounds came together and defended their country. Such common efforts have brought unity among the peoples of Ethiopia. The peoples of Ethiopia have developed a common identity in their long history. They share common cultural identities such as honesty, hospitality and national pride.
Objectivity in Ethiopian History

Make groups and discuss the following questions.

- What were the contributions of nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia to gain the victory at Adwa?
- Name some patriots who fought the Italians during their second invasion (1936–1941).

REMEMBER

- Writers of Ethiopian history did not give much attention to the contributions of its peoples.
- Some writers exaggerated the role of kings, or their cultural groups.
- History should be objective. This means it should reflect the contributions of individuals as well as the peoples.
- Knowing the true history of Ethiopia helps you to develop patriotic attitudes.
By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- define common good.
- explain the role of patriots in promoting the common good.
- work to promote the common good.

What do you think we, as citizens, should be responsible for in our country?
Who protects the public interests or the common good?

The major duty of a patriot is promoting the common good — the public interest — beneficial to all or most citizens in a community. This may be shared resources, common understandings, and issues of general interest or benefit to the whole community, such as peace and cultural heritages. Acting to promote the common good is a quality of a patriot. This requires a high standard of ethics.

A person with such ethics will think about what is good and bad, or right and wrong. They will do their duty and take moral responsibility. Some of the major duties of a patriotic citizen are keeping domestic peace and security, tolerating differences, treating others fairly, fighting against terrorism, keeping state secrets and working to promote development.

Note that there are times when there is a conflict of interests between the public and your private interests.

**CASE STUDY**

**Conflict between Private and Public Interests**

The Walia Ibex is a beautiful wild animal. It lives only in Ethiopia, in the Semien Mountains. Hunting this animal is forbidden because few Walia Ibex are left. Ato Abegaz works in the park as an expert and is responsible for the protection of Walia Ibex and other wild animals.

One day a tourist asked Abegaz’s permission to hunt the Walia Ibex. Abegaz said, “No!” and explained the reason why. The tourist promised to pay Abegaz 5,000 US dollars if he allowed him to kill one Walia Ibex. Abegaz shouted: “No! The Walia Ibex is an example of the precious wealth of our country! You can see them, you can admire their beauty but you are not allowed to hunt this beautiful animal! Go away with your 5,000 dollars!”
Duties of a Patriot

Terrorism is an illegal use of force by a person or an organized group to promote their selfish interests against people or property. Terrorists do not care who they kill. They carry out:
- illegal actions that involve force;
- actions intended to frighten or force people or governments;
- actions committed to support political objectives.

It is our duty to keep the peace and the security of our country. Terrorism leads to insecurity and lack of peace. We need peace and security to promote development. Fighting against terrorism is one of the duties of patriotic citizens.

CASE STUDY

The twin towers of the World Trade Center, New York, were crushed by the act of terrorists on 11 September 2001. 2,974 people died and 24 remain listed as missing.

Discuss the following questions in groups.
- Who was affected when the Twin Towers were destroyed by the act of terrorists?
- Do you think that it is fair to destroy the lives of civilian people to achieve political goals?
- Do you remember other terrorist actions that took place in Ethiopia or in other parts of the world?
- Who is responsible for protecting lives and property from terrorist attacks?
Duties of a Patriot

You have learnt about tolerance in the previous units. We live in a world full of differences. People all over the world are divided into different groups based on their religion, gender, age, race etc. It is important to treat others fairly and equally. If you treat some in a good way and others in a bad way you are practicing discrimination. This kind of unfair treatment can lead to hatred and conflict.

Patriotic citizens tolerate diversity and treat others fairly. Respect and tolerance are good ways of handling cultural, racial, religious and other differences.

Negative attitudes toward others and lack of tolerance, have led to people being treated unfairly. For example:
- African Americans were mistreated in the United States because of negative attitudes toward black people.
- Thousands of people were killed in Burundi and Rwanda as a result of negative attitudes and lack of tolerance.

REMEMBER

Duties of patriots are not limited to wartime. The duties of patriotic citizens in a democracy include:
- Working to promote the public interest or the common good.
- Treating others with respect and tolerating differences.
- Fighting terrorism.
- Actively taking part in development activities.
By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- describe the role of patriots in the fight against poverty.
- fight against poverty and backwardness.

Have you seen young people begging in Ethiopia? If so how do you feel?
Who is responsible to fight against poverty?

Ethiopia is a poor country. For a country to be poor is not good. When your country is poor it means you also suffer from the impact of poverty. In Ethiopia, there are millions who are not educated, have no access to hospitals, to clean water, electricity and telephone service. There are not enough roads in the country so most of the people use donkeys and mules for transportation. They walk long distances on foot to towns and are unable to send their children to schools. These are characteristics of poverty and backwardness.

Almost half of the people in Ethiopia are unable to eat three times a day. Many parents are unable to provide their family with proper clothing. People living in this way are living in absolute poverty.

Some developed countries have a lot of income. But this income may not be shared with all the people. Some people in these countries have a very small income compared to others. Some people have things such as a TV and refrigerator while others do not. People who lack these kinds of things live in relative poverty.

Your country calls its patriots to work hard and abolish poverty and backwardness. Citizens who fight against poverty are role models. In the past, many patriots fought against the enemies.
Patriotism and the Fight Against Poverty

of Ethiopia. Now, your country needs patriots to fight poverty which is our common enemy. As a patriotic citizen, you are also expected to help the people to have family planning and participate to keep the environment protected, clean and safe to live in.

**REMEMBER**
- Poverty is a common problem in many countries.
- The extent of poverty varies from country to country.
- Absolute poverty is common in poor countries like Ethiopia while relative poverty is common in rich nations.
- Working hard and fighting against backwardness and poverty is another way of being patriotic.

**CASE STUDY**

Amare is a poor farmer. He has a wife and five children. He has a small plot of farmland. Amare and his wife, Bogalech, cultivate crops to feed the family. However, they do not grow enough to feed the seven members of the family. The children cannot help their parents on the farm because all of them are under ten. The oldest child is nine years old while the youngest is a newly born baby.

The nurse working at the kebele clinic advised Bogalech and Amare to plan their family. Amare does not agree and, though his family lives in deep poverty, Amare does not complain. He believes that the poor are poor because of the will of God. If a person is born poor, he cannot get rich even if he works hard. Amare believes in this Amharic proverb “Ledihinet yetsafew binegidim ayterfew.”

Discuss these questions as a class.
- What do you think are the major causes of Amare’s poverty? Is it the size of farmland? Is it lack of family planning? Or is it wrong beliefs?
- Do you understand the Amharic proverb? Does it encourage people to work hard?

Form groups and discuss the following questions
- How could you fight poverty and backwardness?
- Discuss the differences between absolute and relative poverty.
By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- define what voluntarism means.
- explain the role of voluntary activities in the development of society.
- take part in voluntary activities.

Talk about people who give voluntary services in your local community.

Can you think of any voluntary activities which help the well-being and development of our society?

Voluntarism means giving voluntary services to achieve a goal to benefit a community or society. Voluntarism is based on the will of those involved serving others. Volunteering is based on actions of people who want to help others for no payment. They can also give money to associations that help the needy. People who have similar goals can form voluntary associations and work together to meet a common goal.

Voluntary work is a very important to solve social problems. In countries like Ethiopia you find people who seek some help. These include street children, people living with HIV/AIDS, or children who have no parents. The government alone cannot solve all kinds of problems. You can play an important role in serving your community. You can give support to people with disabilities and illnesses. You can also take care of street children, help elderly people and AIDS patients.

There are many people who help others out of goodness. What do you know about Abebech Gobena? You will learn about the contribution of this great woman in the case study presented here.

**CASE STUDY**

**Abebech Gobena: Mother Teresa of Ethiopia**

Abebech Gobena is the founder of an organization called Abebech Gobena Children’s Care and Development Organization. Abebech founded the organization in 1980, when there was a severe drought and famine in northern Ethiopia. Abebech started helping children after she found a baby sucking her dead mother’s breast. She took two babies from the famine-affected areas to Addis Ababa. Then she
supported twenty one children but her family didn’t like this. Finally, Abebech abandoned her marriage and continued supporting children. She sold her jewellery and other property to help children. She also ran small businesses in order to raise more money. Abebech’s good work attracted the attention and support of individuals and organizations. Her organization now supports many children, women and young people. It gives services to more than twelve thousand children and a large number of women and young people.

Source: http://www.telecom.net.et/~agos/

Discuss the following questions as a class.

- What is the importance of this kind of voluntary activity?
- Do you think that people like Abebech Gobena are heroes or patriots? Why?
- Do you know any other Ethiopians who help other citizens without any personal benefit? Find one example and write a report about it and read it to the class.

CASE STUDY

A Volunteer Serving HIV Positive People

The following is a real story of Lidya who is a volunteer helping HIV positive people. Lidya herself tells the story:

“My name is Lidya. I am thirty years old. I am HIV positive. I faced serious problems because of my HIV status. Some people have treated me badly. I had a job but my employers fired me because they knew that I am HIV positive. I suffered a lot after I lost my job. I had no money to buy food and pay for house rent. There was no one to help me since my husband had died earlier.

After suffering a lot, I went to my kebele to get help. People working there helped me to get medical treatment and support from an NGO called HAPCSO (Hiwot HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support Organization). I met young volunteers working in that NGO. They helped me a lot and saved my life. With the help of the volunteers, my health improved and my confidence revived. I appreciate the volunteers who helped me.

Their great deeds encouraged me to be a volunteer. I became a volunteer in 1998 and started working with the volunteers who had helped me. I am helping AIDS patients in many ways. I take them to hospital, wash their clothes, cook their food and massage their bodies. I also advise them and their family about HIV/AIDS. I have helped thirty-four HIV positive people and AIDS patients in the last two years. Now, I am giving care and support to twelve other people living with HIV/AIDS. I have no salary but I get 50 Birr transport allowance. I have benefited a lot from working as a volunteer. I help people affected by HIV/AIDS though I am also HIV positive. I forget my problems when I help. I feel happy because I am helping others. This helps to make me stronger.”

Form groups of five students. Discuss the following questions and let your representative read the summary of your discussion to the class.

- Lidya is HIV positive but she is volunteering to help other HIV positive people. What do you think of her contribution in the fight against HIV/AIDS? Do you think that she is a patriot?
- As a citizen, what is your role in the fight against HIV/AIDS?
Voluntarism

REMEMBER

- Voluntarism is giving free service to benefit society.
- It is the duty of patriotic citizens to serve society voluntarily.
- It could be in helping the poor or fighting against the spread of HIV/AIDS, or giving care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS.
UNIT SUMMARY

Citizenship and patriotism are related to each other. Citizenship is legal membership of a state. Citizens have rights and responsibilities. Patriotism shows your concern and devotion to your country, to its symbols, national anthem and its constitution. Duties of patriotic citizens in a democracy include: giving priority to public interest; treating others with respect; tolerating differences; fighting terrorism; taking part in development activities; fighting poverty and backwardness.

Poverty is a problem of many countries. There are two forms of poverty: absolute poverty and relative poverty. Many people in Ethiopia live in absolute poverty. We are proud of being Ethiopians because our country has been a symbol of freedom and independence. But poverty negatively affects our pride. Fighting poverty is the duty of patriotic citizens.

Volunteering means giving service to others with no payment. It is the duty of patriotic citizens to serve their society voluntarily. Citizens could serve the community by helping the poor; fighting against the spread of HIV/AIDS; or giving care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS. These are responsibilities of patriotic citizens. You will learn more about responsibility in the next unit.

GLOSSARY

Absolute poverty: A condition in which people lack basic needs such as food and shelter.
Basic needs: Things such as food, clothing and shelter, important to the survival of human beings.
Citizenship: Legal membership of individuals in a state.
Chauvinism: Excessive and blind patriotism; it is associated with the exaggerated belief that one’s nation is superior to other nations.
Discrimination: Treating a group of people in a good way and another group of people in a bad way.
Ethics: The study of what is morally good and what is not.
Fascism: A political system based on a very powerful leader, state control and extreme pride in one’s country and race, and where political opposition is not allowed.
Naturalization: The method of getting citizenship after birth or after living in another country for some time.
Patriotism: Positive and supportive attitudes of citizens to their country.
Prejudice: An unfair opinion formed without evidence or knowledge.
Relative poverty: Lack of material goods in relation to the majority of the people.
Terrorism: Illegal use of force aimed at frightening or forcing people or governments for political or other reasons.
UNIT 5 — PATRIOTISM

**Voluntarism:** Giving voluntary service to help others.

**Warmonger:** A person who favours unjust war.

### UNIT REVIEW EXERCISES

Do these review exercises in your exercise book.

#### Part I – Multiple choice

1. The Constitution of Ethiopia says a person born to an Ethiopian parent or parents gets Ethiopian citizenship. This refers to citizenship by:
   - (a) birth place
   - (b) blood relations
   - (c) naturalization
   - (d) none of the above
2. Which of the following goes with patriotism?
   - (a) respect for national anthem
   - (b) fighting to defend one’s country
   - (c) working hard to fight against poverty
   - (d) fighting terrorism
   - (e) all of the above
3. Which of the following does not go with patriotism?
   - (a) considering your nation superior to others
   - (b) respect the law of your country
   - (c) respect the rights of others
   - (d) fighting to expand your country’s boundary
   - (e) (a) and (d)
4. Which of the following shows relative poverty?
   - (a) lack of food
   - (b) lack of electric cooker
   - (c) lack of shelter
   - (d) lack of clothing
   - (e) all of the above

#### Part II – True or false

1. As a citizen of Ethiopia, you have many rights but very few responsibilities.
2. People like Mussolini and Hitler are patriots because they entered into war to help their country.
3. Persons who fight poverty and corruption are patriotic citizens.
4. The victory of Adwa shows the contribution of nations and nationalities of the Ethiopian peoples in defending their country.
5. People like Abebech Gobena are patriots because they support other citizens.

#### Part III – Matching

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<th>Column A</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Common good</td>
<td>A. Serving others without payment</td>
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<td>2. Terrorism</td>
<td>B. Treating some groups of people unfairly</td>
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<td>3. Tolerance</td>
<td>C. Public interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Discrimination</td>
<td>D. Illegal action that destroy lives and property</td>
</tr>
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<td>5. Voluntarism</td>
<td>E. Respecting differences</td>
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Voluntarism: Giving voluntary service to help others.

Warmonger: A person who favours unjust war.