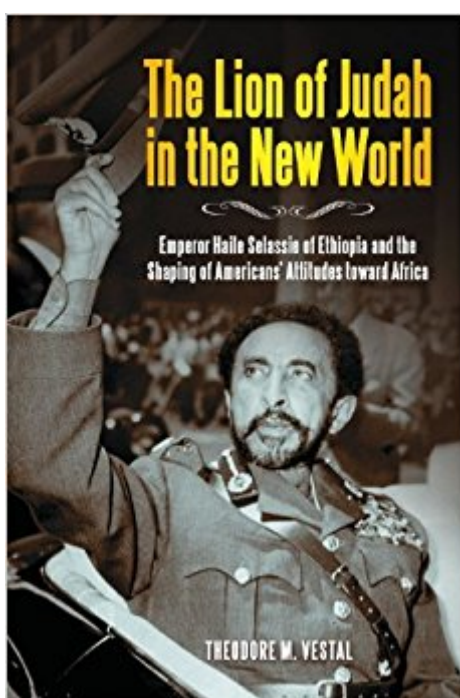


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The Lion Of Judah In The New World: Emperor Haile Selassie Of Ethiopia And The Shaping Of Americans' Attitudes Toward Africa



Synopsis

This insightful book relates how Emperor Haile Selassie helped shape America's image of Africa and how that image continues to evolve in the United States today. Maps Photographs A bibliography of useful sources for further research

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Customer Reviews

I read Prof. Ted Vestal's book on Emperor Haile Selassie with great interest, all the more so as I am a citizen of that country who lived through much of the period that the book covers. I found the author's account fair, wise and perceptive. A large portion of the book deals with the Emperor's four state visits to the USA, beginning with the first in 1954 when Eisenhower was president. I was finishing college in Addis Ababa at that time and I remember vividly the press coverage of that visit. Dr. Vestal's book reflects accurately how the visit was viewed in the US and in Ethiopia at the time. I also followed closely press reports of the subsequent trips. In addition, many of the officials who accompanied the Emperor on the subsequent visits were friends and colleagues, so I had the opportunity to hear their personal accounts of those visits. In spite of all these exposures to the subject of the book, I found Prof. Theodore Vestal's book informative and of great value for at least two reasons. First, Dr. Vestal has obviously benefitted from State Department and Presidential files

that are not generally available to the general public. Indeed, many of those files were probably classified until now. Perhaps it is from the accounts drawn from these files that Dr. Vestal was able to tell us what we did not know before, especially regarding the personal views of the American Presidents -- Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon -- with whom the Emperor dealt with during his visits. We learn of the high regard the American leaders had for the Emperor as a "statesman of the world". The high esteem the American presidents held for the Emperor was gradually tempered by their awareness of the intractable developmental issues the Emperor and his country faced, especially toward the latter part of his reign. Secondly, Dr. Vestal has managed to intertwine seamlessly how the Emperor's visit influenced the diplomatic and foreign assistance posture of the US when about 16 colonial territories in Africa became independent states during the years under review. The Emperor's "story" is told in clear, eloquent and engaging manner, devoid of academic jargon. I recommend the book to all students and friends of Ethiopia and Africa.

Re: The Lion of Judah in the New World by Dr. Theodore Vestal Having worked for 12 years in Ethiopia for Oklahoma State University and the U.S. Agency for International Development during Haile Selassie's reign, I often wondered if the "Lion of Judah, King of Kings" would ever receive proper recognition for his impact on both Africa and the international policy agenda of the U.S.A. Dr. Vestal has eloquently clarified that role. This is a must read for anyone wanting, or needing, a better understanding of Emperor Haile Selassie's impact on African, U.S., and world politics in general. Even though Haile Selassie met an inglorious removal from power by a brutal dictator, his legacy to the world cannot be diminished. Many thanks to Dr. Vestal for documenting this story. Conrad L Evans Assoc. Dir. Emeritus International Programs Oklahoma State University

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