

The deposition of the half-Mahomedan Emperor, Lij Yasu, by the Christian Empress, Zeoditu.

A Christian empress

The death of the Emperor Menelik was followed by a struggle for power between the true Ethiopian and Christian elements of Abyssinia and the Galla and Mahomedan party led by Ras Mikael, Governor of the Wollo-Galla. These Gallas are Mahomedan nomads who overran Abyssinia in days gone by. Mikael was conquered and forcibly Christianized by the great Emperor Johannes, predecessor of Menelik. His new religion naturally sat lightly upon him, and his accession to power on the coronation of his son, Lij Yasu, meant the triumph of the Mahomedan party. His overthrow and the accession of the new Empress Zeoditu with her co-regent, Ras Tafari, means the ascendancy of Christianity and incidentally of Franco-British influence, to which Mikael was antagonistic.



A Group of Ethiopian Ministers and Chiefs: The names, from left to right, are: Front row — Waag-Shum (Prince of Waag) Kabbada. Fitaaurari (General) Talahun, Ras (Chief) Hailu of Gojam, Walda Tadi (Minister of Justice) Ras Abatta, Hailu Georgis (Prime Minister); back row — Bajerud Ighezzo (Finance Minister), Dedjazmach (Duke) Mulighetta (Minister of Interior).



European Representatives and Some Members of the European Colony: The names, from left to right, are: Count Colli, Italian Minister; Madame de Coppet, wife of the French Minister; the Hon. W. Thesiger, British Minister; Mrs. Archer, wife of the Commissioner of British Somaliland; M. de Coppet, French Minister; Mrs. Campbell, wife of the British Consul; and M. Vinogradov, Russian Chargé d'Affaires.



The Empress Zeoditu at her Coronation:

The new Empress is forty-six years of age, and is the daughter of the late Emperor Menelik. Her elevation signifies the triumph of the old Christian sentiment of Ethiopia over the Mahomedan and Galla influence, represented by the ex-Regent Ras Mikael of the Gallas, a forcibly-converted Moslem.



A Triumphal Arch at Addis Abeba:

Addis Abeba is the present capital of the kingdom of Shoa, the predominant state of Ethiopia. It was founded about twenty-five years ago by the Emperor Menelik, and is, therefore, not a characteristic Ethiopian town.



The Arrival of Ras Tafari for the Coronation: Ras Tafari is the legitimate heir to the Ethiopian throne, and apparently is co-ruler with the Empress Zeoditu. It will be noted that many chiefs have taken to European headgear.