

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa

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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 is a fascinating narrative that intertwines history, symbolism, and cultural perception. Haile Selassie, often hailed as the “Lion of Judah,” was not only a pivotal figure in Ethiopian history but also a profound influence on how many Americans came to view Africa throughout the twentieth century. His legacy, imbued with spiritual, political, and cultural significance, helped reshape stereotypes and foster a more nuanced understanding of Africa’s rich heritage.

The Symbolism of the Lion of Judah and Haile Selassie’s Identity

The “Lion of Judah” is an ancient biblical symbol representing strength, royalty, and divine authority. For Ethiopia, this emblem holds particular importance as the Solomonic dynasty claimed descent from the union of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba—a lineage that linked Ethiopian emperors directly to biblical tradition. Haile Selassie, crowned Emperor in 1930, embraced this legacy, positioning himself as a living embodiment of this symbol.

Historical Roots of the Lion of Judah

The phrase “Lion of Judah” originates from the Book of Genesis in the Bible, where Judah, one of the twelve tribes of Israel, is likened to a lion. Ethiopian monarchy, especially the Solomonic line, adopted this as a national and spiritual emblem. Haile Selassie’s reign was steeped in this symbolism, underscoring his role not just as a political leader but also as a spiritual figurehead for Ethiopia and, by extension, for many Africans and people of African descent worldwide.

Haile Selassie’s Role as the New World Emperor

Haile Selassie’s title as the “New World Emperor” reflects his status as a modernizing force and a global statesman. He was instrumental in Ethiopia’s resistance against Italian invasion in the 1930s, famously appealing to the League of Nations for support, which highlighted the geopolitical struggles of colonized Africa. Beyond this, his leadership in founding the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963 cemented his role as a pioneer in pan-Africanism and African independence movements.

How Haile Selassie Influenced American Perceptions of Africa

Until the mid-20th century, many Americans held limited or stereotypical views of Africa, often shaped by colonial narratives or simplistic portrayals in media. Haile Selassie's prominence brought a dignified, regal, and intellectual image of Africa to the forefront, challenging these reductive views.

The Impact of Haile Selassie's 1936 Speech to the League of Nations

When Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935, Haile Selassie's appeal to the League of Nations was broadcast internationally, including in the United States. His dignified plea for justice and sovereignty resonated deeply with African Americans and civil rights activists, who saw parallels between Ethiopia's struggle and their own fight against racial oppression. This moment was pivotal in raising awareness and empathy for African issues among Americans, fostering a sense of solidarity.

The Rastafari Movement and Cultural Transmission

One of the most influential ways Haile Selassie shaped American attitudes toward Africa was through the Rastafari movement, which emerged in Jamaica in the 1930s and later spread to the United States. Rastafarians viewed Selassie as a messianic figure, the fulfillment of biblical prophecy, and a symbol of African pride and resistance against colonialism.

This spiritual and cultural movement introduced many Americans, especially African Americans, to Ethiopian history and African identity in a positive light. The music, symbolism, and ideology associated with Rastafari helped dismantle negative stereotypes and encouraged pride in African heritage.

The Broader Context: Pan-Africanism and African American Identity

Haile Selassie's influence extended beyond his immediate political actions. He became a symbol of pan-African unity, inspiring leaders and intellectuals across the African diaspora, including in the United States. His visits to America and speeches to institutions like the United Nations reinforced this image.

Haile Selassie's Visits to the United States

Haile Selassie visited the United States multiple times, including a notable trip in 1966 where he

spoke at the United Nations and toured various cities. His presence was met with enthusiasm from African American communities who viewed him as a living link to African royalty and dignity. These visits helped humanize and personalize Africa for many Americans, moving beyond abstract notions to a more tangible connection.

Influence on African American Civil Rights and Identity Movements

The mid-20th century civil rights movement in America found inspiration in Haile Selassie's example of leadership, resilience, and advocacy for African sovereignty. His embodiment of African pride and resistance against colonialism paralleled African Americans' struggle for equality and justice. Leaders and activists often referenced Ethiopia's independence and Selassie's stature to emphasize African heritage and global solidarity.

The Legacy of Haile Selassie and The Lion of Judah in Contemporary America

Today, the lion of Judah and Haile Selassie continue to resonate in American culture and attitudes toward Africa. Their legacy is visible in various spheres, from music and spirituality to academic discourse and political activism.

Continued Cultural Reverence

The lion of Judah remains a powerful symbol in Rastafarianism and among many African American communities. Reggae music icons like Bob Marley popularized Haile Selassie's image globally, embedding it into popular culture. This ongoing cultural presence helps maintain a positive and proud narrative about Africa's history and identity.

Educational and Historical Reassessment

In academic circles and public education, there is a growing effort to present Africa and figures like Haile Selassie in a more balanced and respectful manner. This includes recognizing Ethiopia's unique history as a never-colonized African nation (except for a brief Italian occupation), and Selassie's role in international diplomacy and African unity.

Challenges and Complexities

While Haile Selassie is widely respected, it is important to acknowledge that his reign was not without controversy, including critiques of his domestic policies and governance. Americans' attitudes toward Africa have also evolved, influenced by contemporary issues such as globalization

and migration. Still, the historical symbolism of the lion of Judah and Haile Selassie's global stature continue to offer a foundation for positive engagement.

Understanding the Transformation: Tips for Engaging with Africa's History and Culture

For Americans interested in deepening their understanding of Africa beyond stereotypes, following the legacy of the lion of Judah and Haile Selassie offers valuable lessons:

- **Explore Historical Contexts:** Learn about Ethiopia's unique place in African history and Haile Selassie's role in shaping pan-Africanism.
- **Appreciate Symbolism:** Recognize the cultural and spiritual significance of the lion of Judah and how it informs African identity.
- **Engage with Diverse Narratives:** Africa is not monolithic—explore various regions, cultures, and histories to gain a fuller perspective.
- **Connect Through Culture:** Music, art, and spiritual movements like Rastafari provide accessible entry points into African heritage.
- **Stay Critical and Open-Minded:** Understand the complexities and nuances in history, avoiding romanticization or oversimplification.

This approach not only enriches personal knowledge but also contributes to a more informed and respectful dialogue about Africa in American society.

The story of the lion of Judah in the new world emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and the shaping of Americans attitudes toward Africa is a testament to how symbols, leadership, and cultural exchange can transform perceptions. Haile Selassie's legacy continues to inspire and challenge us to look beyond old narratives and embrace a richer, more connected understanding of Africa's past and present.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was the Lion of Judah in the context of Ethiopian history?

The Lion of Judah is a symbol of the Ethiopian monarchy, traditionally associated with Emperor Haile Selassie I, who claimed descent from the biblical tribe of Judah and the Solomonic dynasty.

How did Emperor Haile Selassie influence American attitudes toward Africa?

Emperor Haile Selassie helped reshape American attitudes toward Africa by serving as a symbol of African dignity, sovereignty, and resistance against colonialism, inspiring African Americans and Pan-African movements during the 20th century.

What role did Haile Selassie play in the Pan-African movement in the United States?

Haile Selassie was a unifying figure in the Pan-African movement, symbolizing African pride and anti-colonialism, which influenced African American leaders and activists seeking racial equality and solidarity with Africa.

Why is Haile Selassie referred to as the 'New World Emperor' in some contexts?

Haile Selassie is sometimes called the 'New World Emperor' due to his global influence, especially in the African diaspora and among African Americans, where he was revered as a monarch embodying African independence and cultural renaissance.

How did the symbolism of the Lion of Judah impact African American cultural identity?

The Lion of Judah symbol, linked to Haile Selassie, became an emblem of strength, resilience, and African heritage for African Americans, influencing cultural movements such as Rastafarianism and promoting pride in African roots.

In what ways did Haile Selassie's leadership affect diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and the United States?

Haile Selassie's leadership fostered stronger diplomatic ties between Ethiopia and the United States, highlighting Ethiopia as a key African ally during the Cold War and encouraging American support for African independence and development.

Additional Resources

The Lion of Judah in the New World Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and the Shaping of Americans' Attitudes Toward Africa

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa presents a compelling narrative at the crossroads of history, culture, and international perception. Haile Selassie I, often hailed as the “Lion of Judah,” was not merely Ethiopia’s emperor but a symbolic figure whose influence extended far beyond Africa’s borders. His reign and persona played a pivotal role in reframing American attitudes toward Africa during the 20th century, particularly in the context of Pan-Africanism, the civil rights movement, and

the global struggle against colonialism.

Understanding the significance of Haile Selassie requires an exploration of his unique position as a monarch rooted in ancient tradition and yet deeply engaged with modern political realities. The “Lion of Judah” moniker, derived from biblical lineage claims connecting Ethiopian royalty to King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, endowed him with a symbolic authority that resonated powerfully among African diaspora communities and political activists in the United States. This article investigates how Haile Selassie’s image and leadership contributed to reshaping American perceptions of Africa, moving from exoticized or paternalistic views to a more nuanced recognition of African sovereignty, resilience, and cultural pride.

Haile Selassie: The Historical and Symbolic Lion of Judah

Haile Selassie I ascended to the Ethiopian throne in 1930, inheriting a nation that was one of the few African countries to maintain independence during the era of European colonization. His title as the “Lion of Judah” is steeped in religious and cultural significance, symbolizing not only his royal lineage but also Ethiopia’s identity as a bastion of African autonomy and Christian heritage. This dual symbolism—political and spiritual—rendered him a figure of immense importance both within Ethiopia and across the African diaspora.

In the broader historical context, Haile Selassie’s leadership coincided with a period of intense upheaval. His appeal to the League of Nations in 1936, following Italy’s invasion of Ethiopia, was a seminal moment that highlighted the failures of international diplomacy and galvanized anti-colonial sentiment worldwide. For many Americans, particularly African Americans, Selassie’s resistance to fascism and imperialism became a rallying point that fostered solidarity and inspired activism.

Haile Selassie’s Impact on Pan-Africanism and African Diaspora Identity

One of the most profound ways the “Lion of Judah in the New World Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and the shaping of Americans attitudes toward Africa” manifested was through the Pan-African movement. Haile Selassie was a vocal proponent of African unity and independence, exemplified by his instrumental role in the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963. This organization aimed to promote cooperation and solidarity among African nations and decolonize the continent.

In the United States, the African American community found in Haile Selassie a symbol of black dignity and leadership that challenged entrenched racial stereotypes. The civil rights era witnessed a growing reverence for Selassie, particularly among activists who saw Ethiopia’s ancient monarchy as a counter-narrative to Western portrayals of Africa as primitive or divided. His image was invoked in speeches, literature, and music, reinforcing a shared heritage and collective aspiration for justice.

The Role of Rastafarianism in Bridging Ethiopia and American Perceptions

Another critical vector through which Haile Selassie influenced American attitudes towards Africa was the Rastafarian movement, which emerged in Jamaica during the 1930s and gained traction in the United States in subsequent decades. Rastafarians regard Selassie as the returned messiah and the fulfillment of biblical prophecy, linking African spirituality to contemporary struggles against oppression.

This religious and cultural movement introduced many Americans to Ethiopia's history and Selassie's legacy in ways that were both spiritual and political. Through reggae music, cultural festivals, and community activism, the figure of the "Lion of Judah" became a bridge connecting African Americans to their ancestral roots and to a broader Pan-African consciousness. The movement's emphasis on repatriation and African pride subtly shifted American perceptions from viewing Africa as a distant, monolithic continent to understanding it as a vibrant and diverse cultural homeland.

Shaping American Media and Political Narratives

The mid-20th century also saw Haile Selassie's image permeate American media, influencing how Africa was portrayed to the public. News coverage of Selassie's addresses to the United Nations, his diplomatic engagements, and his role in African liberation narratives contributed to a reframing of Africa from a continent mired in colonial backwardness to a stage for legitimate political agency and leadership.

However, this shift was not without complexities. While Selassie's stature elevated African political discourse in American eyes, it also sometimes reinforced a singular narrative centered on elite leadership, sidelining grassroots movements and the diversity of African experiences. Critics have pointed out that the glorification of Selassie occasionally overshadowed other important African voices and risked idealizing monarchy in a continent grappling with post-colonial governance challenges.

Comparative Perspectives: Haile Selassie and Other African Leaders in American Discourse

When juxtaposed with other African leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana or Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Haile Selassie occupies a distinctive symbolic niche in American consciousness. His longevity as a monarch and the religious symbolism associated with his reign differentiate him from leaders primarily identified with nationalist movements or socialist ideologies.

This distinction shaped how Americans categorized African leadership—Selassie was often seen as a dignified, almost regal figure embodying Africa's ancient heritage, whereas other leaders were framed within the modern political struggles of decolonization. This framing influenced American foreign policy attitudes and cultural perceptions, sometimes privileging stability and tradition over revolutionary change.

The Legacy of the Lion of Judah in Contemporary American Views on Africa

Decades after Haile Selassie's reign ended, the legacy of the "Lion of Judah in the New World Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and the shaping of Americans attitudes toward Africa" continues to resonate. Contemporary African American cultural productions, academic discourse, and political activism still reference Selassie as a symbol of resistance, pride, and connection to African roots.

Moreover, Ethiopia's unique historical narrative—never fully colonized, with a monarchy tracing biblical heritage—remains a point of fascination that challenges simplistic stereotypes about Africa. This legacy complicates and enriches American attitudes, encouraging deeper engagement with Africa's diversity and the continent's ongoing political and cultural transformations.

In assessing Haile Selassie's impact, it is essential to recognize both the empowering symbolism he embodied and the limitations inherent in any single figure representing a complex continent. His role in shaping American attitudes toward Africa exemplifies the intricate interplay between history, myth, and identity that continues to influence transatlantic relations and perceptions.

[The Lion Of Judah In The New World Emperor Haile Selassie Of Ethiopia And The Shaping Of Americans Attitudes Toward Africa](#)

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: The Lion of Judah in the New World Theodore M. Vestal Ph.D., 2011-02-02 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. The Lion of Judah in the New World: Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and the Shaping of Americans' Attitudes toward Africa tells the story of a dynamic ruler who influenced the perception of an entire continent. Documenting the Emperor's state visits to North America, the book explores U.S. foreign policy towards Ethiopia and Africa over two decades. At the same time, it seeks to understand why Haile Selassie enjoyed such celebrity in the United States and how he became so important in determining U.S. attitudes toward Africa. The book includes a brief biography of the Emperor and also explores the geography and long, colorful history of Ethiopia. The tensions and contradictions that marked Haile Selassie's life are highlighted in significant episodes that underscore his astute use of public relations and personal diplomacy. His leadership of postcolonial Africa during the Cold War is examined, as is his ultimate rejection by the United States in 1973 that marked the end of the monarchy and ushered in the tragic fratricide of Ethiopian civil war.

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: The Lion of Judah in the New World Theodore M. Vestal Ph.D., 2011-02-02 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. The Lion of Judah in the New World: Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and the Shaping of Americans' Attitudes toward Africa tells the story of a dynamic ruler who influenced the perception of an entire continent. Documenting the Emperor's state visits to North America, the book explores U.S. foreign policy towards Ethiopia and Africa over two decades. At the same time, it seeks to understand why Haile

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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: *Africa and the Shaping of International Human Rights* Derrick M. Nault, 2020-12-17 Africa throughout its postcolonial history has been plagued by human rights abuses ranging from intolerance of political dissent to heinous crimes such as genocide. Some observers consequently have gone so far as to suggest that human rights are a concept alien to African cultures. The International Criminal Court (ICC)'s focus on Africa in recent years has reinforced the region's reputation as a hotspot for human rights violations. But despite Africa's notoriety concerning human rights, *Africa and the Shaping of International Human Rights* argues that the continent has been pivotal in helping to shape contemporary human rights norms and practices. Challenging prevailing Eurocentric interpretations of human rights' origins and evolution, it demonstrates that from the colonial era to the present Africa's peoples have drawn attention to and prompted novel ways of thinking about human rights through their encounters with the world at large. Beginning with the depredations of King Leopold II in the Congo Free State in the 1880s and ending with the ICC's current activities in Africa, it reveals how African events, personalities, groups, and nations have influenced the trajectory of human rights history in intriguing and critical ways, in the end enlarging and universalizing a major discourse of our time.

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: *Set the World on Fire* Keisha N. Blain, 2018-03-15 [This book] examine[s] how black nationalist women engaged in national and global politics from the early twentieth century to the 1960's--Amazon.com.

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: *King of Kings* Asfa-Wossen Aserate, 2015-09-15 Haile Selassie I, the last emperor of Ethiopia, was as brilliant as he was formidable. An early proponent of African unity and independence who claimed to be a descendant of King Solomon, he fought with the Allies against the Axis powers during World War II and was a messianic figure for the Jamaican Rastafarians. But the final years of his empire saw turmoil and revolution, and he was ultimately overthrown and assassinated in a communist coup. Written by Asfa-Wossen Aserate, Haile Selassie's grandnephew, this is the first major biography of this final "king of kings." Aserate, who spent his childhood and adolescence in Ethiopia before fleeing the revolution of 1974, knew Selassie personally and gained intimate insights into life at the imperial court. Introducing him as a reformer and an autocrat whose personal history—with all of its upheavals, promises, and horrors—reflects in many ways the history of the twentieth century itself, Aserate uses his own experiences and painstaking research in family and public archives to achieve a colorful and even-handed portrait of the emperor.

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: *Africa's Quest for Modernity* Seifudein Adem, 2023-03-13 This monograph addresses the complexity of China-Africa and Japan-Africa relations from a comparative perspective. The volume is divided into five sections. Section I focuses on the divergent perspectives that are reflected in the discourse on China-Africa relations. Section II discusses Japan's economic modernization and its potential lessons for Africa. Section III compares the foreign policies of Japan and China in Africa and analyzes their supposed rivalries on the continent. Section IV explores the relationship between Southeast Asia and China and its relevance to Africa-China relations. Section V provides an in-depth case study of Ethiopia-China relations over the last century. The book fills a major gap in the existing literature on the triad of Africa, China, and Japan. Under the guidance of

the disciplines of African studies, international relations, political sociology, and international political economy, this volume elucidates and examines the complexities of the foreign policies of the two Asian powers toward Africa as well as their economic, political, and cultural underpinnings.

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: *W. E. B. Du Bois, Ethiopianism, and Black Internationalism* Ras Wayne A. Rose, 2023-11-15 Scholarship on Black internationalism has experienced a revival. Whilst this scholarship has increasingly turned towards examining Du Bois's thoughts on the "color line" in a global rather than national context, none do so by centering his Ethiopian-centered perspective. This book provides an examination of Du Bois's efforts to link African Americans, Afro-Caribbean, and the Pan African project to Ethiopia as a response to the emerging question of Black historical identity. For Du Bois, Ethiopia, Ethiopian history, and its monarchical leadership were essential to resolving the global problem of the "color line". He believed that Africans in the Diaspora, especially in the United States, and Africans across Ethiopia should build reciprocal relations with Ethiopia for the benefit of the Black Race and their mutual development. Du Bois also made multiple attempts to engage and establish relations with Ethiopia and worked through official and unofficial channels to develop those relations. By revisiting and reevaluating Du Bois's engagement strategies with Ethiopia, the book suggests ways in which his evolving Pan-Africanism might be understood differently to how it has been deployed in scholarship on Black internationalism. The book provides new perspectives on Du Bois's famous invocation of the global "color line" by uncovering his conceptual and practical reasons for specifically connecting Ethiopia to African Americans and the issues of global social and economic justice.

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: *Little Ethiopia of the Pacific Northwest* Joseph W. Scott, 2017-07-05 Little Ethiopia of the Pacific Northwest tells the story of the Ethiopian community in Seattle. The community began with approximately two dozen college students who came to the city during the Ethiopian revolution of 1974. These sojourning students earned college and university degrees, but were unable to return home to use them to modernize the developing nation. These stranded students became pioneers who built a micro-community in inner-city Seattle. Providing background with an analysis of Seattle's geographic, demographic, social, and economic challenges, this volume studies the students who became asylum seekers; their falls in position, power, prestige; and the income of these elite and non-elite settlers. The authors analyze examples of those who became entrepreneurs and the ingenuity and determination they employed to start successful businesses. The authors examine the challenges imposed on them by a school system that assigned their children to grade levels according to age rather than knowledge. They explore how the American welfare system worked in practice and explain how and why Ethiopians die young in Seattle. This fascinating study will be of interest to sociologists, ethnographers, and regional analysts.

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: *To Turn the Whole World Over* Keisha Blain, Tiffany Gill, 2019-03-16 Black women undertook an energetic and unprecedented engagement with internationalism from the late nineteenth century to the 1970s. In many cases, their work reflected a complex effort to merge internationalism with issues of women's rights and with feminist concerns. *To Turn the Whole World Over* examines these and other issues with a collection of cutting-edge essays on black women's internationalism in this pivotal era and beyond. Analyzing the contours of gender within black internationalism, scholars examine the range and complexity of black women's global engagements. At the same time, they focus on these women's remarkable experiences in shaping internationalist movements and dialogues. The essays explore the travels and migrations of black women; the internationalist writings of women from Paris to Chicago to Spain; black women advocating for internationalism through art and performance; and the involvement of black women in politics, activism, and global freedom struggles. Contributors: Nicole Anae, Keisha N. Blain, Brandon R. Byrd, Stephanie Beck Cohen, Anne Donlon, Tiffany N. Florvil, Kim Gallon, Dayo F. Gore,

Annette K. Joseph-Gabriel, Grace V. Leslie, Michael O. West, and Julia Erin Wood

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: Emperor Haile Selassie Bereket Habte Selassie, 2014-10-23

Emperor Haile Selassie was an iconic figure of the twentieth century, a progressive monarch who ruled Ethiopia from 1916 to 1974. This book, written by a former state official who served in a number of important positions in Selassie's government, tells both the story of the emperor's life and the story of modern Ethiopia. After a struggle for the throne in 1916, the young Selassie emerged first as regent and then as supreme leader of Ethiopia. Over the course of his nearly six-decade rule, the emperor abolished slavery, introduced constitutional reform, and expanded educational opportunity. The Italian invasion of Ethiopia in the 1930s led to a five-year exile in England, from which he returned in time to lead his country through World War II. Selassie was also instrumental in the founding of the Organization of African Unity in 1963, but he fell short of the ultimate goal of a promised democracy in Ethiopia. The corruption that grew under his absolute rule, as well as his seeming indifference to the famine that gripped Ethiopia in the 1970s, led finally to his overthrow by the armed forces that he had created. Haile Selassie was an enlightened monarch in many ways, but also a man with flaws like any other. This short biography is a sensitive portrayal of Selassie as both emperor and man, by one who knew him well.

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: Hidden Religion Micah Issitt, Carlyn Main, 2014-09-16

Covering secret societies, mysterious ancient traditions, and the often-mistaken history of the world's religious symbols, this book takes readers on a tour through the fascinating world of religious symbolism and reveals the most mysterious and misunderstood facets of religion. Hidden Religion: The Greatest Mysteries and Symbols of the World's Religious Beliefs not only explores the history and origins of widely recognizable symbols, like the Christian cross and the Star of David, but also introduces readers to more obscure symbols from religious traditions around the world—even defunct ones like those of the ancient Aztec and Mayan societies. In addition, the book discusses the religious secrets found in the major religions, including secret societies of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism. Containing more than 170 entries, the encyclopedia is organized by religious category, such as Abrahamic, East Asian, and African Diasporic religions, then alphabetically within each category. Each entry is prefaced with a short introduction that explains where and when the religious tradition originated and describes the religion today. This information is followed by an analysis of the historical development and use of symbols along with an explanation of connections between symbols used by different religions, such as shared astrological symbolism in the form of moon, sun, or star motifs.

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: State institutions and leadership in Africa Irma Taddia,

Tekeste Negash, 2018-02-01 The central theme of this book is the role of education in the formation of a political class during and after the European colonial period in Africa. The volume focuses on the various actors that informed and were part of this process, such as African intellectuals and political leaders, colonial troops, European missionaries and administrators. At the same time, the collection analyses the historical processes connected to the emergence and development of a new African leadership, such as the creation of a colonial school system, the transformation of urban spaces, the development of new environmental policies and the processes of nation-building after independence. The volume is made up of twelve contributions: four on Ethiopia, two on Eritrea, two on the Sudan, one on Somaliland, two on Tanzania and one on Ghana. --

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: Black Land Nadia Nurhussein, 2022-06-07

The first book to explore how African American writing and art engaged with visions of Ethiopia during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries As the only African nation, with the exception of Liberia, to remain independent during the colonization of the continent, Ethiopia has long held significance for and captivated the imaginations of African Americans. In Black Land, Nadia Nurhussein delves into

nineteenth- and twentieth-century African American artistic and journalistic depictions of Ethiopia, illuminating the increasing tensions and ironies behind cultural celebrations of an African country asserting itself as an imperial power. Nurhussein navigates texts by Walt Whitman, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Pauline Hopkins, Harry Dean, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, George Schuyler, and others, alongside images and performances that show the intersection of African America with Ethiopia during historic political shifts. From a description of a notorious 1920 Star Order of Ethiopia flag-burning demonstration in Chicago to a discussion of the Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie as Time magazine's Man of the Year for 1935, Nurhussein illuminates the growing complications that modern Ethiopia posed for American writers and activists. American media coverage of the African nation exposed a clear contrast between the Pan-African ideal and the modern reality of Ethiopia as an antidemocratic imperialist state: Did Ethiopia represent the black nation of the future, or one of an inert and static past? Revising current understandings of black transnationalism, *Black Land* presents a well-rounded exploration of an era when Ethiopia's presence in African American culture was at its height.

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: Accidental Gods Anna Della Subin, 2021-12-07 NAMED A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR BY ESQUIRE, THE IRISH TIMES AND THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT SHORTLISTED FOR THE PEN HESSELL-TILTMAN PRIZE A provocative history of men who were worshipped as gods that illuminates the connection between power and religion and the role of divinity in a secular age Ever since 1492, when Christopher Columbus made landfall in the New World and was hailed as a heavenly being, the accidental god has haunted the modern age. From Haile Selassie, acclaimed as the Living God in Jamaica, to Britain's Prince Philip, who became the unlikely center of a new religion on a South Pacific island, men made divine—always men—have appeared on every continent. And because these deifications always emerge at moments of turbulence—civil wars, imperial conquest, revolutions—they have much to teach us. In a revelatory history spanning five centuries, a cast of surprising deities helps to shed light on the thorny questions of how our modern concept of “religion” was invented; why religion and politics are perpetually entangled in our supposedly secular age; and how the power to call someone divine has been used and abused by both oppressors and the oppressed. From nationalist uprisings in India to Nigerien spirit possession cults, Anna Della Subin explores how deification has been a means of defiance for colonized peoples. Conversely, we see how Columbus, Cortés, and other white explorers amplified stories of their godhood to justify their dominion over native peoples, setting into motion the currents of racism and exclusion that have plagued the New World ever since they touched its shores. At once deeply learned and delightfully antic, *Accidental Gods* offers an unusual keyhole through which to observe the creation of our modern world. It is that rare thing: a lyrical, entertaining work of ideas, one that marks the debut of a remarkable literary career.

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: Ethiopia at the Crossroads Christine Sciacca, 2024-03-08 Ethiopia at the Crossroads celebrates the artistic traditions of Ethiopia from their origins to the present day, spanning over 1,700 years of history. Seated in the Horn of Africa between Europe and the Middle East, the country is an intersection of diverse climates, religions, and cultures. This landmark catalogue examines Ethiopian art as representative of the nation's notable history and demonstrates the enormous cultural significance of this often-overlooked African nation through the themes of cross-cultural exchange and the human role in the creation and movement of art objects. It features more than 250 images of objects including painted icons, illuminated manuscripts, coins, textiles, metalwork, and carved wooden crosses in addition to works by contemporary Ethiopian artists. Because the artistic production of Ethiopia is still relatively unknown to Western audiences, *Ethiopia at the Crossroads* provides an accessible overview of the history and culture of the region. The book includes a series of scholarly essays that expand upon the themes and historical moments of encounter between Ethiopia and surrounding cultures, as well as an illustrated checklist of objects in the exhibition and technical findings of the Walters conservation team--

the lion of judah in the new world emperor haile selassie of ethiopia and the shaping of americans attitudes toward africa: Music and Messaging in the African Political Arena

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