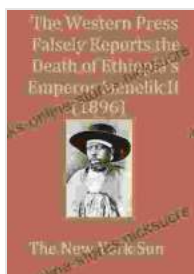


The Western Press Falsely Reports the Death of Emperor Menelik II: A Case of Mistaken Identity in 1896

The Western press has a long history of inaccurate and sensationalized reporting on Africa and its people. In 1896, one such instance occurred when several major newspapers erroneously reported the death of Emperor Menelik II of Ethiopia. This false report caused widespread confusion and concern, both in Europe and Africa.

Emperor Menelik II: A Brief Overview

Menelik II, born in 1844, was the Emperor of Ethiopia from 1889 to 1913. During his reign, he played a crucial role in modernizing and expanding the Ethiopian Empire. He is best known for his victory over the Italian forces at the Battle of Adwa in 1896, which secured Ethiopia's independence.



The Western Press Falsely Reports the Death of Ethiopia's Emperor Menelik II (1896) by Joe Foster

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 141 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 6 pages

FREE

DOWNLOAD E-BOOK



The False Report

In March 1896, several prestigious newspapers, including The Times of London, The New York Times, and Le Petit Journal, published articles claiming that Emperor Menelik II had died from an illness. The report originated from a telegram sent by the Italian chargé d'affaires in Addis Ababa to his government.

The telegram stated that Menelik II had been suffering from severe dysentery and had succumbed to the disease. However, the information provided in the telegram was inaccurate. Menelik II was alive and well at the time.

Causes of the Confusion

The confusion arose due to a series of factors:

- **Miscommunication:** The Italian chargé d'affaires relied on second-hand information and may have misinterpreted or exaggerated the reports of Menelik II's illness.
- **Premature reporting:** The newspapers rushed to publish the news without verifying its accuracy.
- **Sensationalism:** The death of a prominent African leader was a sensational story that appealed to the public's morbid curiosity.

Impact of the False Report

The false report had several significant consequences:

- **Concern in Europe:** European governments and diplomats were concerned about the potential instability in Ethiopia in the wake of Menelik II's supposed death.

- **Confusion in Ethiopia:** The news of Menelik II's death spread quickly throughout Ethiopia, causing confusion and uncertainty among the population.
- **Denial from Ethiopia:** The Ethiopian government quickly issued a statement denying the reports of Menelik II's death and confirming that he was alive and in good health.

Corrections and Apologies

Once the mistake was discovered, the newspapers that had published the false report issued corrections and apologies. The Times of London published a retraction on March 13, 1896, acknowledging that the news of Menelik II's death was "wholly incorrect."

Lessons Learned

The false reporting of Menelik II's death highlights the importance of accurate and responsible journalism. It is crucial for journalists to verify information before publishing it, especially when reporting on sensitive or controversial issues.

Historical Significance

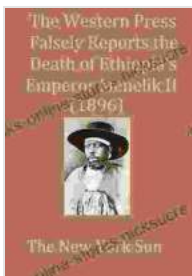
The incident serves as a reminder of the Western press's historical tendency to misrepresent African affairs. It underscores the need for critical examination of Western narratives about Africa and its people.

Additional Information

- The Italian chargé d'affaires who sent the telegram was later recalled by his government due to his inaccurate reporting.

- Emperor Menelik II continued to rule Ethiopia until 1913 and died of natural causes in 1913.
- The Ethiopian government established a national holiday to commemorate the victory at the Battle of Adwa.

The false reporting of Emperor Menelik II's death in 1896 is a classic example of journalistic error and the consequences of hasty and sensationalized reporting. It highlights the importance of accuracy, responsibility, and critical thinking in journalism, particularly when reporting on international affairs and marginalized communities.



The Western Press Falsely Reports the Death of Ethiopia's Emperor Menelik II (1896) by Joe Foster

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 141 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 6 pages

FREE

DOWNLOAD E-BOOK





Stories of War from the Women Reporters Who Covered Vietnam

The Vietnam War was one of the most significant events of the 20th century. It was a complex and controversial conflict that had a profound impact on both the United States...



The Hero and Saint of Islam: A Perennial Philosophy

Ali ibn Abi Talib, the fourth caliph of Islam, is a figure of great significance in the Muslim world. He is revered as a hero and a saint, and his...