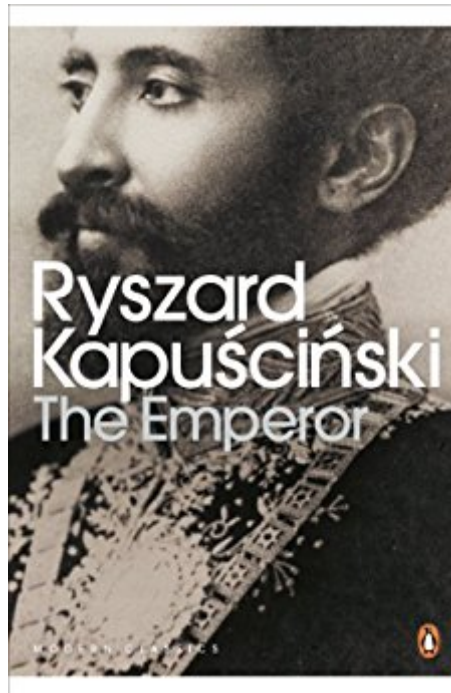




Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

The Emperor (Penguin Modern Classics)



Synopsis

After the deposition of Haile Selassie in 1974, which ended the ancient rule of the Abyssinian monarchy, Ryszard Kapuscinski travelled to Ethiopia and sought out surviving courtiers to tell their stories. Here, their eloquent and ironic voices depict the lavish, corrupt world they had known - from the rituals, hierarchies and intrigues at court to the vagaries of a ruler who maintained absolute power over his impoverished people. They describe his inexorable downfall as the Ethiopian military approach, strange omens appear in the sky and courtiers vanish, until only the Emperor and his valet remain in the deserted palace, awaiting their fate. Dramatic and mesmerising, *The Emperor* is one of the great works of reportage and a haunting epitaph on the last moments of a dying regime.

Book Information

File Size: 426 KB

Print Length: 178 pages

Publisher: Penguin; 01 edition (June 1, 2006)

Publication Date: June 1, 2006

Language: English

ASIN: B002RI9CVG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #643,880 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #71

in Books > History > Africa > Ethiopia #103 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Africa > East Africa #302 in Books > History > Africa > East Africa

Customer Reviews

The Emperor is so powerful that when he elevates someone to a new position, he changes their body language completely: First, the whole figure of a man changes. What had been slender and trim-waisted now starts to become a square silhouette. It is a massive and solemn square: a symbol of the solemnity and weight of power. We can already see that this is not just anybody's silhouette, but that of visible dignity and responsibility. A slowing down of movements accompanies this change in the figure. A man who has been singled out by His Distinguished Majesty will not

jump, run, frolic, or cut a caper. No. His step is solemn: he sets his feet firmly on the ground, bending his body slightly forward to show his determination to push through adversity, ordering precisely the movement of his hands so as to avoid nervous disorganized gesticulation. Furthermore, the facial features become solemn, almost stiffened, more worried and closed, but still capable of a momentary change to optimism or approval. (34) The man becomes old, he becomes slow, he becomes massive and solemn as he attempt to stifle his quirks to fit into that stagnant court atmosphere. Power sits heavily on his shoulders. All of these observations become ironic when one realizes, by reading through Kapucinski's piece, that in fact the ministers spend most of their time not doing their jobs, but hanging around court just to catch the Emperor's eye to indicate their unshakable loyalty. (50) And that, moreover, the Emperor doesn't like his ministers to be good at their jobs, so that he shined by contrast. (33) Kapucinski doesn't need to write a voluminous tome in order to convey what life was like under the repressive rule of Emperor Haile Selassie. Instead he chooses a few details that stick out in the mind: such as the specific way in which a new minister's body posture changes upon his promotion to power. There is something about each of these images that causes the reader to pause and think, and remember them afterwards. Five Stars.

The story of how (somehow) Haile Selassie comes to and maintains power. Another revealing, well documented and personal accounting of another African leader taking charge of his country after colonialism. Kapuscinski is undoubtedly the most reliable journalist of the central Africa experience. A must read.

Great book about the downfall of Selassie's autocratic regime in Ethiopia on 1974. One can easily find parallels with the way other dictatorships work and try to sustain themselves. The book is mostly made of impressions from people close to the Emperor and the regime. I don't think it's Kapuscinski's best book (maybe 'The Shadow of the Sun' or 'Travels with Herodotus' are?) but there is no doubt the reading is worth it. The Kindle edition has some minor typos (mainly split words). Nothing that makes the reading too uncomfortable.

A little confusing the way chapters are laid out with initials. Most of the book is very well done and a good short read with not a lot of insignificant writing to distract the reader. I would recommend for anyone who likes Historical politics and wants a chilling look at an unusual Monocracy

Contains valuable information on palace politics during the era of the last King of Ethiopia

The conceit supporting this book, the voices of people from the emperor's inner circle, works admirably to present the full flavour and quasi madness of Haile Selassie's rule. A very readable format for lots of information.

Well written in a detached manner. Sometimes a bit confusing, however, interesting and one gets a clear picture of HAILE SELASSIE. I would have liked more details of his private life and his family.

Kapuscinski does it again! I have only recently discovered this writer and am reading everything of his I can get my hands on. You will too. He has the superb gift of bringing people and places alive often through small details. When I read his book on Russia I couldn't get some of the images of poverty out of my head. In the Emperor he is more detached and just tells us the impossible-seeming truth of the madness of power. Buy it.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Emperor (Penguin Modern Classics) Penguin Classics Homage To Catalonia (Penguin Modern Classics) Modern Classics Orwell in Spain (Penguin Modern Classics) Modern Classics Journeys End (Modern Classics (Penguin)) Modern Classics Remote People (Penguin Modern Classics) The Baburnama: Memoirs of Babur, Prince and Emperor (Modern Library Classics) Evil Emperor Penguin Little Penguin: The Emperor of Antarctica Eve of the Emperor Penguin The Life Cycle of an Emperor Penguin Tacky and the Emperor (Tacky the Penguin) Penguins and Antarctica: A Nonfiction Companion to Magic Tree House Merlin Mission #12: Eve of the Emperor Penguin Eve of the Emperor Penguin (Magic Tree House (R) Merlin Mission Book 12) Eve of the Emperor Penguin (Magic Tree House, No. 40) The Penguin Arthur Miller: Collected Plays (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition) The Penguin Book of the Undead: Fifteen Hundred Years of Supernatural Encounters (Penguin Classics) The First Emperor: Selections from the Historical Records (Oxford World's Classics) Modern Essentials Bundle 6th - Modern Essentials 6th Edition a Contemporary Guide to the Therapeutic Use of Essential Oils, An Introduction to Modern Essentials, and Modern Essentials Reference Card Grandissimo: The First Emperor of Las Vegas: How Jay Sarno Won a Casino Empire, Lost It, and Inspired Modern Las Vegas The Ramayana: A Shortened Modern Prose Version of the Indian Epic (Penguin Classics)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)