In one of the most important churches in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), there is a panel containing several paintings. They are exact copies of photographs showing Emperor Haile Sellassie I during the war against Italy (1935-1941). The paintings were copied from frequently published, and thus well-known, photographs, which served imperial propaganda to show the Emperor's role in fighting for Ethiopia's independence. Using the paintings as source material, it is the aim of this article to discuss specific propagandistic methods applied in Ethiopia under Haile Sellasie to transmit a message about power and history, and to present the intended image of the Emperor to his subjects.
Headquarters are in Addis Ababa, the country’s capital. Tradition holds that Ethiopia was first evangelized by St. Matthew and St. Bartholomew in the 1st century ce, and the first Ethiopian convert is thought to have been the eunuch in Jerusalem mentioned in The Acts of the Apostles (8:27–40). Ethiopia was further Christianized in the 4th century ce by two men (likely brothers) from Tyre—St. Frumentius, later consecrated the first Ethiopian bishop, and Aedesius. They won the confidence of the king at Aksum (a powerful kingdom in northern Ethiopia) and were allowed to evangelize. Address: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, ET, Africa Worthy of a place on any visitor’s itinerary, Menelik II Square is located just outside the entrance to St. George’s Cathedral in Addis Ababa. The square features a large statue of the man who originally founded Addis Ababa, Emperor Menelik II. It is also important for those travelling around Ethiopia since distance markers on major highways all over the country bear the distance from that point to the statue’s base in Menelik Square. Open hours: daily Admission: free. Axum Obelisks. Address: Axum, Ethiopia, ET, Africa No one really can Ethiopia occupies a unique place among African countries south of the Sahara, having evolved her own literary language, Ge’ez, in very early times. A vast body of literary works in Ge’ez grew up from fifth century A.D onwards. Almost all of these works are religious in content. Two important original works appeared in the early fifteenth century. The first of these was the Fekkare Iyasus or the Explication of Jesus, an interesting work, messianic in tone and foretelling the coming of a king called Theodore (Tewodros) who would restore peace to suffering humanity. Such paintings are found in the form of icons, as murals in churches and in manuscripts. The imaginative church artists have beautified and ornamented these paintings with elaborate color, illumination and elegant design.