

**MADAGASCAR OF TODAY: A  
SKETCH OF THE ISLAND, WITH  
CHAPTERS ON ITS PAST HISTORY  
AND PRESENT PROSPECTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649471782

Madagascar of Today: A Sketch of the Island, with Chapters on Its Past History and Present Prospects by W. E. Cousins

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**W. E. COUSINS**

**MADAGASCAR OF TODAY: A  
SKETCH OF THE ISLAND, WITH  
CHAPTERS ON ITS PAST HISTORY  
AND PRESENT PROSPECTS**





RANAVALOMANJAKA III., QUEEN OF MADAGASCAR.  
*(From a Photograph by Captain E. W. Dawson.)*

# MADAGASCAR OF TO-DAY.

A Sketch of the Island,

WITH CHAPTERS ON ITS PAST HISTORY  
AND PRESENT PROSPECTS.

BY THE

REV. W. E. COUSINS,

*Missionary of the London Missionary Society since 1862.*

WITH A MAP.



LONDON :

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY,

56, PATERNOSTER ROW, AND 65, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.

1895.

T469  
M34C86

LONDON :  
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, LIMITED,  
STAMPED STREET AND CHARING CROSS.

PARALLEL REVOLUTION

## INTRODUCTION.

---

FROM the time when Marco Polo, the great Venetian traveller, wrote his half-mythical account of Madagascar to this year of grace 1895, in which we scan our daily paper to see how France is faring in her endeavour to persuade the Hova Government to accept a French protectorate, is a far cry. Six centuries lie between these two points.

The Madagascar of Marco Polo was a *terra incognita*, known only by vague rumour. The Madagascar of to-day is an island well known to many Europeans, and has been carefully studied and explored, especially by Frenchmen. Witness, for example, the magnificent work of M. Grandidier, which is likely to fill a score or so of folio volumes, and is a marvel of full and exact knowledge of almost everything relating to the island.

Madagascar seems likely to hold a large place in the thoughts of the British public during the coming years; and the aim of this modest volume is to set forth in brief the main facts as to the country and its people and history, and so enable the reader to form a sound opinion as to the present situation, and to read with intelligence the news that will probably be reaching us from month to month.



---

When on my return to England a few months ago I was asked to write a book on Madagascar, my answer was that there seemed to be too many already. I am assured, however, by those who know, that a small book, giving in concise form such information as is needed by ordinary intelligent readers to enable them better to understand how the present crisis has arisen, and what is the actual condition of the country, will be welcomed by many. I have therefore done my best to supply this desideratum. The book has been written *currente calamo*, but the information it contains will, I believe, be found reliable. It is but an outline, and those who desire fuller information may find it in abundance in the works of Ellis, Sibree, Oliver, Grandidier, or in the seventeen published numbers of the Antananarivo Annual.

At the risk of being considered egotistic, I have occasionally preferred to use the first personal pronoun, as I think, when narrating events that have fallen under my personal observation, my doing so adds life and interest to the story.

W. E. COUSINS.

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
THE LAND . . . . .	11
CHAPTER II.	
ANTANANARIVO, THE CAPITAL . . . . .	22
CHAPTER III.	
THE PEOPLE . . . . .	36
CHAPTER IV.	
THE GOVERNMENT . . . . .	48
CHAPTER V.	
THE GROWTH OF THE HOVA POWER, WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF RECENT SOVEREIGNS . . . . .	61
CHAPTER VI.	
THE ANCIENT RELIGION OF THE HOVA. . . . .	75
CHAPTER VII.	
THE INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY . . . . .	81

---

CHAPTER VIII.		PAGE
THE QUARTER OF A CENTURY WHEN 'THE LAND WAS DARK' . . . . .		91
CHAPTER IX.		
THE RENEWAL OF MISSIONARY WORK . . . . .		100
CHAPTER X.		
BIBLE TRANSLATION . . . . .		115
CHAPTER XI.		
THE PRESENT STATE OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE ISLAND . . . . .		125
CHAPTER XII.		
THE POLITICAL SITUATION . . . . .		146