



ASFA-WOSSEN ASSERATE (*1948)

Asfa-Wossen Asserate was born in 1948 in Addis Ababa as a great nephew of Emperor Haile Selassie. After graduating at the German School in Addis Ababa, he studied law, economy and history at the universities of Tübingen and Cambridge. In 1978 he earned his doctorate at the Frobenius Institute in Frankfurt, working under Eike Haberland on a historical study on Ethiopia. During the Ethiopian revolution, his father was killed and the rest of his family was captured. The political situation meant that he was not allowed to return to his homeland and so he remained in Germany. In 1994 he founded *Orbis Aethiopicus*, a society devoted to the preservation and upkeep of the country's

culture and monuments and to advancing knowledge of Ethiopia's long and rich history both in Ethiopia and in Europe. He works as a business consultant for Africa and the Middle East, as a political analyst and as an author. His book *Manieren* (2003), which describes German manners as seen through the eyes of an African observer, was a bestseller in Germany. Amongst his other publications are his autobiography – *Ein Prinz aus dem Hause David. Und warum er in Deutschland blieb* [A prince of the house David and why he remained in Germany] (2007) – and a biography of Haile Selassie – *King of kings: The triumph and tragedy of emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia* (2015). For his numerous publications and activities as a mediator between African countries and Germany, he was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit in 2016.