Queen Ranavalona III was the last sovereign of the Kingdom of Madagascar, ruling from 1883 to 1897. She was the first and only female monarch to rule over the Merina people, who inhabited the central highlands of Madagascar. Born as Princess Razafindrahety, she was designated as the heir to the throne by her uncle, King Ranavalona II, who adopted her as his daughter. She was educated by British missionaries and was known for her intelligence and strong will. Ranavalona III ascended to the throne at the age of 22 after the death of her aunt, Queen Rasoherina. Her reign was marked by external pressure from European powers, particularly France, which sought to colonize Madagascar. During her reign, she attempted to modernize the kingdom and establish closer ties with European powers to resist colonization. She built schools, hospitals, and infrastructure, and sought alliances with the United States and Great Britain. Despite her efforts to modernize and defend her kingdom, Ranavalona III was eventually deposed by the French in 1897, leading to the colonization of Madagascar. She was exiled to the island of Réunion and later to Algiers, where she lived in exile until her death. After her exile, Ranavalona III lived a relatively quiet life, maintaining her royal dignity and receiving visitors who sympathized with her plight. She never renounced her claim to the throne and remained a symbol of resistance for the Malagasy people. In 1916, Ranavalona III was allowed to return to Madagascar, but she chose to live in exile in Algiers until her death in 1917. She was buried in Algiers, and her remains were later repatriated to Madagascar in 1938. Despite her relatively short reign and the ultimate loss of her kingdom to colonization, Ranavalona III remains a significant figure in Malagasy history. She is remembered for her efforts to defend her kingdom and her resilience in the face of adversity. Ranavalona III's legacy has been the subject of reevaluation in modern times, with some viewing her as a tragic figure who struggled against the forces of colonialism, while others criticize her for her collaboration with foreign powers. Her life and reign continue to be a source of fascination and debate, and she is remembered as a complex and influential figure in the history of Madagascar.