

# Albania



## *Description of Arms*

Gueule, a double-headed eagle.  
Mantling : gueule, fringed and tasselled or, doubled erm and surmounted by the Cap of Scander-Beg, thereon a goat's head sinister pourpre.

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**Principal Title :** King of the Albanians.

**Creation :** Independance en 1912 .

**Family Name :** Zog.

**Family History :** Albania has had a tumultuous past. Early history records that it was a Roman province, then it fell under the Byzantine rulers; followed by the Serbs and Bulgars. Then came the turn of the Ottoman empire. It was not an easy place to rule over and, from time to time, local leaders set up largely ephemeral semi-independant states.

In 1912, the Turks threw in the towel and recognised Albania as an autonomous area. The frontiers were laid down, in London, the following year. However, the Italians chose the First World War as their chance to extend their influence. This occupation, again, was not to last long. In 1914, Prince Wilhelm Friedrich of Wied was invited to become King of Albania. He spent only some six months in the country and then retired to Germany. Once again, the people demonstrated their fierce independance of spirit and loyalty to their language and customs.

In 1925, a local war-lord called Ahmed Zogu was named President and, three years later was enthroned as King Zog I. Although the country is the only truly Moslem state in Europe, Zogu wished to extend his European connections and, in 1938, he married an Hungarian countess from a distinguished family, called Geraldine Apponyi.

By the following year, he was chased out of his kingdom by the Italians and the King of Italy took on the name of King of Albania; the Albanian troops being consolidated into the Italian army. At the end of the Second War, the Communists seized the opportunity and set up, once again, an independant country, under Enver Hoxha.

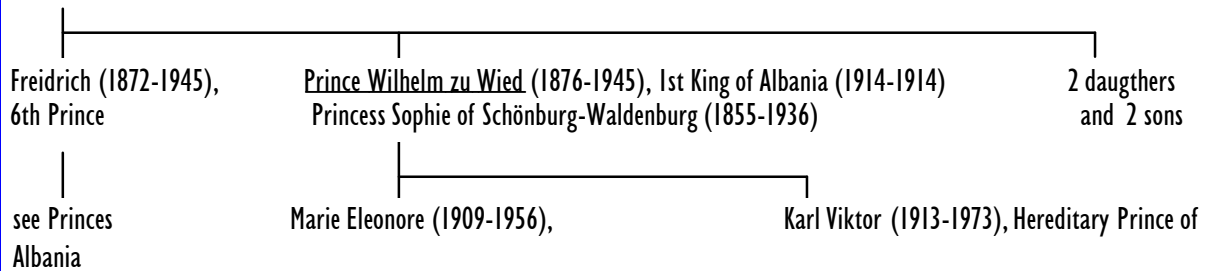
Hoxha's rule was not only harsh but extremely exclusive and the country more or less dropped from view. It was almost impossible to go there and was largely ignored.

However, King Zog, had one son, Leka, who took on the style of King of the Albanians. Monarchists recognise him as the rightful ruler of his people. These, it should be noted, are established in several neighbouring states, notably Kosovo and Macedonia. They remain, to this day, cohesive and loyal to each other. It could be said that peace will not be

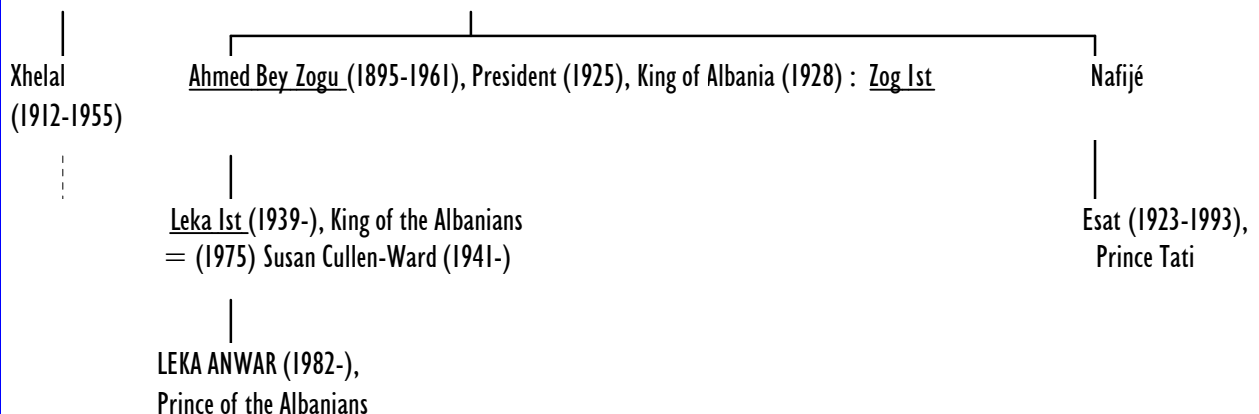
# Albania

de 1366 à 1421 : dynastie locale fondée par Balsa s'établit à Shkrodër. En 1468, pays envahi et sous domination des Turcs jusqu'en 1912.

Wilhelm (1845-1907), 5th Prince (Fürst) zu Wied  
= (1871) Marie, Princess of the Netherlands (1841-1910)



Xhemal Zogu Pasha (1860-1911)  
1st = (1880) Melek Zogu (1860-1884) and 2nd = (1891) Sadijé Toptani (1876-1934)



established until a Greater Albania is created. Since so many other empires have failed to establish anything resembling complete subjugation over the people, this may one day come about.

Meanwhile, the country was left in a pitiful condition by the Communists. Foreign investment is minimal in such a rebellious region and many of the young have fled to other countries.

King Leka is a colourful character, as tall as his father was slight. He is a passionate collector of guns and there is one story that he was ready to invade with an army, largely armed from his own collection.