



Tracing marks of German colonialism in the cities of Berlin and Windhoek

Material and suggestions for teachers

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Intention of the material

This material provides an introduction to German and Namibian colonial history and presents educational methods which support the understanding of historical, sociological and political debates as e.g. the renaming of streets or the handling of colonial monuments. Also it develops links between colonial history and present trade relations between the two countries.

The workshop can be conducted in both cities, Berlin and Windhoek.

The workshop includes

- a brainstorming session on the subject of colonialism in order to identify the students' level of knowledge
- a PowerPoint presentation (ppt) with aspects of colonial history of Germany and Namibia (available via download www.epiz-berlin.de)
- the development of a city tour related to colonial history by the students
- a role play presenting the city tour in a »tourist office«
- a city tour through Berlin's city centre

Methods

- Brain storming/mind map
- Presentation/input
- Group work/role play
- Guided city tour

Imprint

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Additional didactic material is provided at the EPIZ E-Learning-Center
www.epiz-berlin.de/moodle

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1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

A history shared or dividing?

The era of colonialism ended for Germany in 1915, after 30 years. The colonial era plays hardly any role in the public awareness of history in Germany. In Namibia, a culture of commemoration has a long tradition. The German colonial rule (as well as the rule of South Africa) is a record for many Namibians.

The city tour

Berlin as well as Windhoek still bear traces of German colonialism since both capital cities were administrative and representative centers of German colonial rule. A guided colonialism critical city tour is part of the workshop. It introduces places which are related to the colonial past.

There are eight streets in **Berlin** that are still named after colonial criminals, such as »Wissmannstraße« in Berlin-Neukölln or »Lüderitzstraße« in the so called African Quarter in Berlin-Wedding. »Mohrenstraße« incorporates a racist term until the very present.

For further details see www.ber-ev.de/download/BERI09-infopool/2007-07-12_dossier-strassennamen_web.pdf, also available at the EPIZ media center.

In **Windhoek**, one can find a street named after General Lothar von Trotha. Most prominently the bronze Equestrian Statue – a mounted horseman of the German »Schutztruppe« – in the center of Windhoek still commemorates Germany's colonial power and rule in Namibia. It was inaugurated in 1912 and is dedicated to the commemoration of the German soldiers and citizens who died during the genocide committed on the Herero and Nama peoples.

City tour in Berlin

1

The tour starts at MOHRENSTRASSE. It is a street and an underground station in the city centre that incorporates the racist term »Mohr«. The origin of the term is the Greek »moros« which means »stupid, gawky or godless«. In Latin »maurus« means »black« or »dark«. At any times, the term »Mohr« has had a derogative racist connotation. The street was probably named around 1700 after a group of African slaves who were forcibly brought to Berlin in the context of Brandenburg's slave trade. In 1881, Hugo Hoffmann established at Mohrenstr. No. 10 a chocolaterie where he produced the »Sarotti«-Brand chocolate. The »Sarotti-Mohr« is arguably the most famous advertising character in Germany. It was invented at the end of the First World War and lived on until 2004 (appearance slightly changed through the years). Due to criticism, that the »Mohr« reproduces racist ideologies, the character was changed to a »magician« which still resembles the former »Mohr«.

2

PLAQUE COMMEMORATING THE »CONGO CONFERENCE« 1884/85 in Berlin (Wilhelmstr. 92): The Congo Conference is also known as »Berlin Africa Conference«. Chancellor Otto von Bismarck and the president of France invited the European and overseas powers which held a presence in Africa at this time to take part including Great Britain, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Russia, Austria, Sweden-Norway, the Ottoman Empire, and the USA. African people were purposely excluded as political subjects: Not a single African participant was invited to discuss the fate of Africa. The Berlin Africa Conference laid down ground rules for the further partitioning of the continent and thereby accelerated the so called »scramble for Africa«. The German claims on South-West Africa, the Cameroons, Togoland and East Africa were discussed during the Conference.

For further reading see »Der Kolonialismus und seine Folgen: 125 Jahre nach der Berliner Afrika-Konferenz«, Inkota-Dossier 5, 2009; available at the EPIZ media center.

3

PANOPTIKUM (Westin Grand Hotel, Friedrichstraße): The site of Westin Grand Hotel was formerly known as place where the public enjoyed »dances and cultural shows« (»Völkerschauen«) of peoples from all over the world, especially from German colonies. The Germans were fascinated by the »exotic« and »savage« shows, African women and men had to perform. In 1896/97, two million people visited the show called »Deutsche Kolonialausstellung« at the »Treptower Park«. »Völkerschauen« took place even in the Berlin Zoo, where wild animals were presented to the public. The renowned anthropologist Rudolf Virchow heavily supported the idea of these »shows« as he was using African people as »objects« for his »research« on »human races«.

4

THE HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITY (Unter den Linden 6) was founded in 1810 as »Berliner Universität«. At the end of the 19th century the quest for power and the exploratory urge were immense. Scientist were involved in establishing and controlling colonies and legitimating the idea of »racism«. The physician Eugen Fischer (1874–1967) is known for the development of a »race theory« and his »research« on objects (skulls and complete heads which he demanded from the colonial government in South-West Africa). From 1927 he taught at the university; during the Nazi regime he was head of the university. The racism of the Nazi regime was based on Fischers' views and publications which were continuously distributed till the 1960ies in Western Germany.

5

SPLENDID HOTEL (Dorotheenstraße 37): In Mitte, only a few hotel buildings of the 19th century survived World War II. The building of Splendid Hotel was constructed by the architects Gronau & Graul in 1904. Its neo-baroque facade shows busts, titans as well as sculptures of an »African« woman and an »American Indian« with feathered headdress. They symbolise the racist idea of the exotic images of Africans and the »noble savage«.

6

STARBUCKS AND EDEKA (city train station Friedrichstraße): Coffee and chocolate are the oldest so-called »Kolonialwaren«, »colonial products«. Starbucks is the world's leading coffee shop. Besides conventional coffee, it offers fair trade products. In 1898, Edeka was founded as E.d.K which stands for »Einkaufsgenossenschaft der Kolonialwarenhändler im Halleschen Torbezirk zu Berlin«. (»Colonial traders' purchasing co-operative in Hallescher Torbezirk at Berlin«).

7

GARNISONSFRIEDHOF NEUKÖLLN – Memorial Stone in Honour of the Victims of German Colonial Rule in Namibia (2009): The Memorial stone is commemorating the victims of German colonial rule in Namibia from 1884–1915, in particular the colonial war of 1904–1908 –



a war in which the German so-called »Schutztruppe« committed unspeakable crimes and genocide against the Herero, the Nama and the Damara. Unfortunately, the inscription does not use the term »genocide« but speaks only about »colonial war« (see also www.berlin-postkolonial.de/aktuelle_themen/Namibia-Gedenkstein.html). In 2009, the memorial stone was put up next to the »Africa stone« of 1907, which commemorates German soldiers of the »Schutztruppe«, not mentioning any of the African victims.

City tour in Windhoek

1

The tour starts at the EQUESTRIAN STATUE, the »Reiterdenkmal«. The bronze statue – a mounted horseman of the German »Schutztruppe« – was inaugurated in 1912. It is dedicated to the commemoration of the German soldiers and citizens who died during the colonial war 1904–1908. It remained at its original and prominent site in the heart of Windhoek, outliving several changes of government within the Namibian historical context. It is still without any comment about the ten thousands of African victims of the German genocide.



2

OLD FORT, »Alte Feste«, is the oldest building in Windhoek, and it is set in a commanding position overlooking the city. The Fort was completed in 1893 during the German colonisation. It was home to the German »Schutztruppe« until 1915. In 1904, during the war against the Nama and Herero, European women and children of Windhoek lived in the fort. German colonial officials set up a concentration camp (here the term »Konzentrationslager« was used for the first time) between the fort and the Parliament Building, on the ground presently occupied by the school sports grounds, to imprison Herero and Nama – men, women and children. Photos show that a number of executions took place on the site, many of the imprisoned people died of hunger and diseases. Today, the forts' whitewashed walls house the National Museum of Namibia, which covers the history of Namibia from its occupation by the San till independence.

3

TROTHA STR: Lothar von Trotha (1848–1920) was appointed Commander in Chief of German-South West Africa on 3 May 1904 and directed to crush the Herero rebellion. At the »Battle of Waterberg«, he issued orders to encircle the Herero and aimed at their total defeat. The Herero, however, chose to escape and broke through into the waterless Omaheke desert. On 2 October 1904, the enervated general von Trotha proclaimed his infamous extermination order against the Herero: »I, the great General of the German soldiers, send this letter to the Herero nation. The Herero are no

longer German subjects. They have murdered and plundered, have cut off the ears, noses and other parts of the bodies of injured soldiers, and now, out of cowardice, they want to give up the fight. I say to the people: anyone who delivers one of their chiefs as a prisoner to one of my bases, will receive one thousand Mark, whoever brings Samuel Maharero [Herero chief], will receive five thousand Mark. But the Herero people must leave this land. If they refuse, so I will force them with the Groot Rohr [cannon]. Any Herero found within the German borders armed or unarmed, with or without cattle, will be shot. I will no longer give shelter to women or children, I will drive them back to their people or have them shot. This is my decision for the Herero people. The great General of the mighty German Emperor.«

Original wording in German: ZIMMERER, JÜRGEN (2004): Krieg, KZ und Völkermord in Südwestafrika. In: ZIMMERER, JÜRGEN/ZELLER, JOACHIM (Hrsg.): Völkermord in Deutsch-Südwestafrika. Der Kolonialkrieg (1904–1908) in Namibia und seine Folgen, Ch. Links Verlag, 2004, Berlin. S. 51

Today, historical research is almost unanimous in describing this annihilation during the German colonial war from 1904 until 1908 as an act of genocide and as such as the first genocide committed in the name of the German government.

4

BISMARCK STR: Otto von Bismarck (1815–1898)



was a leading Prussian/German statesman of the late 19th century. In 1871, Bismarck was raised to the rank of Fürst (Prince) von Bismarck and was also appointed Imperial Chancellor of the German Empire. In 1884/85

he and the president of France invited the European and overseas powers to Berlin to take part at the Congo Conference, also known as the »Berlin Africa Conference«. Great Britain, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Russia, Austria, Sweden-Norway, the Ottoman Empire, and the USA followed his invitation. African people were purposely excluded as political subjects: Not a single African participant was invited to discuss the fate of Africa. The »Berlin Africa Conference« laid down ground rules for the further partitioning of the continent and thereby accelerated the so called »scramble for Africa«. The German claims on South-West Africa, the Cameroons, Togoland and East Africa were discussed during the »Berlin Africa Conference«.

WALL PAINTING »THE NEW MONUMENT« (Theatre school Mugabe Ave): The wall painting shows the exploding Equestrian Statue and a white rabbit on its pedestal. In 2001, the artists of »Farbfieber«, Natasha Beukes (Namibia) and Klaus Klinger (Germany), created the painting called »The new Monument«. Its inscription is a poem by Sandile Madi (Namibia) titled »The Gun« (M6). According to the artists, the white rabbit is a symbol of a new, peaceful living in Namibia. »The new Monument« initiated controversies and critical debate especially among German-Namibians. They protested against the painting considering it as iconoclasm and disrespect.

2 PEDAGOGICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

One-day workshop

Time	Educational objective	Content	Activities and social forms	Material
30'	–classifying the term »colonialism« – raising questions		–brain storming –mind mapping	M1
15'	–acquiring basic knowledge about colonialism and fair trade –understanding the link between our past and today –raising awareness about issues of global market structures, production and consumption	–facts and figures on German colonialism –basic information on fair trade	–input via ppt	M2 (German)
60'	–tour: colonialism: past and present in Berlin/Windhoek –finding ways how to critically integrate colonialism into a city tour –developing a role play	–basic information about outstanding colonial city spots	–group work –discussion –examination of city maps	M3, M6
30'	–role play at the »tourist office«		–performance of role play	M4
2–3 hrs	–critical city tour: colonial history – past and present in Berlin/Windhoek	–information on city spots related to colonial history in Berlin/Windhoek	–guided colonialism critical city tour: colonial history – past and present in Berlin/Windhoek	M5

M1

Brainstorming on the term »colonialism«

Question

What means »colonialism« and what associations do you make?

Method

1. Visualization (mind map)
2. Clustering

Possible keywords: Christoph Columbus; (European) conquerors; German Empire/Germany; Otto von Bismarck; European colonising states as Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark; exploitation of resources and people; forced labour; »colonial products« as coffee, cacao, tea, spices; »New World«; »race theory«; »civilization«; missionaries and missionary work; war; uprisings; German colonies as »German South-West Africa«, »German East Africa«, »Togoland«, »Cameroon«, »German New Guinea«, »Bismarck Archipelago«, »Marshall Islands«, »German Samoa«, »Jiaozhou Bay« (»Deutsch-Kiautschou«); »Schutzgebiete« (euphemistic term for German colonies which means literally translated »protected territories«).

M2

Colonial history of Germany and Namibia

PowerPoint (ppt) presentation that introduces the topics of colonial history of Germany and Namibia (in German, available via download at www.epiz-berlin.de).

Information on fair trade

www.transfair.org (German)

www.fairtrade.net (English)

Information on global trade

www.oxfam.org/en/campaigns/trade (English)

M3

Examination of city maps

Small groups (4–5 participants) examine city maps of Berlin/Windhoek. In both cities one can find street names with colonial reference, for example »Afrikanisches Viertel« and »Mohrenstraße« in Berlin and »Trotha Str« and »Bismarck Str« in Windhoek.

Supplied with basic information about outstanding colonial city spots the participants design a city tour related to colonial monuments and spots.

In a role play the students perform a situation of foreigners/tourists in a tourist office asking for a (special) city tour. The students learn to argue why it is necessary and interesting to concern oneself with colonial history.

Material supplied

– BERLINER ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITISCHER RATSCHLAG e.V.

Dossier Straßennamen mit Bezügen zum Kolonialismus in Berlin (2008).

Download www.ber-ev.de/download/BER/09-infopool/2007-07-12_dossier-strassennamen_web.pdf

– HEYDEN, ULRICH VAN DERZELLER JOACHIM (Hrsg.): Kolonialmetropole Berlin. Eine Spurensuche.

Berlin Edition, 2002, Berlin.

– »Reader Kolonialismus« (available at the EPIZ media center)

M4

The city tour

City tour in Berlin

- 1 »Mohrenstraße«
- 2 Plaque commemorating the »Congo Conference« 1884/85 in Berlin (Wilhelmstr. 92)
- 3 »Panoptikum« (Westin Grand Hotel, Friedrichstraße)
- 4 The »Humboldt-University« (Unter den Linden 6)
- 5 »Splendid Hotel« (Dorotheenstraße 37)
- 6 »Starbucks and Edeka« (Friedrichstraße station)
- 7 »Garnisonsfriedhof« – Memorial Stone

City tour in Windhoek

- 1 The Equestrian Statue, the »Reiterdenkmal«
- 2 Old Fort, »Alte Feste«
- 3 »Trotha Str«
- 4 »Bismarck Str«
- 5 Wall painting »The new Monument« (Theatre school Mugabe Ave)

M5

Historical photos

Copies of historical photos showing people and places with colonial reference to use as material for the guided tour, available at the EPIZ media center or to find in:

- HEYDEN, ULRICH VAN DER/ZELLER JOACHIM (Hrsg.) Kolonialmetropole Berlin. Eine Spurensuche. Berlin Edition, 2002, Berlin.
- ZELLER, JOACHIM
Bilderschule der Herrenmenschen. Koloniale Reklamesammelschilder.
Ch. Links Verlag, 2008, Berlin.
- www.ber-ev.de/download/BER/03-positionen/f-kolonial/2006-12_kolonialhist_stadtpaziergang.pdf

M6

A Poem by A. Madi

The Gun

from a tinted part of history
along my way you came
served the lords and aimed at me
at an order ruining my past
my dignity though not for long
not for vultures
they go out conquering the world
causin so much disruptions
so many losses of lives
 but for now from my sober mind i recall
 dream to have grasped you in time
 from the external wicked minded
 talk about the church
 talk about the army
 my peccant reality
thought it was good time to jubilate
and I trusted my reasons
waved you high in the air
sung a song long banned
aloud in the tears of relief and
in spite the pressing truth
the freedom love song
 shall you ever fade away
 you that brought the fateful
 wars and crimes of today
 the very pal that saved me peace
 now monitors the aftermath
 entertaining pavement politics
 how smart you are
 shall you ever fade away

it's been a while since
we grow unseparable
your papers I still posses though
it feels my eyes are full of sores
now you change colours
now your shape and form
seem like a billion times or
do my eyes betray me
no sense from you is what I fail
to dig as for having you
somewhat my reasons becoming dull
 but before to you my last
 word of thanx I give
 times change with the people
 the people with the times
 licensed or dumped with
 you in great circulation
 many can do just fuck up
 use you instead to reason
 at random as is the case
 today every now and then

while my eyes have you
half in focus half out
once my obsession dearest you
before my final gratitude
to your historical deeds criminal fantasies
corruption and the likes
know this very well
my eyes are alright and fine
only your time is running out

Background reading in German

DEUTSCHES HISTORISCHES MUSEUM
Namibia Deutschland. Eine geteilte Geschichte.
Widerstand – Gewalt – Erinnerung.
DHM Museumspädagogik, 2004, Berlin.
EPIZ-Signatur KAT 32

FÖRSTER, LARISSA ET AL. (Hrsg.)
Namibia – Deutschland. Eine geteilte Geschichte.
Widerstand – Gewalt – Erinnerung.
Edition Minerva, 2004, Rautenstrauch-Joest-
Museum für Völkerkunde der Stadt Köln.

HEYDEN, ULRICH VAN DER/ZELLER JOACHIM (Hrsg.)
Kolonialmetropole Berlin. Eine Spurensuche.
Berlin Edition, 2002, Berlin. EPIZ-Signatur RA 52

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Afrika und die deutsche Sprache. Ein kritisches Nach-
schlagewerk. Münster, 2009, EPIZ-Signatur AF 123

MELBER, HENNING (Hrsg.)
Namibia – Grenzen nachkolonialer Emanzipation.
Brandes & Apsel Verlag, 2003, Frankfurt/Main,
EPIZ-Signatur AF 83

MELBER, HENNING (Hrsg.)
Genozid und Gedenken. Namibisch-deutsche
Geschichte und Gegenwart.
Brandes & Apsel Verlag, 2005, Frankfurt/Main.

TIMM, UWE
Morenga, Roman.
München, 2000, EPIZ-Signatur AF 70

VIETT, INGE
Morengas Erben.
Hamburg, 2004, EPIZ-Signatur AF 122

ZELLER, JOACHIM
Bilderschule der Herrenmenschen.
Koloniale Reklamesammelschilder.
Ch. Links Verlag, 2008, Berlin,
EPIZ-Signatur AF 86

ZIMMERER, JÜRGEN/ZELLER, JOACHIM (Hrsg.)
Völkermord in Deutsch-Südwestafrika.
Der Kolonialkrieg (1904–1908) in Namibia und
seine Folgen.
Ch. Links Verlag, 2004, Berlin,
EPIZ-Signatur U47/ AF 82

Background reading in English

ERICHSEN, CASPAR
»What the Elders used to say.« Namibian
Perspectives on the Last Decade of German
Colonial Rule.
John Meinert Printing, 2008, Windhoek.

JOHANNESON, BARBARA
Discovering the Past.
2007, EPIZ-Signatur AF 138 (englischsprachiges
Geschichtsbuch für Klasse 8 in Namibia)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF NAMIBIA
The Hendrik Witbooi Papers.
John Meinert Printing, 1996, Windhoek.

OLDEN, LUCY
Understanding History in Context.
2009, EPIZ-Signatur AF 135 (englischsprachiges
Geschichtsbuch für Klasse 8 über namibische und
afrikanische Geschichte)

VOGT, ANDREAS
National Monuments in Namibia. An inventory
of proclaimed national monuments in the
Republic of Namibia.
Gamsberg Macmillan Publishers, 2004, Windhoek.

Online (in German)

- www.dhm.de/ausstellungen/namibial/stadtspaziergang/startseite.htm
- www.berlin-postkolonial.de
- www.ber-ev.de/download/BER/03-positionen/f-kolonial/2006-12_kolonialhist_stadtspaziergang.pdf
- www.ber-ev.de/download/BER/09-infopool/2007-07-12_dossier-strassennamen_web.pdf
- www.freiburg-postkolonial.de/index.htm
- www.transfair.org

Online (in English)

- www.fairtrade.net
- www.oxfam.org/en/campaigns/trade