

Abstract

The Germans who colonized Tanganyika, which formed part of the former German East Africa (*Deutsch Ostafrika*) for over thirty years, beginning in the last quarter of the 19th century to the close of the First World War, are widely remembered in present day Tanzania Mainland. These memories exist in the form of a shared cultural legacy, which is linked to German colonialism, and communicative narratives, which are trans-generational. They are also reflected in the historical knowledge that has been published and in its transmission to schools, colleges and universities. German colonialism was established forcefully and violently, which eventually caused Africans to have enduring collective memories of colonial violence (trauma). In addition, Germans' material investments and social activities in colonial Tanganyika left traces of their physical presence, which have remained in people's memories, and in the German cultural heritage, which has produced nostalgia for German colonialism.

This study sought to reconstruct the memory history of German colonialism using oral information collected during interviews conducted in three major areas of Tanzania (Dar es Salaam, Moshi and Songea) and from the researcher's field observations. The study supplements these memory narratives and observations with primary documentary information collected from local and foreign archives and with secondary information obtained from different published materials. The researcher interrogated information from these sources to provide a coherent account of how the Germans are remembered locally. He analyzed various forms of German cultural legacy (monuments, records, buildings, etc.), to find out how people's memory of them influenced politics over time in British Tanganyika. The study analyzed memories of colonialism from the historical perspective, showing how the collective cultural memories in the Tanzanian context have changed over time. The study used Michael Rothberg's multi-directional theory, together with other theoretical approaches to analyze various forms of collective memories of the Germans in Tanzania. The findings, which are analyzed historically, indicate that the collective memories of the Germans are communicative, functional, topographical and trans-generational.