

Geschichtswoche 2013

Titel: „Maji-Maji: Perspectives and Interpretations“

Termine:

Die/Mi/Do, 08./09./10.10.13 um 11.15 -12.45 Uhr

3x90 Min.

Seminarleitung:

Jürgen G. Nagel/Henrik Lührs/ Gabriel K. Nzalayaimisi

The term “Maji-Maji“ denotes one of the most violent interventions of the German colonial power in German East Africa between 1905 and 1907 during their colonial rule. Beginning as a local peasant protest against a communal cotton-growing scheme, which was imposed by the German authorities, it turned into a trans-regional movement beyond the traditional tribal organization. This spreading was made possible because of the socio-ideological background of the movement, which united different peoples against the Germans.

This seminar wants to figure out some different perspectives and interpretations of this movement, which is sometimes called “uprising” and sometimes “war”. From the Germans point of view, it was an illegitimate uprising against a legal governance, while indigenous people call it a war for their own sovereignty against the German occupants. This example already emphasizes different perspectives on this conflict. Quite similar emerged different interpretations of this conflict, which was seen as an early form of African nationalism by the African nationalists themselves. Others interpreted it just as a partnership of convenience between different tribes, whose mainspring was not some kind of modern nationalism, but rather traditional self-determination.

The discussion of these above-mentioned topics will be based upon introductory literature, but mainly on source analysis. The required source excerpts will be placed on the Moodle platform before or distributed during the seminar.

Introductory Reading:

BECKER, Felicitas und BEEZ, Jigal (Hg.): Der Maji-Maji-Krieg in Deutsch-Ostafrika 1905-1907, Berlin 2005.

BEEZ, Jigal: Geschosse zu Wassertropfen. Sozio-religiöse Aspekte des Maji-Maji-Krieges in Deutsch-Ostafrika (1905-1907), Köln 2003.

GWASSA, Gilbert Clement Kamana: The Outbreak and Development of the Maji Maji War 1905-1907, Köln 2005.