

# The Australian Journal of Politics and History

30. 1984, H. 1

**IMPERIALISMUS UND KOLONIALMISSION: Kaiserliches Deutschland und Koloniales Imperium.**  
Edited by Klaus J. Bade, Weisbaden, Steiner Verlag, 1982. Pp. xiv + 333. No price given.

Stimulated by the example set by the other imperialistic powers and driven by internal socio-economic forces the newly united German Reich in the late Bismarck era set about establishing itself as a colonial power. Domination and exploitation in the claimed 'Schutzgebiete' did not last long. At the advent of World War I and Versailles the Germans forfeited their colonies. Their second attempt too to seize world domination failed: Imperialism and crimes of the Nationalist Socialists led to the catastrophe of 1945 and to the loss of the German national state. The German colonial empire as well as the German colonial history remained an episode which occupied only a marginal position within the established German historiography. Only in recent times has there been a marked increased interest in the investigation and integration of these specialized fields. Exemplary for this trend are the numerous studies, partly already out of print, which had been presented in the series concerning 'Kolonial- und Überseegeschichte', edited by Rudolf von Albertini and Heinz Gollwitzer.

In this prestigious series this reader appeared. It represents a milestone both in respect of its thematic content as well as in its conception. For the first time—as far as I know—the phenomena of imperial and colonial mission work are treated through the model of the Wilhelmine Empire. The international and interdisciplinary cooperation pays off: authors from various countries, disciplines and fields of experience were won over for this project. Correspondingly wide and stimulating is the spectrum of problems, approaches and interpretations.

Klaus J. Bade excels as coordinator and editor. His informative introduction defines the concrete historical as well as the historiographical frame of reference, in which the following case studies are integrated. In part II those contributions appear which deal with the colonial missionary concepts developed in Germany. The catholic and protestant positions and strategies are presented as well as the special role which Friedrich Fabri—the zealous missionary leader and controversial 'father of the German colonial movement'—has played. The carrying out of the colonial mission is examined in part II. The geographical route includes all German 'Schutzgebiete': South West Africa, Togo, East Africa, Cameroun, New Guinea, Samoa, Marshall Islands and Kiautschou, held together by the central question of the corresponding network of relations and fields of conflict of missionary work, economic interests and colonial domination.

Three contributions were written by Australian experts. Peter J. Hempenstall presents us with a study of the activities and rivalries of the European missionary societies as well as of the resulting cultural contacts and conflicts in New Guinea. John A. Moses concentrates on German Samoa, on the colonial 'Kulturkampf' which was sparked off by the national, economic and religious tensions. Stewart G. Firth reports on the Boston Mission to the Marshall Islands; here too the fields of conflicts occupy central position, in particular, the formation of anti-colonial strategies of resistance (strike actions) of christianized natives against the chiefs and colonial government. To sum up: the clearly structured, the very readable, informative reader does not only fill a gap but also paves the way for future research. It is to be hoped that an English edition of this excellent piece of international research is not withheld from us too long.