

KLAUS J. BADE, editor. *Imperialismus und Kolonialmission; Kaiserliches Deutschland und koloniales Imperium*. (Beiträge zur Kolonial- und Überseege-schichte, number 22.) Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner. 1982. Pp. xiii, 333. DM 54.

One of the major gaps in the growing literature on the German colonial experience has been the lack of a comprehensive, up-to-date treatment of German missionary activity. The gap has now been partly filled by this collection edited by Klaus J. Bade. The contributions to the volume cover a broad range of topics, from the early histories of the Protestant and Catholic missionary societies to the roles of missionaries in the individual German colonies. Some of the chapters provide important information and insights that are new or have been scattered among studies primarily devoted to other subjects.

There are, however, a number of weaknesses in the collection that prevent it from being a truly significant contribution to the study of missions and of German imperialism. Like most collective works, it is uneven in quality and less carefully focused than one might wish. More serious are the lack of evidence of intellectual exchange among the contributors, the absence of agreement about what is important in mission history, and the lack of a comparative approach. Although Bade gives a very nice summary of German colonial history and a useful general statement of issues in the history of missions, he makes no real attempt to compare the experiences of missions in the various colonies or their impacts on colonial peoples. The chapters are separate studies, largely unrelated to one another. They do not proceed to a consensus about the overall significance of the colonial missions as an aspect of German imperialism.

Most of the chapters concentrate on the organizational histories of the missions in individual colonies and on the missions' relationships with each other and with the colonial authorities. Arthur Knoll's chapter on Togo and Renate Nestvogel's on Cameroon fall into this category, although within their limits they are careful and interesting pieces. Only Peter Hemptenstall, writing about New Guinea, attempts to deal at length with the complex interactions between missions and non-European peoples and the ways in which these interactions affected the relative success of the missions, the structure of colonial authority, and the processes of sociocultural change. Certain of the chapters, especially that by Lothar Engel on Southwest Africa, appear to have been written in something of a conceptual vacuum without substantial reference to other research on German imperialism.

The political element is also unevenly treated. While Bade and Horst Gründer handle the political background to the involvement of the mission societies in German colonialism in the 1880s very well, relationships between later mission activities and domestic German politics are generally mentioned only in passing. John Moses, in his chapter on Samoa, goes into the subject more deeply in his particular case, but the book would have been greatly improved by a chapter on domestic mission politics after 1900 and on the role of the missions in the colonial reform movement just before the First World War.

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