

European Colonialism

Tracing a history without borders

Let's look at this picture!
It was taken around 1908 in former German Cameroon.
What do we see?

Some trees in the rainforest. One of them is really big.

A blackboard where is written: "Luftschiff Christian Plath Kamerun"

A bicycle. Yeah, they had bicycles back then, too. Even in the jungle.

An airship model. Woah, it's really nice! Does it fly?

This is **Christian Plath** a German colonizer.

Sophie Plath is the companion of Christian Plath.

But **who** is this man? We don't know his name. But he seems to have made the construction of this airship possible in the first place.



Why do we know much more about the colonizers than we do about the colonized?

What about a common data repository of people, groups, events and places which are related to colonial history?

Well, we have already one and it's inside Wikidata!

But we need to talk about how to interconnect the data ...

Why do we use Wikidata?

- Entries are not limited to authors or "important" personalities.
- Everyone can participate. Independent of origin and professional background
- Once data has been created, they are open and can be used immediately for other projects.
- It is possible to describe persons, events or objects through the use of non-Western categories.
- The data is part of the Linked Open Data cloud and can therefore contribute to new findings.



... because even if the use of Wikidata properties is well defined, there are still too many different ways to describe the same facts. This would lead to data inconsistency.



To discuss this question the **WikiProject European Colonialism** was created.

www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:WikiProject_European_Colonialism

So let's work together!

Here we have some ideas of how data elements could be connected within the WikiProject :

work location German East Africa
▶ 1 reference
A woman who lived in German East Africa (P937)

employer Basel Mission
▶ 1 reference
The society for which a missionary worked (P108)

interested in German colonial empire
▼ 0 references
Main "connector" for people or organisations which were based in the homeland (P2650)

operating area German New Guinea
▼ 0 references
An enterprise which was operating in a colony (P2541)

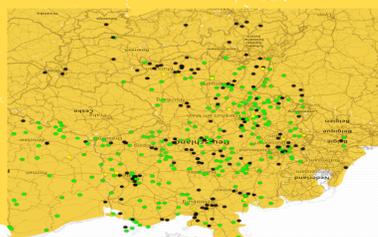
affiliation Gouvernement von Togo
occupation governor
start time 22 July 1912 Gregorian
end time 1914
▶ 1 reference
A colonial administrator and his position inside the administration (P1416)



Ibrahim Mbouombouo
Njoya of Bamum (c. 1860 - 1933)

Is he a king, a sultan or a mfon ?

One example of possible outcome
Places of birth and places of death of people related to German colonial history



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