

Colonial Propaganda: Cameroon Tribal Chief in German Armor (n. d.)

Abstract

Cameroon was a German colony from 1884 to 1916, when it was ceded to the British during the First World War. This undated image depicts the King of Mankon wearing a German military helmet and cuirass at a funeral wake in the British Cameroons during the early twentieth century. This image that predated the National Socialist dictatorship became an important propaganda tool in the Nazi years for groups like the Reichskolonialbund (Reich Colonial League), which sought the return of Germany's colonies. The members of this group argued that the image "proved" German culture still existed in the former colony, even after it came under British control. The photo was featured in newspapers, magazines, and in colonial exhibitions in an effort to create public support for a pursuit to regain the territory Germany lost under the Versailles Treaty in 1919. These efforts overall were done in vain as the Nazi regime saw the return of territory in Eastern Europe as of more importance in their pursuit of Lebensraum (living space) than their former imperial colonies. Yet many Germans continued their efforts to convince people of the importance of regaining colonies in Africa until the collapse of the Third Reich in 1945.

Source



Source: Undated photo. Unknown photographer. wikipedia

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