

**Big-game hunting in German East Africa in the period between 1891 and 1916:
an analysis from the perspective of social sciences /**

**Großwildjagd in Deutsch-Ostafrika im Zeitraum 1891-1916: Eine Untersuchung
aus sozialwissenschaftlicher Perspektive**

Abstract of the dissertation by Udo E. O. Riedel

OBJECTIVES: In the context of a reflection of social sciences former big-game hunting should be described elaborately. Motives and attitudes of involved people should be identified. **Methods:** Methods mainly consisted in interpreting documents like (auto-)biographies, travelogue and travel diaries. **Results:** 'Heroic' features of the 'White Hunter' were often assigned to professional hunters of German East Africa and not always, but often denied to be attributable to hunting natives. This attitude was predominantly based on the belief in a cultural superiority of white men. A development from 'pioneer hunters' to 'settler hunters' like in British Kenya could be at least to some extent verified for German East Africa. The statement that the experiences and actions of colonial big game hunters were determined by an extreme form of 'masculinity' could not be sufficiently substantiated. Thus, the sources also gave detailed descriptions of colonial 'hunting heroines'. The main motives in big-game hunting were the desire to appear 'athletic' or skillful and the yearning for venturesomeness; the frustration from civilization also played a certain role. **Conclusions:** The hunters of big game in German East Africa were a rather heterogeneous group: there was, for example, a feeling of devotion to hunting in some characters, but there were also those whose main concern was the protection of their settlements and plantations from wildlife.