

**Committee:** Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

**Country:** Federal Republic of Germany

**Topic:** Neo-Colonialism in West Africa – A Historical and Comparative Perspective

Germany believes that understanding colonialism and its legacy is essential to solving today's problems in West Africa. Neo-colonialism continues to affect many African countries, and its roots can be found in the original colonial systems, including Germany's own past.

### **Conceptualization of Colonialism**

Colonialism is a system where a powerful country controls a weaker region, often by using force, for economic and political gain. The colonizers believe they are superior and reject equal treatment of the local people. This domination is not only about land but also about culture, trade, and politics.

### **Repositioning of German Colonialism**

Germany entered the colonial race later than countries like Britain and France. Its colonial ideas were influenced by imagination and national pride even before actual colonization started. These ideas created an image of Africa as a land to be controlled for power and resources. Although German colonial rule was short, it was intense and left serious damage, especially in German South West Africa (present-day Namibia).

### **Case Study: German South West Africa**

The German colonization in South West Africa followed several steps:

1. **Military and Economic Entry:** Germany started by sending missionaries and traders. In 1884, it officially declared protection over the region. Private companies and settlers began taking land, often through unfair deals.
2. **Plunder and Military Actions:** German settlers took land and cattle from the local Herero people. When resistance began, Germany used strong military force. The Herero and Nama uprisings were met with brutal responses, including pushing people into the desert to die from thirst and hunger.
3. **Colonial Administration:** Germany built a full colonial system, with military and economic control. General von Trotha's orders against the Herero people led to what is now recognized as the first genocide of the 20th century.
4. **Long-Term Consequences:** These events show that colonialism can lead to deep wounds, including the loss of land, culture, and life. Some historians argue that this period helped create ideas and practices later used during the Holocaust.

### **Germany's Perspective Today**

Germany takes responsibility for its colonial past. The country officially apologized to Namibia in 2004 for the genocide committed in the early 1900s. Germany believes that neo-colonialism today must be addressed through fair partnerships, not exploitation. This includes:

- Respecting the sovereignty of African states
- Supporting regional organizations like ECOWAS and the African Union
- Encouraging ethical investments that benefit local communities
- Promoting education about colonial history

## **Conclusion**

Germany calls upon all nations to learn from history. Colonialism should not be repeated in modern forms. Instead, let us build cooperation based on equality, justice, and mutual respect.

Thank you.