

## **German reaction to British claims**

You British surely cannot be allowed to control the entire eastern seaboard of Africa! Remember, it was German. Explorer Von der Decken who lost his life exploring the Kilimanjaro region. We Germans claim the colony of Tanganyika, south of Lake Victoria. France, surely you do not want the British to own half of the continent?!?

## **German claims:**

We Germans claim the areas of the Cameroons, the Namibian lands surrounding Angra Pequena, and Togoland for Germany. In territories bordering the Gold Coast, we Germans have places factories and German missions in places where the French and British have not been able to reach.

Our Dr. Nachtigal has been doing great work in Togoland, operating factories and teaching African natives to speak German. He has even brought some Africans back to Berlin to showcase the power of their motherland. They were “doubtless greatly impressed with the power of Germany,” their new motherland. Togoland was declared a German Protectorate on July 5<sup>th</sup>. We then sailed up the Cameroons and met with chiefs there. These African chiefs, tired of waiting on the British, decided to sign their land over to us Germans instead. We “succeeded in winning their way to the heart of these thirsty chiefs by lavish promises of rum and guns and money.” We also claim Angola, African land in the east, around Lake Tanganyika. As previously mentioned, German explorer Von der Decken have recently explored and claimed this land before his untimely death.

### **Berlin Conference German Speech: Instructions to students**

On \_\_\_\_\_ you will be participating in a mock-Berlin Conference. The real conference was held in 1884, and it decided which European countries got to rule over which parts of Africa. No Africans were invited to the Berlin Conference. You represent Germany, one of the last countries to colonize Africa. You will read about German claims to Africa and then give a speech about those claims.

#### **Reading and Speech preparation**

Answer the following questions in your notebook, using complete sentences. Be sure you thoroughly understand the questions/answers, because your speech must include information from each question.

1. What land did explorer Von der Decken explore and claim for Germany?
2. On what lands does Germany have missions and factories?
3. What lands does Germany claim?
4. What did Dr. Nachtigal do in Togoland? Who did he bring back to Germany?
5. Why did African chiefs in the Cameroons do business with Germany?

#### **Berlin Conference Speech and Participation**

Write a speech to give during the Berlin Conference.

- Your speech must be in first person (“We Germans discovered...”)
- Your speech must be at least one minute long (no longer than 5 minutes)
- Your speech must include information from each question
- Your speech must include at least one quote (use “quotations”) from *Partition of Africa*

#### **Speech:**

- Speak so everybody in the room can hear you
- Use eye contact, gestures, and your voice to engage others in your speech
- Take turns speaking during the general debate.

#### **During the Berlin Conference:**

- Listen to all speeches, but non-verbally react as someone from your country would react to each speech
- Only speak when it is your turn, or during general debate time.
- Complete the “Berlin Conference” worksheet throughout the Berlin Conference.

#### **Map: Draw in the areas that Germany claims**



## Germany: Speech guide

### German reaction to British claims

You British surely cannot be allowed to control the entire eastern seaboard of Africa!

Remember, it was German. Explorer Von der Decken who \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

France, surely you do not want the British to own half of the continent?!?

### German claims:

We Germans claim the areas of the C\_\_\_\_\_, the Namibian lands surrounding Angra Pequena, and T\_\_\_\_\_ for Germany. In territories bordering the Gold Coast, we have

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

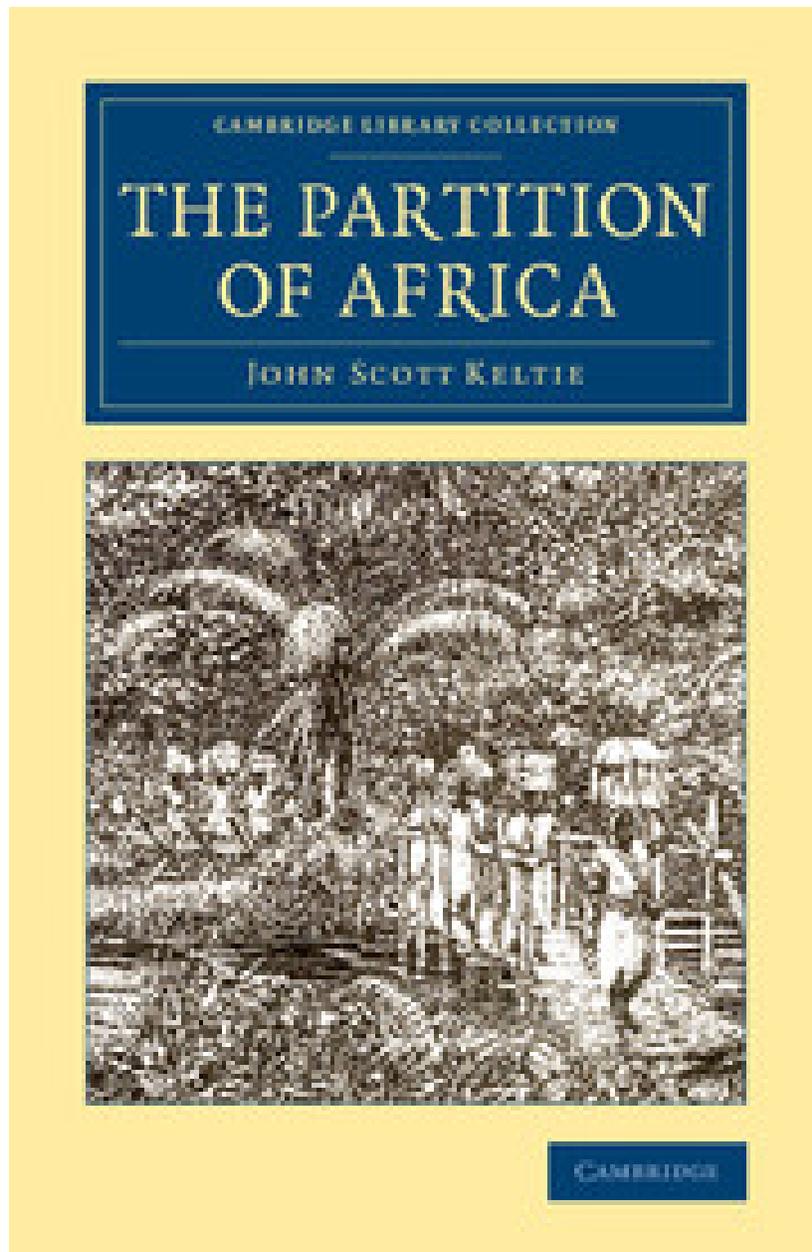
Our Dr. Nachtigal has been doing great work in \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Togoland was declared a German Protectorate on July 5<sup>th</sup>. We then sailed up the Cameroons and met with chiefs there. These African chiefs, tired of waiting on the British, decided to sign their land over to us Germans instead. We “succeeded in \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.”

We also claim Angola, African land in the east, around Lake Tanganyika. As previously mentioned, German explorer Von der Decken have recently explored and claimed this land before his untimely death.



Full text available at

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_Partition\\_of\\_Africa/mskTAAAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&prints\\_ec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Partition_of_Africa/mskTAAAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&prints_ec=frontcover)

Relevant pages included here

coveries had been made which changed the whole aspect of the interior, and led to further enterprises, which culminated in the scramble of the last few years. The Arabs, returning from their journeys in the interior, had told of great lakes which they themselves had navigated. In 1848 Rebmann caught sight of the snows of Kilimanjaro. Ten years later Burton and Speke went into the interior to find those great lakes, already known to the Arabs, and they were able to place Tanganyika and Victoria Nyanza on our maps. Speke, who first saw the latter, had thus discovered the great source of the Nile, and, with his companion Grant a year or two later, he was able to add still further to our knowledge of Egypt's historical river, and to tell us of the great kingdom of Uganda and its ruler Mtesa, who subsequently played so important a part in unwittingly promoting British interests. In 1864 Baker discovered the Albert Nyanza, and made further additions to our knowledge of a region which is now virtually within the British sphere. Burton and Speke found stations far in the interior, founded by Arabs, through whose enterprise the slave-trade had reached gigantic dimensions.

While to British explorers is due the credit of the bulk of the important work done in Central Africa up to 1875, it must not be forgotten that travellers of other nationalities contributed their share to the opening up of the Continent to knowledge and enterprise. One of the most prominent names connected with the exploration of East Africa is that of Von der Decken. Between 1860 and 1865 he undertook ex-

Early German aspirations.

tensive explorations in the Kilimanjaro region, and visited several parts of the coast between Cape Delgado and the river Jub. While exploring this river he lost his life, but not before he had conceived the idea of a German occupation of these districts of Africa. From the Jub river on 14th August 1864, he writes: "I am persuaded that in a short time a colony established here would be most successful, and after two or three years would be self-supporting. It would become of special importance after the opening of the Suez Canal. It is unfortunate that we Germans allow such opportunities of acquiring colonies to slip, especially at a time when it would be of importance to the navy." As a German writer has said, had it not been for Von der Decken's death, Germany might have had colonies twenty years sooner than she did. Two years later Otto Kersten, one of Von der Decken's companions, published an article on the Colonisation of East Africa, in which he wrote: "Von der Decken on many occasions said that he would not hesitate, if Sey'id Majid agreed to it, to buy Mombasa from the Sultan in order to found an establishment and place the commerce of the interior in the hands of Europeans, and especially of Germans. After two or three years' stay at Chagga, on the eastern shore of Victoria Nyanza, the colonists would obtain more results than emigrants who wander far across the seas. I recommend to my country an enterprise as advantageous as it is glorious for individuals and for the nation." Though Von der Decken held exaggerated views as to the value of this part of Africa for colonising

take the control of the whole coast to Walfish Bay, Angra Pequena included.

It is difficult now to realise the ostrich-like blindness of both the Home and Colonial Governments to the real nature of the situation, and to accomplished facts. While the Cape Government were treating the civil inquiries of Germany with contemptuous neglect, steps were being taken to tighten more and more firmly Germany's hold on her first trans-oceanic possession. The Bremen merchants were actively opening up the territory and with German thoroughness promoting its exploration and instituting observations on its climate. On 24th April 1884 the German Consul at the Cape was instructed to remove all doubts entertained by the Cape Government by informing it officially that Herr Lüderitz and his possessions were placed under the protection of the Empire ; and to enforce the information a German war-ship was ordered to Angra Pequena. Still Bismarck can hardly have been taken seriously either at home or at the Cape. The Cape Premier's message of May has already been alluded to. In reply to a question in the Upper House by Viscount Sidmouth on 12th May, Lord Granville stated that, so far as he knew, Germany had never claimed sovereignty over any part of the territory in question, and that the matter was still the subject of discussion between the two Governments. Two days later Lord Derby informed a deputation who waited upon him, that although England herself never directly annexed Angra Pequena, she nevertheless claimed the right to exclude all other powers from the coast

Germany  
declares  
protector-  
ate over  
Angra  
Pequena.

Continued  
British de-  
lusions.

more intimate. Between the patch on the West Coast, known as Portuguese Guinea, and the British colony of Sierra Leone, lies a strip of coast now known as the French colony of Rivières du Sud. On this coast several German factories had been established and a considerable trade developed by 1884. One patch of this coast lying between the Dembra and Dubreka rivers was supposed not to have been actually occupied by France, and there German operations were concentrated and German influence established. On the Lower Guinea Coast extending from the boundary of Liberia to the colony of Lagos were several patches, which were regarded as No-man's-land; France had ancient claims to a part of the coast on the west of the British Gold Coast Colony, and two other patches, somewhat ill defined, between that colony and the colony of Lagos. At various points on this stretch of coast, both in British and French spheres, German factories and German missions had been established. There was one small patch of some thirty miles on the east of the Gold Coast Colony, where at Bagida, Porto Seguro, Little Popo, and other places, German stations had been established since 1880, and trade treaties made with the native chiefs. On the east of these, at Agoue and Great Popo, similar enterprises had been carried out; for although the French had some old claims to the coast it was practically unoccupied. When, in 1883, German colonial enterprise began to take a distinctly practical turn, German factories and commercial agents, as well as trade consuls, had been established, not only on the British Gold Coast, but on

that she would make no annexations in East Africa south of Delagoa Bay.

German  
traders on  
the West  
Coast.

It has been pointed out in a previous chapter that during the 17th and 18th, and even well on into the 19th centuries, the commercial activity of Europe in Africa was mainly devoted to the Guinea Coast, to the region extending from the Senegal to the Congo ; and that the staple export during that period consisted of slaves. After the cessation of slave export the European powers lost interest in the region. The Danes and Dutch quitted it altogether. The English carried on their four colonies in a half-hearted way ; though the French, after the middle of the century, continued steadily to advance their interests along the coast and into the interior. Still, those commercial houses which continued to engage in the trade of the Guinea Coast, realised great profits. In return for a few yards of cheap cottons, a few trinkets, obsolete guns, or the vilest and cheapest of spirits, enormous returns were obtained in oil and oil nuts, ivory, gold-dust, and other native products. German traders will grow rich where an Englishman would starve, and they, as we have seen, after the re-formation of the empire developed increasing activity abroad, did not overlook the neglected West Coast. Forty years ago German and Swiss missions established themselves on the Guinea Coast, and German commercial houses had agencies in the British Gold Coast Colony. After 1880, however, when the colonial spirit was gaining in strength and German foreign trade was increasing by leaps and bounds, the relations of Germany with the coast became more and

German flag was even hoisted over the station. But on the representations of the French Government Prince Bismarck gracefully gave way here, as he did elsewhere, averring that he would never seek to encroach on any territory to which France might show the slightest claim, or even preference. Bismarck's delicacy towards French susceptibilities was in all these doings and negotiations in marked contrast to his bluff and uncompromising treatment of the British Government.

Togoland  
declared a  
German  
protector-  
ate.

Dr. Nachtigal proceeded southwards to the little patch east of the Gold Coast already referred to, and now known as Togoland. It was, unfortunately, considerably to the east of the old Brandenburg settlement at Cape Three Points, so that sentiment could have no part to play in what followed. At eight different places on this coast there were German factories. In January 1884 a German gunboat had touched at the coast and taught the natives that the Germans as well as the English had big ships to look after their interests. Some of the natives, indeed, were deported to Berlin and were brought back, doubtless greatly impressed with the power of Germany. On 2nd July the *Möwe*, with Dr. Nachtigal on board, drew up in front of the settlement of Little Popo. Other places were visited, and after arranging matters with M'lapa, King of Togoland, the German flag was raised at Bagida on 5th July, and Togoland declared a German Protectorate. Other sections of the coast were annexed at later dates. But serious differences threatened to arise between Germany and France, the latter claiming sovereignty over certain parts within the sphere annexed by

Germany. The two Governments, however, did not find much difficulty in coming to an agreement, though it was not till December 1885 that it was arranged to draw the boundary line between Little Popo and Agoue.

After placing Togoland under the protection of the German flag, Dr. Nachtigal steamed onwards in the *Möwe* towards the Cameroons. Here the ground had been prepared for him. At midnight-meetings with King Bell and other potentates in the Cameroons River, the four German traders settled in the place succeeded in winning their way to the heart of these thirsty chiefs by lavish promises of rum and guns and money. As these chiefs had received no replies from the British Government to their repeated requests for annexation, and as these Germans appealed to their weakest side, it is no wonder that they concluded that a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush. It may be that on the whole they would have preferred British to German domination; but unlimited rum was what they coveted above all, and the temptation offered by the German traders was more than they could resist. Commander Moore, in the *Goshawk*, visited the Cameroons River on 10th July and had a palaver with King Bell and some of the other chiefs. He found that the German negotiations were far advanced, but that no treaty had been actually signed, though the chiefs were tired of waiting for a reply to their repeated communications to the British Government. Had Consul Hewett been on board and then and there concluded treaties with the