

«Rassische Entmischung», Felix von Luschan
oder: Die Ethnifizierung der Körper.
Zur Darstellung „des“ Tutsi von der
deutschen Kolonialliteratur bis
in die Gegenwart

ANNE D. PEITER

Université de La Réunion / Université de Poitiers

Abstract

“Racial Separation”, Felix von Luschan, and the Ethnicization of Bodies. Representations of “the Tutsi” from German colonial literature to the present

The article deals with lines of continuity concerning racist concepts, specifically in relation to German-Rwandan history. It argues that racist attributions from the colonial era were uncritically adopted and perpetuated by the German press and supposed “Rwanda experts” in subsequent decades. This tendency continued until immediately before the 1994 genocide. Three quarters of Rwanda’s Tutsi lost their lives during this catastrophe. To this day, however, there has been no reappraisal of the Federal Republic’s lack of intervention. Paradigmatic texts and photographs provide evidence that anti-Semitic stereotypes were also incorporated into perceptions about the Rwandan population, indicating the need for further comparative research in genocide studies.

Keywords: Genocide; Tutsi of Rwanda; Hamite myth; Anti-semitism; German colonial rule Rwanda.