

Electrification in Tanzania from a Historical Perspective

Discourses of Development and the Marginalization of the Rural Poor

Jonas van der Straeten TU Berlin/TU Darmstadt

background

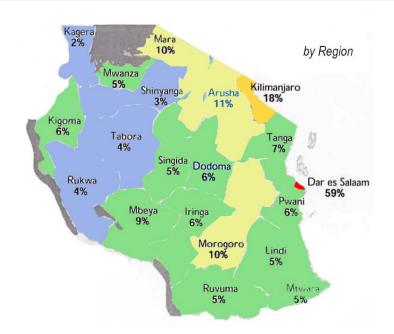






7				_
Z	U	U	O	•

General electrification rate	10%
Dar es Salaam	59%
Other urban areas	30%
Rural areas	1%



theoretical background



"Electricity in Africa has been very little studied. Bibliographical material is nearly non-existent. Works that treat the history of urban electricity are rare."

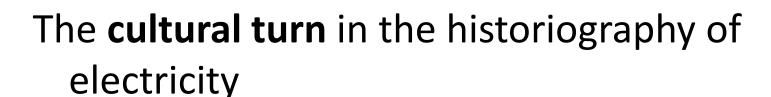
Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch (2004)





electrical infrastructures







"Electrification was essentially a result of societal communication about the potentials, needs and consequences of electricity." (Gugerli 1996)



How did different narratives of modernization and development guide the country's electricity policy?

How did ideas of electricity materialize in the interplay between the public and private, local and international actors?

How did structural elements, the natural environment, the inherited physical infrastructure and its associated institutions, determine the system's development?



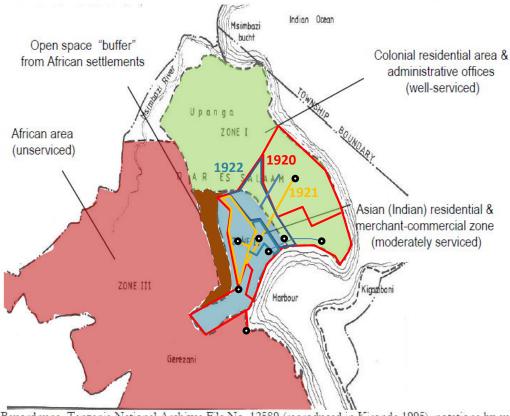
For Europeans Only!

COLONIAL POWER POLICY

racialized urban provision



Figure 18. Colonial Development and Service Zones for Dar es Salaam, 1914



Source: 1914 Bauordnung, Tanzania National Archives File No. 12589 (reproduced in Kironde 1995), notations by author

electricity and imperial development

Promotionskolleg Mikroenergie-Systeme







THE ENGINEER

Empire Development and the Engineer.

indeed divide engineers into three classes :-

(1) The engineer who knows how to make machinery or to construct engineering works.

who can see how his profession can assist in providing means for the utilisation of the resources of

The qualities which are essential in each of these classes are briefly :-

(1) Exact technical knowledge.

aptitude and a knowledge of psychology.

can do, and what opportunities exist for the of view of deliberate co-ordination, although coutilisation of that knowledge.

three classes. Most fall under one class only, some under two, and only rarely can an engineer qualify for all three classes. Study of the duties of one class are sufficient for most men who call themselves engi-

But it is particularly with the engineer of the third class and his qualifications that the writer wishes to deal in the present short article, and of the part which he plays, and could play, to a greater extent, were the uses of such an engineer more clearly recognised, and the value of his assistance in the matter of Empire development more strongly brought home to those whose duty—though their first duty is to

govern—is also to develop the resources of the territories which are under their direction. Let us have by all means well-ordered possessions first, but let us all see to it that their prosperity is commensurate with the responsibility which falls upon our Government and ourselves in having coloured so large an area on the map "red"—a rather unfortunate

DEC. 16, 1927

for the survey of minerals and oil. In this connection the success attained in electrically prospecting for minerals will no doubt lead not only to quicker loca-By DOUGLAS SPENCER.

Although the duties of an engineer come under the category of "professional," yet there is room in that located at Bjurfors and Boliden in the district of profession for various types of engineer. We might Vesterbotten in Sweden by the electrical method, and the system has been proved in many parts of the world at the present time with great success. It is not too much to hope that the laborious work of geological (2) The engineer who can sell the products of survey parties will be greatly speeded up by the adoption of electrical prospecting methods and that the added knowledge of the unexplored parts of the ticular gift for wide and general observation, and earth within reach of its surface, coupled with the mineral and agricultural possibilities, will lead to a much higher speed of development than has ruled

There is undoubted room, and especially at the present time, for what we may call the study of development engineering" and the creation of a (2) Sound engineering knowledge with critical type of engineer who can co-ordinate development, working in conjunction with scientists and others (3) A general knowledge of what engineers can who will co-ordinate investigation. It is work which do, what their fellow scientists in other branches is not done at present by any engineer from the point

ordination may happen.

In some of the Indian States there exist industrial one finds that the individuals can be grouped in these ongineers whose duties embrace the study of increase of agricultural production, compilation of records of mineral resources, the development of power supplies, whether steam or water, the study of such questions as electro-chemical and electro-metallurgical possibilities, transport possibilities, steam and electrical, the establishment of industrial works dealing with cotton, wool, oil, tobacco, timber, &c. He is the one man to whom all go should they feel that their own particular development would be made easier if a more general development of the district were proceeded with, which is undoubtedly often the

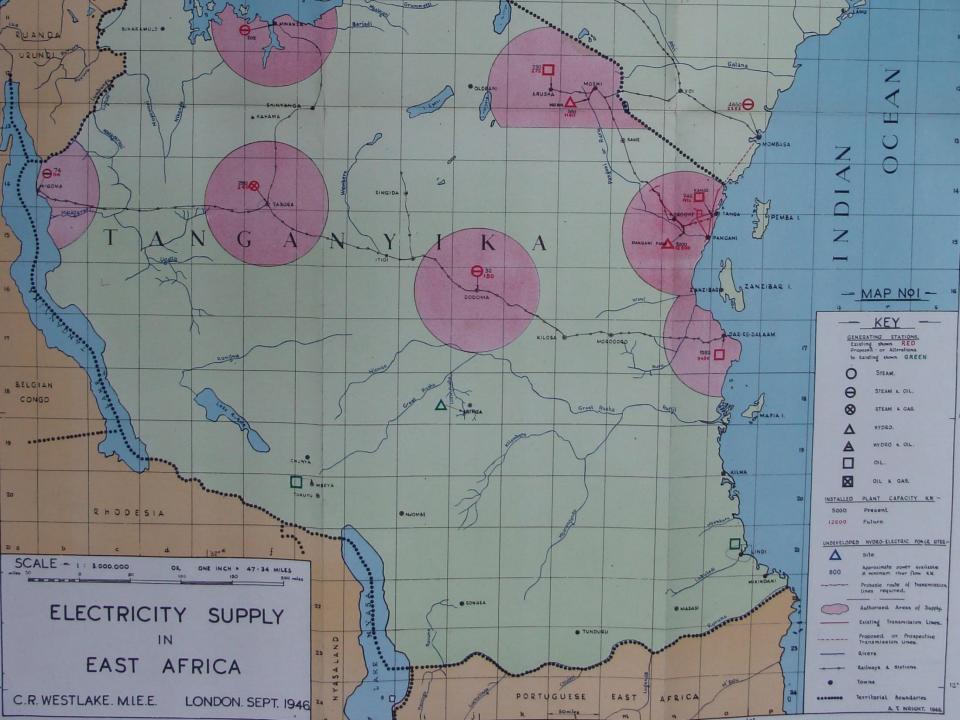
All engineers, however, know that the work of a development engineer," if an ordinary engineer s rash enough to act in that rôle, brings in but little grist to his own mill, and the industrial engineer of the type paid for by Indian States is, so far as we know, non-existent in any other Dominions, Colonies, or

Protectorates except Canada. Cheap power and cheap freights are two important ssentials in the development of Empire resources, and they can best be attained by well co-ordinated The British method of territorial development—
that is to say, development by means of detached
units and separate interests acting independently of



For the "Productive" Only!

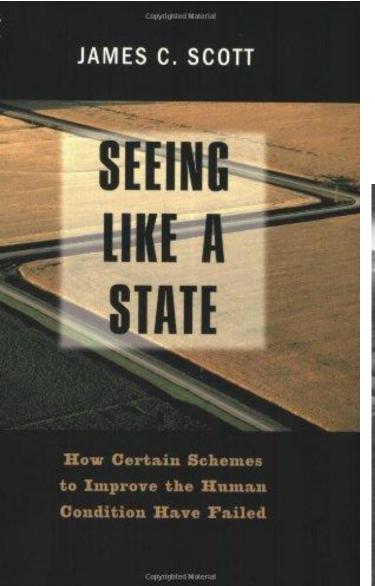
ELECTRICITY AND THE COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE POLICY

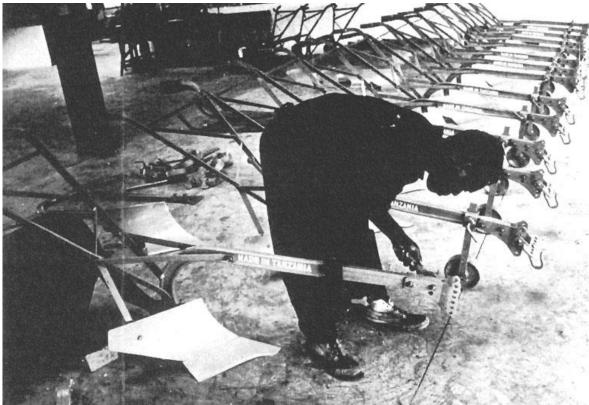


high modernism











For "economic development" only!

DAMMED PROGRESS

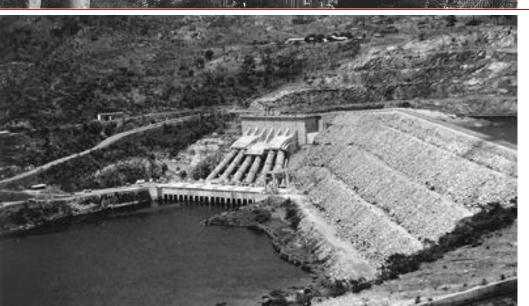
Hydropower for industrial development







Tennessee Valley Authority, 1933



Great Akosombo Dam, 1966

Energizing the new nation states

Promotionskolleg Mikroenergie-Systeme

Dams are "the combination of brains, scientific knowledge, sweat, and discipline which will in practice transform our nation"

Julius Nyerere, 1965







- New narratives of development
- Multilateralism of development cooperation:
 - The World Bank
 - British development aid
 - Scandinavian development aid



Sverige

901961

hjälper

The "African socialist" government of Tanzania

"Making money talk" Development Aid

"Money should be made to talk: each one of the parties should be made to weigh the money value of their wishes against the costs to be covered. — In this respect power seems to be superior. Opinions are divided as to the relative benefits in the future, but one thing is absolutely certain: plans for power are much more definite and much more accessible to assessments of costs and benefits, in a word much more tangible, than plans for flood control and irrigation; however important the latter may be in the future, they are at present, to say the least of it, slightly vaque."

World Bank consultant John Fletcher, quoted in:

May-Britt. Öhman, "Taming Exotic Beauties: Swedish Hydropower Constructions in Tanzania in the Era of Development Assistance, 1960s – 1990s". Royal Institute of Technology, 2007, 186.



For payers only!

FROM PUBLIC SERVICE TO COMMODITY

Outlook: The reform narratives of the 1990ies





- Structural Adjustment Program-narrative (late 1980ies)
- Market reform-narrative (early 1990ies)
- Crisis-narrative (early 1990ies)



The African, Nov. 28, 2000 quoted from Öhman (2007)

Power problems: Mkapa's administration to blame

Outlook: The reform narratives of the 1990ies





"...Kama huu ndiyo ushirikiano wa nchi za kusini, bora ukoloni urudi."

("If this is South-South co-operation, then colonialism is preferable.")

Purchase of electricity from independent power producers during	35-50 cents/kWh	
droughts (as per 2014)		
Fixed national tariff:	12 cents/kWh	

discussion





- Urban-rural disparities are part of every national electrification story
- Rural electrification was a highly subsidized political project
- This project has just started recently in Tanzania
- Historical narratives are too often politically instrumentalized
- Goal: Unveiling different historical narratives and giving a well-funded and balanced account