



Electrification in Tanzania from a Historical Perspective

Discourses of Development and the Marginalization of the Rural Poor

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background

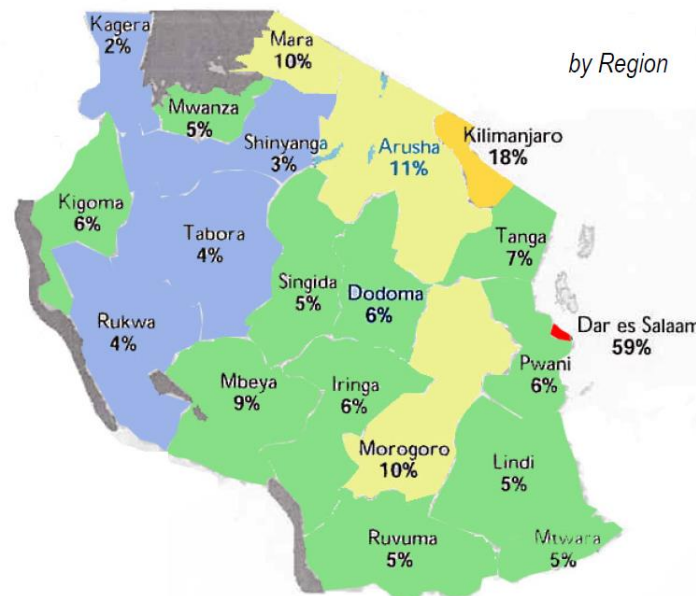


1906: First power generator in Dar es Salaam



2006:

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)





The **cultural turn** in the historiography of electricity

“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?



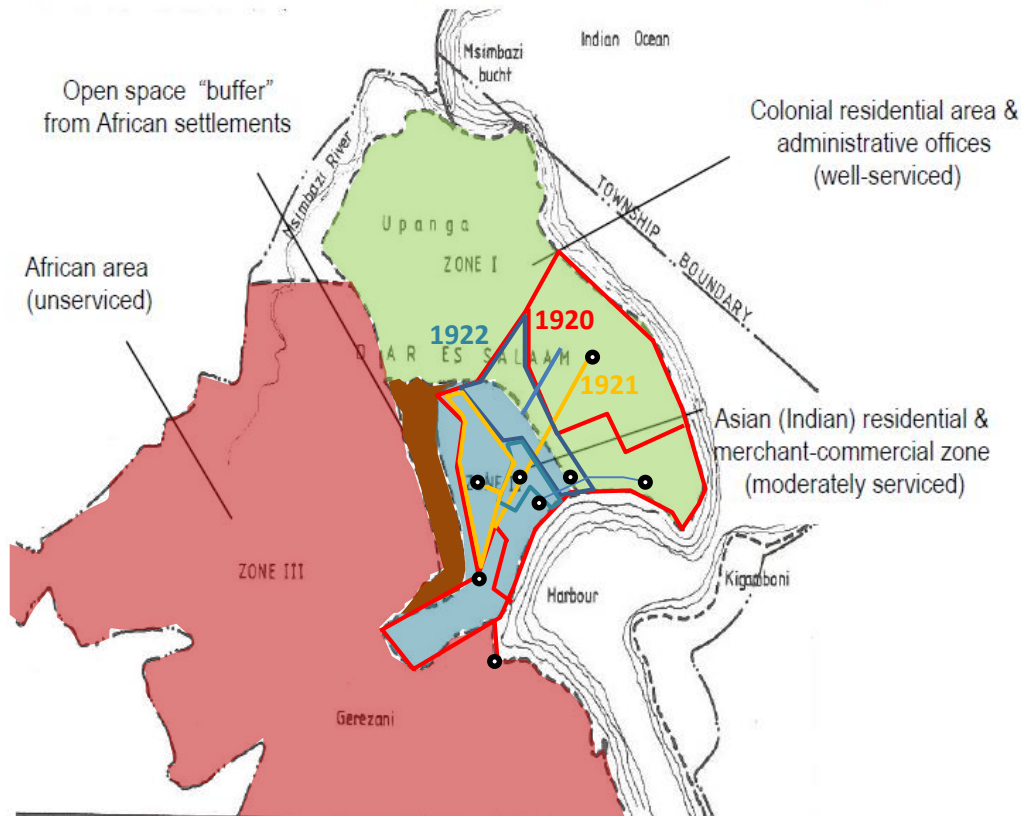
For Europeans Only!

COLONIAL POWER POLICY

racialized urban provision



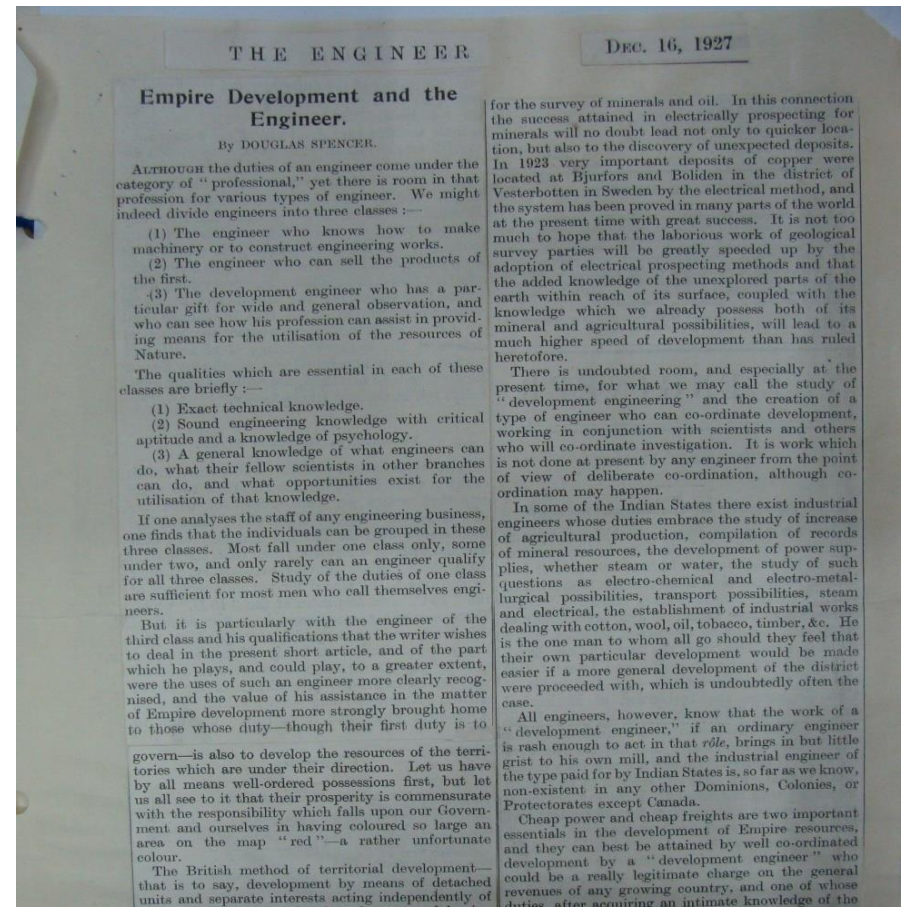
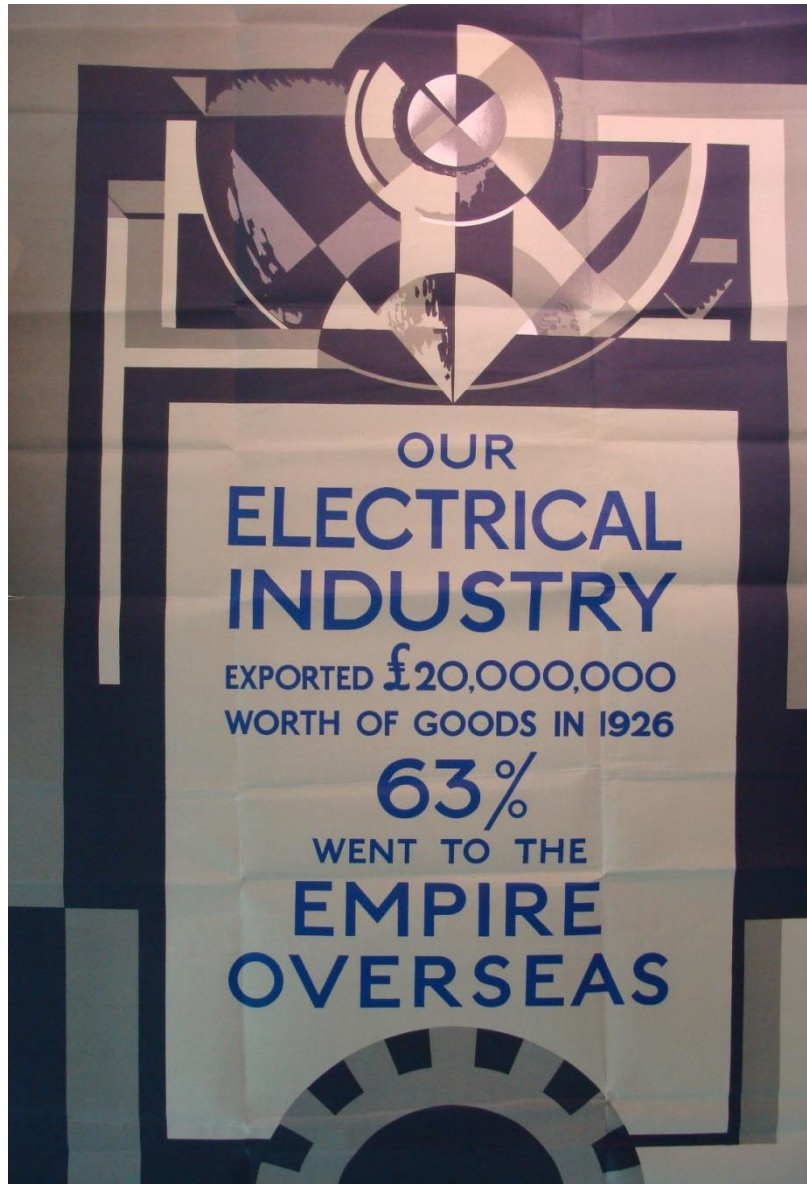
Figure 18. Colonial Development and Service Zones for Dar es Salaam, 1914



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

electricity and imperial development

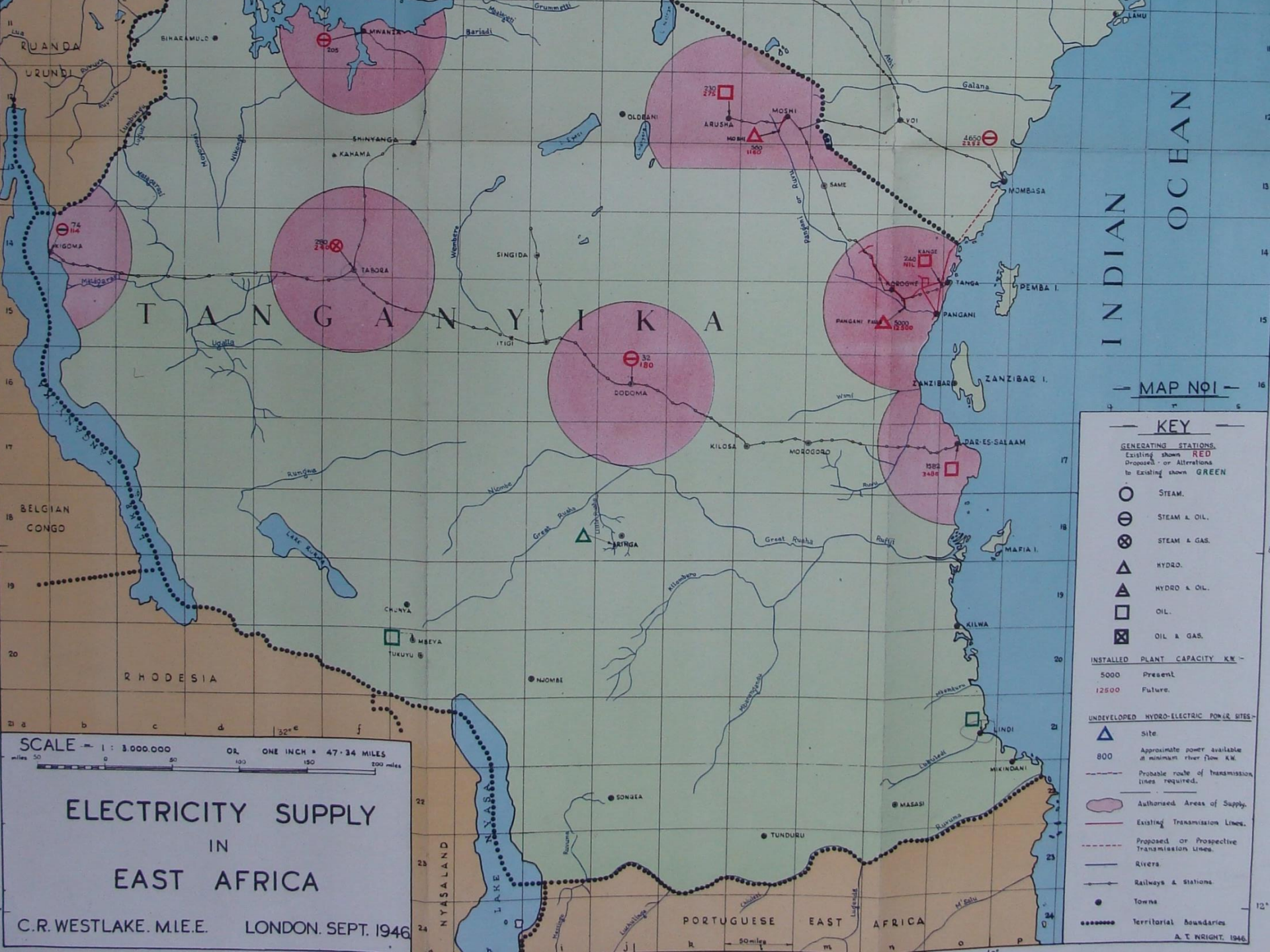
Promotionskolleg
Mikroenergie-Systeme



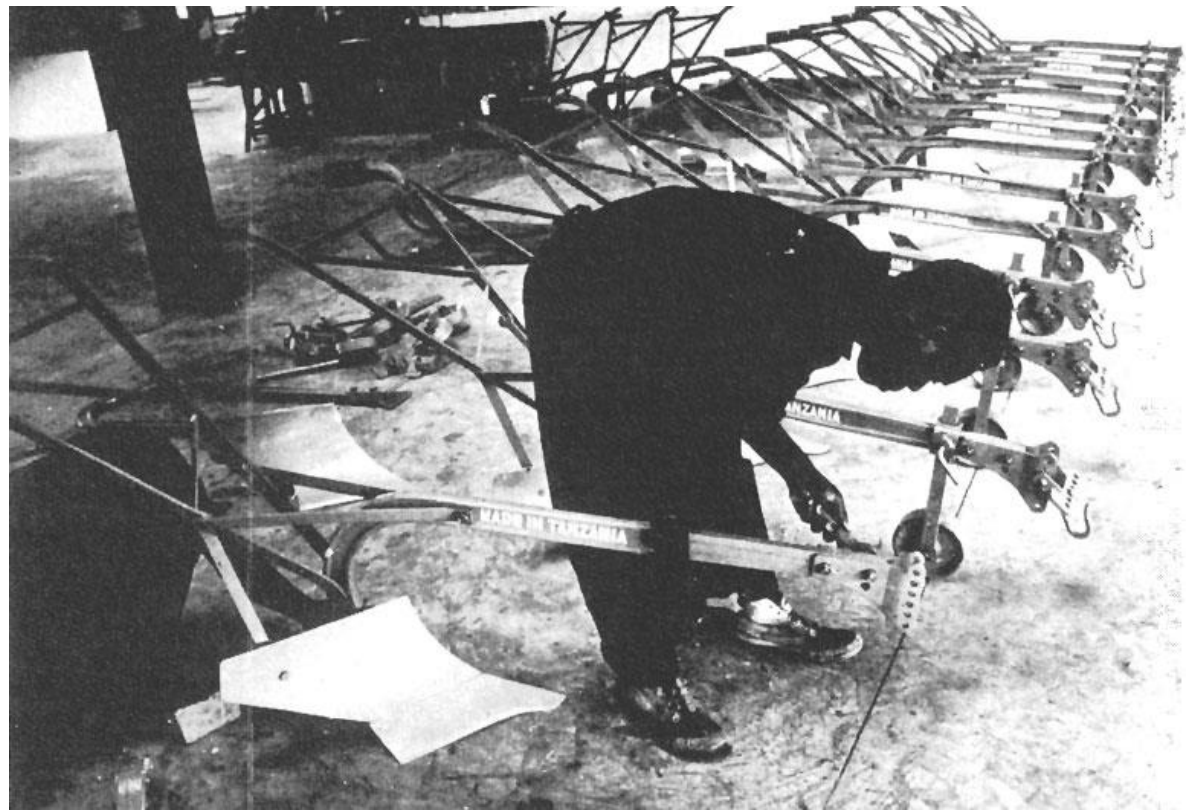
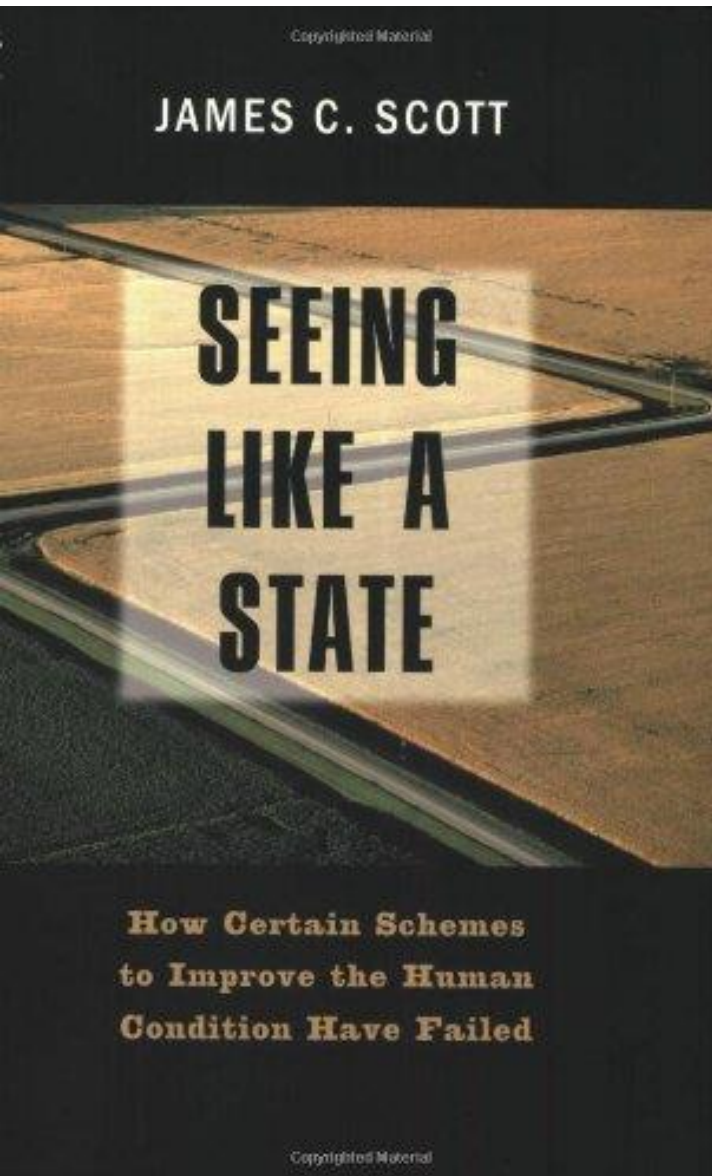


For the “Productive” Only!

ELECTRICITY AND THE COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE POLICY



high modernism





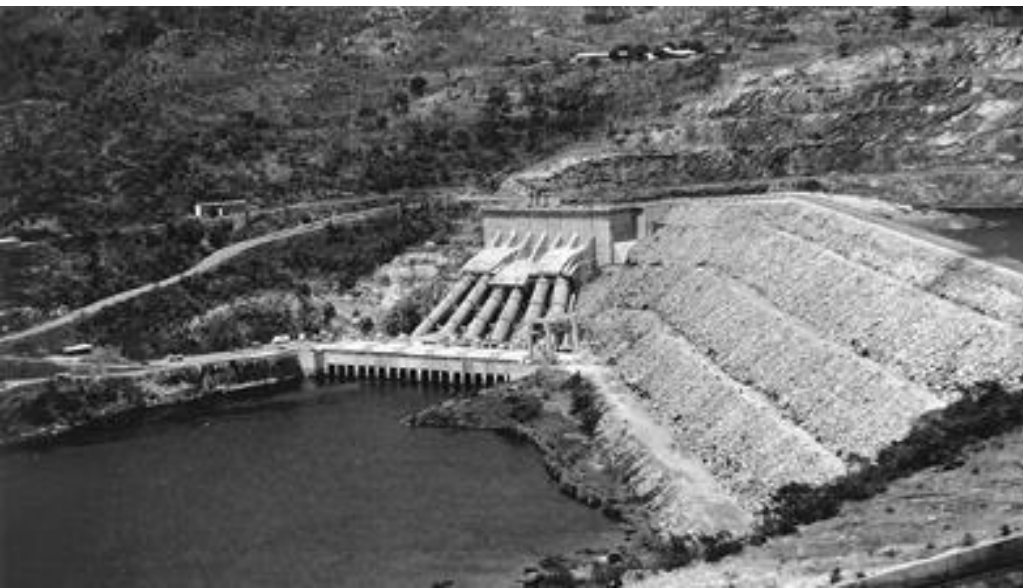
For “economic development” only!

DAMMED PROGRESS

Hydropower for industrial development



Tennessee
Valley Authority, 1933



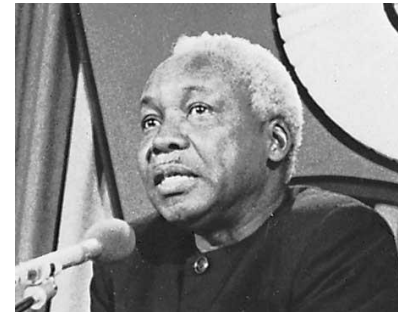
Great Akosombo Dam,
1966

Energizing the new nation states



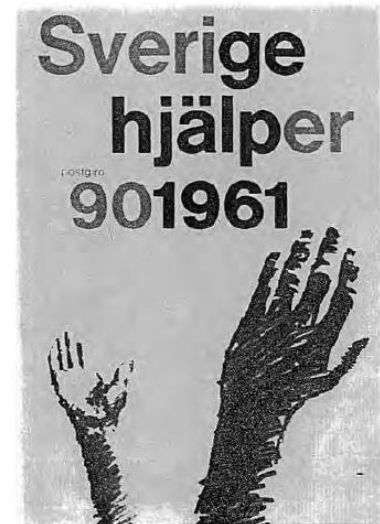
Dams are “the combination of brains, scientific knowledge, sweat, and discipline which will in practice transform our nation”

Julius Nyerere, 1965





- New narratives of development
- Multilateralism of development cooperation:
 - The World Bank
 - British development aid
 - Scandinavian development aid
 - The “African socialist” government of Tanzania



Source: May-Britt Öhman
2007

„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 vague.”

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 droughts (as per 2014)	35-50 cents/kWh
Fixed national tariff:	12 cents/kWh



- 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