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**A History of the Cameroon**

London 1990, S. 63

The period of German colonial rule is remembered today, in contrast to the British and French administrations which followed, as one characterized by economic development and modest prosperity, though accompanied by much brutality and harshness. Migeod, who visited the British Cameroons in 1923 (after the British had taken over the government of part of the former German Kamerun), noticed that

On the whole I could not learn that the natives welcomed the change of government. They hoped for great things, and were disappointed. There was trade and prosperity too, in the German days, since much capital was put into the country. Now there is none, and the natives who formerly were well-to-do are now poverty-stricken; and there is not now the means of acquiring wealth.

Such a situation was partly a response to changing economic conditions in the world, but it also reflected the fact that because Germany had so few colonies, Cameroon occupied much more of its attention and energy than was later the case under the French and British. With their extensive colonial interests in Africa and elsewhere, these countries relegated Cameroon to a position very low on their list of priorities, and economic and social stagnation inevitably ensued.

In contrast to later developments, therefore, the German period can be said to have been dynamic, with the establishment in many parts of the country of administrative centres (often accompanied by fine buildings, as at Buea), schools, trade stores, roads, railways, harbours, and telegraph stations.

At the head of the German administration was the governor, of whom there were only six during the thirty years of German rule:

Von Soden	1885–1891
Zimmerer	1891–1895
Von Puttkamer	1895–1907
Seitz	1907–1910
Gleim	1910–1912
Ebermeier	1912–1915

The governor issued decrees, was the highest court of appeal in the land, commanded the military forces and controlled state property. He was