



Vortrag im Rahmen des Afrikakolloquiums

22. Mai 2013

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(University of Bergen)

Transnational nationalism and “The dawn of civilization” in Sudan after the end of the First World War, 1919–1924

In much of the historiography about modern Sudan, the beginnings of nationalism in the 1920s are presented as being structurally and ideologically a derivative discourse. Thus, it is believed that the first nationalists learnt how to organize underground political activities from the Egyptians who worked for the Sudan government – the Sudan was at that time an Anglo-Egyptian Condominium and thousands of Egyptians lived there. Similarly, it is considered that ideas such as civilization and nationalism came to be diffused by British colonization through colonial educational institutions. On the other hand, some Sudanese nationalist historians, such as Muhamed Beshir, have contested this view and emphasized how nationalism was produced by the colonial situation and by Sudanese struggle against British rule.

However, considering nationalism as something either diffused from Britain or Egypt or produced within Sudan means to limit our view to a very tiny part of the picture. Nationalist ideas circulated in a much broader network than the triangle Sudan-Great Britain-Egypt; Egypt and Great Britain were themselves part of a larger circuit of ideas that to some extent moved across the British Empire, but also went beyond it. For instance, the 14 points of President Wilson in 1917 and the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 represented one of the most powerful catalyzers of political responses – from requests for more rights to revolutions – in disparate countries of the colonial world, from Egypt to India to Sudan to Korea. Moreover, the 14 points are just one, albeit important, case in point: news about episodes of anti-colonial revolt resonated in distant places and across empires, diffused by the vernacular press and by the wire.

In this presentation, I wish to trace the way in which Sudanese nationalists after the First World War observed, transformed and attempted to affect these larger debates, and how these reverberated in the heated political discussions inside the country and in the organization of political protest.

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**Ort: Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften,
Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 410**

Zeit: 18.00 Uhr

Alle Interessierten sind herzlich eingeladen!