

"The Case for German Colonialism"

Talk to AfD Faction at Bundestag, 12 December 2019

German Press Coverage



Deutschland  Kurier

Konservativ. Freiheitlich. Unabhängig.



JUNGE  FREIHEIT

WOCHENZEITUNG FÜR DEBATTE

Deutschlandfunk Kultur -

12/13/2019 12:45 p.m.

<https://www.deutschlandfunkkultur.de>

JOURNALIST ALAN POSENER "Everything Wasn't Wrong About Colonialism"

Moderation: Korbinian Frenzel

The publicist and author Alan Posener.

Publicist Alan Posener advocates a new debate about colonialism. And he has a clear answer to the question: Given the genocide and corruption in Africa, can one ask whether colonialism was perhaps better?

The political scientist Bruce Gilley's theses on colonialism triggered an outraged debate within the American academic world when it was published in 2017: The conclusion of his text on the colonial era is somewhat shortened that the balance of colonialism had to be corrected, because it was not all bad. Due to widespread criticism of the publication and doubts about the scientific nature of its claims, the magazine had withdrawn Gilley's text.

Now Gilley found a new forum: The AfD parliamentary group invited him to the Bundestag for a discussion entitled "Balance of Colonialism". The British-German publicist Alan Posener defended Gilley's thesis: "I myself wrote a book almost ten years ago, where I said that not everything was wrong with colonialism and that I consider the British Empire historically to be a glorious period - compared to everything what came after. "

It is "nothing unquestionable"

That's why Posener was interested in what Bruce Gilley had to say and so he attended the AfD event. However, he found it "actually terrible" that Gilley had to present his theses to the AfD parliamentary group, "because nobody else takes care of this". He also criticized that there had been death threats in the United States against the publishers of the scientific journal.

Posener emphasized that against the background of, for example, German colonial history in German South West Africa and the genocide of Herero and Nama, "nothing is unquestionable": "Measured in terms of time and what was before - namely a continent in chaos, mutual genocides of the nations there, an Arab slave trade - one can ask whether colonialism was not better. "

In an interview with the world, German historian Jürgen Zimmerer had expressed a clear rejection of Gilley's theses: "How do you account for enslaved and exploited people with dug wells? Dead people with built-in railway kilometers?" Posener replied: "If, for example, it was an achievement of German colonialism to have overcome sleeping sickness, if it probably saved two million people, then it is an achievement that can be said."

"Fortunately, the colonialists had an economic motive"

Alan Posener admits, however, that this was associated with the exploitation of the resources of the colonized areas. Posener quotes Gilley, who clearly says: "Fortunately, the colonialists also had an economic motive, because otherwise they would not have done it. Otherwise, they would not have built roads, introduced administration, or introduced jurisdiction if they had not protected women." The fact that the European states embody certain ideas of mankind is wrongly discriminated against as "western".

However, Posener also emphasizes that there is of course no way back behind national independence for the once colonized nations in Africa: "But the question is of course whether we will continue to give development aid there to corrupt elites."

(SRU)

The German-British journalist Alan Posener was born in London and grew up in Malaysia and Berlin. He was initially a teacher and made a name for himself as a pointed commentator and blogger. Today he is a correspondent for politics and society at the "Welt" group. Posener has written numerous books, including "Empire of the Future - Why Europe Must Become World Power" (Pantheon 2007) and "Benedict's Crusade: The Vatican's Struggle Against Modern Society" (Ullstein 2009).

>>>>>>>>>

<https://haolam.de/artikel/Deutschland/39646/artikel.html>

'German development aid is a disaster'

Colonialism expert Bruce Gilley on German engagement in Africa then and now

On December 11, colonialism expert Bruce Gilley from Portland University in the German Bundestag spoke in the faction room of the AfD and explained "Why Germany doesn't have to apologize for the colonial era". Well-known representatives of the mainstream media appeared, but were not interested in an interview.

Gilley spoke at the invitation of AfD MPs Markus Frohnmaier (development spokesman) and Petr Bystron (chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee). The ›Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung‹ had previously reported on the event under the title "Thank you for the suppression", but had made a number of factual and journalistic mistakes, as the Germany Kurier reported. Reporter Oliver Georgi was also not interested in meeting Prof. Gilley, who he had disparaged, despite being invited by the AfD. A handful of protesters protested Wednesday in front of the Bundestag under the hashtag #decolonize_bundestag.

On Wednesday Sven Felix Kellerhoff followed up in the ›Welt‹ and interviewed - like the ›FAZ‹ - the left-wing German anti-colonialism pope Jürgen Zimmerer of the University of Hamburg. Unfortunately, despite several requests from the AfD, the ›world‹ was not interested in interviewing Prof. Gilley, who was attacked in this way. In the article, the "world" spoke of the "enslavement of millions of people" without providing any further evidence. "If the 'world' has evidence that Germany has enslaved millions of people in Africa, then I want to see them, because that will be a scientific sensation," Gilley mocked the Germany courier. "But you would have to explain how that was possible, because around 415 colonial officials were responsible for around 8 million people across German East Africa. In Togoland there were about 200 German colonial officials.

Women and children enjoyed exceptional protection in German colonial areas

Gilley pointed out that all the facts and evidence speak against the Marxist interpretation of colonial history that now prevails. »People voluntarily moved to the German colonial centers because they had a chance of a better life there. This migration movement is very clear and begins almost immediately with the arrival of the Germans. B. in East Africa. Women in

particular enjoyed protection with their children in the German colonial areas that they could not get anywhere else. «

Locals voluntarily fought for Germany in the First World War

Gilley only came across the question of German colonialism through his research on another topic: »The locals voluntarily fought for Germany in the First World War, even though they were sometimes not paid for months and could easily have run away. In 1918 the war in East Africa continued for a week after the armistice because the Askari refused to give up. I came across it while researching a biography of Sir Alan Burns, the British colonial administrator, and was amazed at why the Germans were so popular in Africa, "said Gilley. So he came across the topic through an unexpected discovery, not like most left-wing colonial historians, with a preconceived conclusion. Therefore he was able to

Crimes were the exception

Gilley admitted that there had been crimes among the Germans, such as the campaign against the Herero and Nama in Namibia. However, these were the exception and not the rule, and had led to investigations and convictions as far as Berlin in the Reichstag. "The campaign against the Herero was a war crime, of course. But to speak of genocide here would be completely wrong, because it was neither wanted by the state nor organized systematically, nor was it aimed at wiping out an entire people, but only at ending the uprising. The next governor, dispatched to General von Trotha in South West Africa, changed this policy and introduced one of the largest development programs Africa has ever seen. So if representatives of today's Herero are still asking for compensation,

Gilley: »Free trade instead of development aid!«

German development aid is a "catastrophe" because it is based on a "cult of guilt" and would leave people dependent, according to Gilley. »This is the real racism, the racism of low expectations. What these countries need is a market economy, free trade, education and democracy. Germany has spent a trillion dollars on development aid since the Second World War, with no noteworthy results. «

In the question and answer session, journalist Alan Posener from Die Welt suggested that the AfD was an "identitarian" party and opposed the liberal ideal that Gilley held up in relation to the colonial era: "Did you feel the temperature in this room around one "Cooled down two degrees when they talked about the spread of liberal democracy?" Posener asked, referring to the AfD group. However, Gilley did not seem to have felt any such cooling: "On the contrary, my friends from the AfD seem to me to be the only ones who stand for freedom of expression and a lively exchange of ideas. The others just wanted to talk about me, but not with me. "

AfD employee Achille Demagbo from Benin thanked Gilley for his presentation: »All people in Africa know that what they say is true. Germany has done a lot of good things in Africa. So I want to thank you for your honest word. «

First published in Germany Kurier - second publication with kind permission / Photo: Colonialism expert Bruce Gilley (center) with the AfD Bundestag members Petr Bystron (left) and Markus Frohnmaier

Friday, December 13, 2019

>>>>>>>>>>

<https://www.deutschland-kurier.org/kolonialismus-experte-bruce-gilley-zum-deutschen-engagement-in-afrika-einst-und-jetzt-deutsche-entwicklungshilfe-ist-eine-katastrophe/>

Colonialism expert Bruce Gilley on German engagement in Africa then and now:

»German development aid is a disaster«

December 12, 2019

Colonialism expert Bruce Gilley (center) with the AfD Bundestag members Petr Bystron (left) and Markus Frohnmaier

On December 11, colonialism expert Bruce Gilley from Portland University in the German Bundestag spoke in the faction room of the AfD and explained "Why Germany doesn't have to apologize for the colonial era". Well-known representatives of the mainstream media appeared, but were not interested in an interview.

Gilley spoke at the invitation of AfD MPs Markus Frohnmaier (development spokesman) and Petr Bystron (chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee). The ›Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung‹ had previously reported on the event under the title "Thank you for the suppression", but had made a number of factual and journalistic mistakes, as the Germany Kurier reported. Reporter Oliver Georgi was also not interested in meeting Prof. Gilley, who he had disparaged, despite being invited by the AfD. A handful of demonstrators protested Wednesday before the Bundestag under the hashtag #decolonize_bundestag .

On Wednesday Sven Felix Kellerhoff put in the ›world‹ and interviewed - like the ›FAZ‹ - the left-wing German anti-colonial pope Jürgen Zimmerer of the University of Hamburg. Unfortunately, despite several requests from the AfD, the ›world‹ was not interested in interviewing Prof. Gilley, who was attacked in this way. In the article, the "world" spoke of the "enslavement of millions of people" without providing any further evidence. "If the 'world' has evidence that Germany has enslaved millions of people in Africa, then I want to see them, because that will be a scientific sensation," Gilley mocked the Germany courier. "But you would have to explain how that was possible, because around 415 colonial officials were responsible for around 8 million people across German East Africa. In Togoland there were about 200 German colonial officials.

Women and children enjoyed exceptional protection in German colonial areas

Gilley pointed out that all the facts and evidence speak against the Marxist interpretation of colonial history that now prevails. »People voluntarily moved to the German colonial centers because they had a chance of a better life there. This migration movement is very clear and begins almost immediately with the arrival of the Germans. B. in East Africa. Women in particular enjoyed protection with their children in the German colonial areas that they could not get anywhere else. «

Locals voluntarily fought for Germany in the First World War

Gilley only came across the question of German colonialism through his research on another topic: »The locals voluntarily fought for Germany in the First World War, even though they were sometimes not paid for months and could easily have run away. In East Africa, the war continued for a week after the armistice in 1918 because the Askari refused to give up. I was researching a biography of Sir Alan Burns, the British colonial administrator I came across it and wondered why the Germans were so popular in Africa, «said Gilley. So he came across the subject through an unexpected discovery, not like most left-wing colonial historians, with a preconceived conclusion. Therefore, he was able to see the subject objectively and impartially, said Gilley.

Crimes were the exception

Gilley admitted that there had been crimes among the Germans, such as the campaign against the Herero and Nama in Namibia. However, these were the exception and not the rule, and had led to investigations and convictions as far as Berlin in the Reichstag. "The campaign against the Herero was a war crime, of course. But to speak of genocide here would be completely wrong, because it was neither wanted by the state nor organized systematically, nor was it aimed at wiping out an entire people, but only at ending the uprising. The next governor, dispatched to General von Trotha in South West Africa, changed this policy and introduced one of the largest development programs Africa has ever seen. So if representatives of today's Herero are still asking for compensation,

Gilley: »Free trade instead of development aid!«

German development aid is a "catastrophe" because it is based on a "cult of guilt" and would leave people dependent, according to Gilley. »This is the real racism, the racism of low expectations. What these countries need is a market economy, free trade, education and democracy. Germany has spent a trillion dollars on development aid since the Second World War, with no noteworthy results. «

In the question and answer session, journalist Alan Posener from Die Welt suggested that the AfD was an "identitarian" party and opposed the liberal ideal that Gilley held up in relation to the colonial era: "Did you feel the temperature in this room around one "Cooled down two degrees when they talked about the spread of liberal democracy?" Posener asked, referring to

War and reached for power. This resulted in wars and the establishment of corrupt, violent regimes.

In order to help the states of the Black Continent suffering from these conditions to this day, Gilley, who received his doctorate from Princeton Elite University, wanted a new edition of colonialism. He emphasized that this was not about the re-colonization of entire states, but about externally controlled support for sectors, which should be limited to individual bases. He cited Hong Kong as an example. The fact that his theses in the former colonies met with open ears showed him a lot of positive feedback from African countries.

Criticism of German scientists

Since there is no discussion in Germany about colonial history without reference to the suppression of the uprisings of the Nama and Herero in German Southwest Africa, Gilley also commented on it. However, that was only one episode in the decades of successful German colonial times. The then German governor Lothar von Trotha was solely responsible for this. Gilley rejected the term "genocide" in this context. The mass killing of the tribes by the German protection force was a war crime that went back on orders from Trothas. When scientists talk about genocide, they relativize crimes that deserve this term.

In his lecture, Gilley went to court with his colleagues at the universities. They adhered to very Marxist, anti-colonialist ideas that had arisen since the First World War and had established themselves at universities no later than the 1960s. The American could not resist a swipe at the German historian Jürgen Zimmerer from the University of Hamburg, who had previously denied him seriousness in an interview with the world .

Gilley emphasizes the importance of free speech

In general, according to Gilley, it can be observed that in Germany there is a reinterpretation of colonialism as a crime against humanity, which he firmly rejects. Germany should get rid of its guilt complex. In this context, he also criticized the renaming of streets, which are reminiscent of actors in German colonial history.

In the discussion that followed, the US professor explained why he accepted the AfD's invitation. He stands for freedom of research, freedom of speech and expression and talks to everyone, he said. So he was happy to accept the invitation, he said.

It would be desirable if this attitude were to prevail again at German universities. At any rate, Gilley's theses offer historians and political scientists the opportunity to openly discuss Germany's colonial past, if not a new one. Whether this will happen is unfortunately doubtful.