

**UNIVERSITÄT  
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Philosophische  
Fakultät

Paul Langhans, *Deutscher Kolonial-Atlas* (German colonial atlas). *30 Karten mit 300 Nebenkarten* (30 Maps with 300 Insets) Gotha: Justus Perthes, 1893-1897

Presented and commented by Susanne Rau

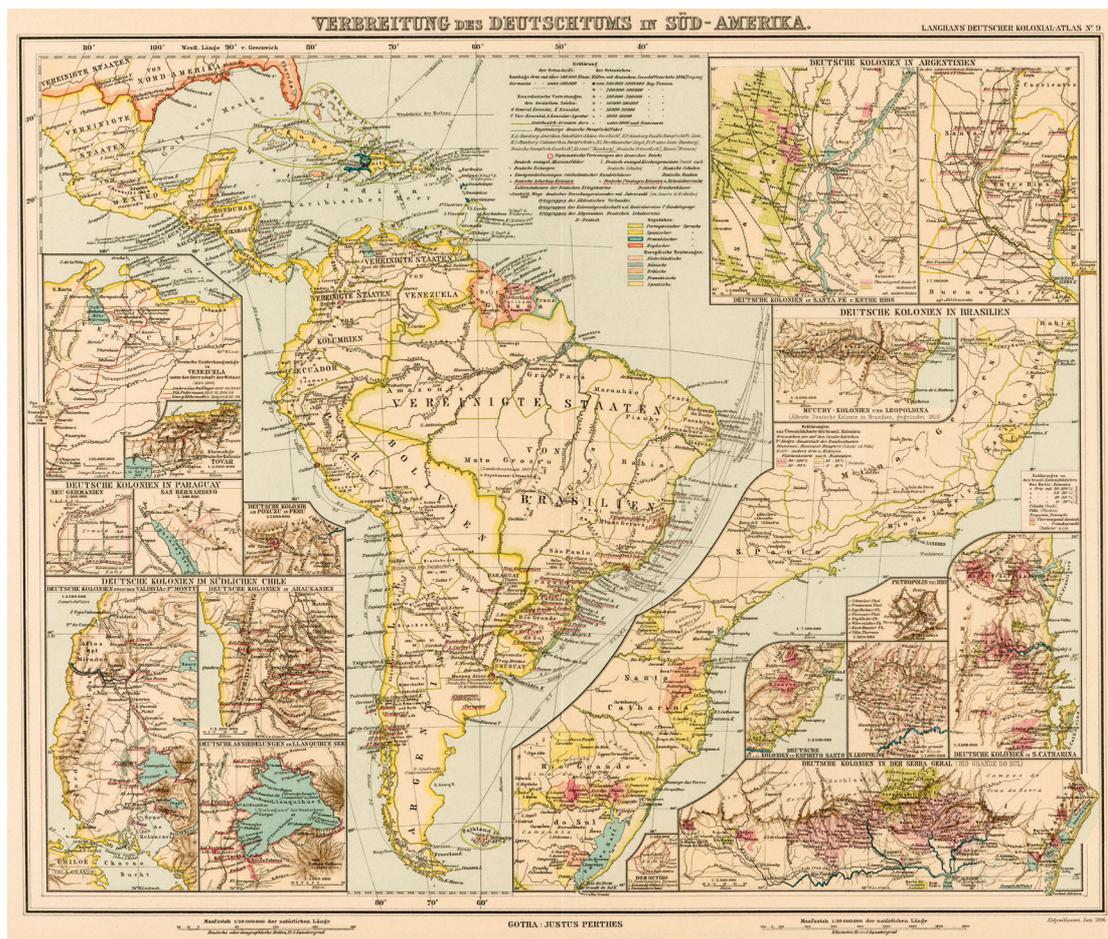
Translated by Michael Thomas Taylor with Philipp Julius Meyer

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Map 9: Spread of Germanism [Deutschtum] in South America.



*Insets:* The Welsers in Venezuela. Former German Colony Tovar. – German Settlement in Pozuzo (Peru). The German Settlements in Southern Chile. German Colonies in Paraguay: S. Bernardino, Neu-Germanien. Swiss Colony Nueva Helvecia (Uruguay). German Colonies in Subtropical South America. German Colonies in Argentina: Swiss Colony Baradero, Tornquist Colony, German-Russian Colonies General Alvear and Olavarria, German Colonies of the Province of S. Fé, Villa Urquiza, S. José (Entre Rios). German Colonies in Brazil: The Oldest German Settlement Leopoldina (1818). The Mucury Colonies. The German Colonies in Espirito Santo. Neu-Freiburg and Petropolis near Rio. German Settlements in S. Paulo. Curitiba and Surroundings. German Colonies in S. Catharina. Joinville and Surroundings, Blumenau and Surroundings. The German Serra Colonies in Rio Grande do Sul. The Southern Colonial Area around S. Lourenço. German Colonies at the Serra do Mar. S. Leopoldo and Surroundings.

*Source:* Forschungsbibliothek Gotha der Universität Erfurt, SPB 2° 2031.00041-09  
 urn:nbn:de:urmel-d0266e99-189c-441a-ac11-880a761351da5 (CC-BY-SA 4.0)  
 See map in the Digital Historical Library Erfurt/Gotha or in the DFG Viewer

*Commentary:* The *Deutscher Kolonial-Atlas* (German colonial atlas) appeared between 1892 and 1897 in multiple installments, published by Justus Perthes in Gotha. It included 30 main maps and 300 insets. The foreword describes the aim of the cartographer and editor Paul Langhans (1867–1952): “To represent German protectorates, German settlements abroad, and the propagation of Germans and of their intellectual and material culture, on the entire globe—that is the purpose and plan of the German Colonial Atlas” (Langhans 1897, “Vorwort” [1892],1). Langhans’s atlas is not only the first German collection of colonial maps. It is also the only completed series of maps for all “protectorates of the German Empire” (Demhardt 2009, 28). Key moments for its emergence include the founding of the German Empire, the transition from free trade to protective tariffs, the public debate about the question of colonies and the role of Germans in colonizing the world, the large movements of emigrants leaving Germany, and not least of all the search for new markets for German products. In short, the *Kolonial-Atlas* was a major part of cartography’s contribution to German colonial discourse at the end of the nineteenth century. This work of the Perthes publishing house is evidence of how geographic knowledge was created with political and economic intentions on the basis of an impressive array of sources; it shows how it was possible to appropriate a colonial space by means of cartographic tools. The introduction, which was written in 1897, gives a good view of Langhans’s understanding of what makes a “colony” (as settlement activity carried out by “Germans” over centuries) and of the ethnic-nationalistic [*völkisch*] body of thought upon which the atlas project was based.

The modern movement supporting the acquisition of Imperial German overseas protectorates bound to the motherland by international law has restricted the meaning of the term “colony” in its usage to such a degree, limiting it to the sense of a state colony, that it might have seemed bold to give the name *Kolonial-Atlas* to a cartographic representation of the entire settlement activities of the Germandom [*des Deutschtums*]. If we have done so anyway, the reason was the consideration that it is necessary to point out, again and again, that the present colonial policies of the German Empire need to be viewed and understood not as something emerging suddenly but in the framework and context of the centuries of colonization activities carried out

by Germans—that is to say, as the last link in a chain of these activities, corresponding to the growth of German national feeling and economic development. The contents of the following pages are intended to be viewed from this perspective of the inner connectedness of all German daughter colonies.

Of course, the Imperial German protectorates have taken up the most space because of their large surface area: as agricultural areas that emerged almost exclusively out of trade colonies, their borders encompass vast stretches of land that cannot be used economically, or that can only be used with difficulty, in contrast to most farming colonies, which only occupy the land that appears promising. The scale of 1:2 million was chosen for its reduction in order to enable an easy comparison with Vogel's state-of-the-art map [*Standkarte*] of the German Empire (1:500,000). The view that economic rather than political occupation constitutes the essential characteristic of a colony is accounted for with numerous insets in a larger scale that illustrate the fields of work of German agricultural activities, the focus of trade and traffic, and the previous economic development of the individual protectorates; in addition, maps of the political and military administrative seats show their flourishing and growth since they were claimed by Germany. The individual illustrations of the areas of activity for Christian missions take an amount of space appropriate to the influence of their civilizing, culture-promoting activities. By carefully illustrating the terrain in connection with a colored indication of the land cover, we attempted to give the map's image a sense of life and movement and to make it easier to gain an overview of the economic usefulness of the individual areas; the main map has been unburdened by producing additional ethnographic overviews. An easy comparison of relations of size is provided by smaller overview maps of areas of the motherland in the same scale.

In addition to the imperial German protectorates, the countries treated in the most detail are those that have proven the most conducive to the settlement activities of German emigrants, and in which Germanism [*das Deutschtum*] has more or less retained its independent specific character in relation to foreign ethnic [*fremdvölkisch*] influence, namely in the German farming colonies. The tenacious policies of conquest and settlement of the House of Welf, the House of Ascania, the Hohenzollerns, and the Habsburgs, and of the Teutonic Order to the East, has Germanized the lands between the

Elbe and Weichsel [the Vistula River] and large parts of the Hungarian plains and mountain districts. The work of the “settlement commission” builds on the activity of the former—namely, the present-day state-sponsored colonialization to protect what has been achieved against the Slavic flood that, especially beyond the Carpathians in conjunction with awakened Magyar nationalism, has done so much harm to Germandom [*das Deutschtum*]. And yet even today, the German farming colonization of the East is not standing still. German hard work and German industriousness are making it possible for the German farming colonies of southern Russia to continue expanding despite Slavic resistance; droves of German colonists are continually moving to the slopes of the Caucasus and the steppes of inner Asia; in the Banat and in Slavonia, Serbs and Romanians are being forced give way to German activity; and the newly developed area of Bosnia offers German farmers a rewarding field for their work.

On the other side of the ocean, the cohesive German colonial areas are concentrated around four points of focus: the United States in North America with the neighboring parts of British Canada; subtropical South America (in the east, the jungle colonies of southern Brazil, and in the West, those of southern Chile); from the southern cape of Africa upward to Sambesi with lower-German substrate and British coloring; and as the smallest, the south-eastern corner of Australia. Insets in a larger scale have been devoted to the main areas upon which German settlement activity has been focused within these vast areas, special attention has been given to places of historical interest, and—in recognition of their achievements in preserving German character [*deutsche Art*—consideration has been taken to indicate as completely as possible German churches and schools, German newspapers and associations. Since the aim was to illustrate the entire colonial activity of Germandom [*des Deutschtums*], and not only that of those German tribes that are included within the new borders of the Reich, we have also considered the settlements of the Mennonite German-Russians in North America, the Protestant German-Russians in Dobruja, the lower German Boers in South Africa, the Swiss and Tiroleans in America, the Flemish in Wales and on the Flemish Isles, etc. Moreover, the representation is not limited to the current state of German settlements but also includes the lost German farming and mining colonies, especially the colonies in Europe that—because of their

small size—could not resist the melting influence of the surrounding ethnic groups [*Volkstum*], as well as the first attempts at German colonization directed by the state, namely the Brandenburg-Prussian possessions on the West African coast.

German trade colonization—both that of the German Hanseatic League in the Middle Ages and that of the present day, which encompasses the entire earth—is one of the main topics represented, forming another important link in German settlement activity. Finally, the work covers the German economic area, the foreign trade relations of the German Empire, German ship traffic in foreign harbors, German consulates, bases of the Germany navy, and the most important export-industrial areas of the Empire. But the work also accounts for the spread of intellectual German culture: the efforts of German emigrants; seaman's missions, and missions to the heathens; German schools and churches abroad; and the share of Germans in the exploration of previously unexplored areas are all indicated. (Langhans 1897, "Zur Einführung.")

## Additional Literature

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