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***Dar es Salaam, Tanga und Tabora. Stadtentwicklung in Tansania unter deutscher Kolonialherrschaft (1885–1914)*. By Jürgen Becher. ‘Missionsgeschichtliches Archiv’, 2. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner. 1997. 194 pp. DM64 (paperback).**

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Jürgen Becher argues that ‘there was a causal connection between the process of colonial urbanization and the social, economic, and cultural structure that was imposed by European colonial power and colonial penetration’ (p. 15). He shows that colonial rule was the decisive factor in the development of three cities in German East Africa (today, mainland Tanzania). Becher draws upon archival records of the German Colonial Office, the National Archives of Tanzania, and the Berlin Missionary Society, as well as published, largely German-language sources from the period. His disciplinary approach is historical, although he seeks to make use of other disciplinary approaches that have [End Page 118] informed the study of urbanization. The book contains much detailed information that will interest Africanists and Germanists working on east Africa.

In the first half of the book, Becher shows how Dar es Salaam and Tanga were rapidly affected by German colonial rule as both became centres of colonial administration and German-dominated trade. Tabora, by contrast, remained an important centre of Arab, Indian, and African trade and property ownership. While German colonists established residential segregation through a number of strategies in Dar es Salaam and Tanga, Tabora remained unsegregated. The urban structure and economy of Tabora was first affected by colonialism after 1912 by the completion of a railroad from Dar es Salaam.

The second half of the book discusses the economic position of, in turn, Africans, Indians and Goanese, Arabs, and Europeans in German East Africa (not specifically in the three cities). Becher wants to offer a discussion of the ‘forms and changes of ethnic structure and lifeways of the population, especially the Africans, under the influence of urbanization’ (p. 19); he accomplishes this really only for the Africans (see pp. 121–9). Becher discusses Africans and

Europeans in the most detail, and his account of Germans is the most ethnographically sensitive. Asking ‘How did the Europeans live in the cities? What was their social organization and personal situation like?’ (p. 159), he discusses Germans’ leisure and family life. He does not pose those questions for Arabs, Indians, and Africans, whom he discusses as large, impersonal groups, undifferentiated by gender.

The study of colonial urbanization offers an opportunity to weave a narrative of multiple, mixed and changing ethnicities. Becher does not, however, problematize ethnicity. The very structure of the book militates against doing so: the material on ethnic groups is separated from discussion of the cities, and is presented as a list of categories. One gains a sense of groups living side by side, each responding to German administrative and economic intervention, but not to each other.