

Sprachmittlung, Aufgabe und Erwartungshorizont

Assignment

You are a junior executive with a middle-sized company in the Stuttgart region and you are marketing its products in Kenya and Tanzania, parts of which used to be German East-Africa.

Your African business partner in Dar es Salaam, Dr Ama Mirembe, has found "Rund um die Erde, Moderne Weltreisen", which appeared in 1910. She has asked you to sum up this passage for her. Write an informal letter of 150-200 words.

Hi Ama,

This passage from "Journey around the Globe" contains travel writing by international authors. One of them is Eduard von Liebert, a Prussian officer and former governor of German East Africa.

He writes about his trip to the Kiliman-Djaro. One of his guides is a local chief called Hilarion. He is educated and speaks several languages. Liebert simply calls him one of the very few who have risen above the lowly position of his fellow-Africans.

The author actually jumps to the conclusion that Africans are born to be obedient serfs. He describes this guide as an exception, certainly not a role model for other Africans. While Liebert claims to regret the Africans' low intelligence, he really tries to make them appear stupid.

To me, this passage is not just a bit of colonial travel writing but rather nasty and racist. The author's stance was not unusual for a person of his rank and origin in the early 20th century, convinced of their innate superiority and, sadly, not limited to Prussians.

Regards,

N.N.