Africa and the First World War

- The Battle for Togo- the start of the global war
- Africans on the western front
- The war in Africa- South West Africa
  - East Africa
- The Trrailleurs Senegalais and the politics of citizenship

South West Africa

- Britain’s first imperial victory, July 1915
- A short conflict; German forces easily defeated
- South African military assistance- Boer commandos
- British agenda- secure sea corridor
- South African agenda- settler colonial expansion

The East Africa Campaign

- Little real conflict- a mobile, territorial war of attrition
- Mobile war required heavy support of auxiliaries- 1 million Africans (including Conscripts) employed as porters and carriers
- War on the cheap. Poor supplies- malnutrition and related diseases

A Heavy toll

- 100,000 and African auxiliaries were killed (vs. 11,000 British imperial soldiers)
- Labour conscription- heightened strain on local population
- Scorched Earth policy and plunder of local populations- decimated local economies, caused famine

Blaise Diagne and the ‘imperial bargain’

Blaise Diagne agreed to assist with conscription of Senegalese soldiers, in return for French citizenship- but would the French empire continue to deny equity to its colonial subjects, even though they had fought for France’s freedom, alongside white European citizens?- the bargain was betrayed

Africa and the war: some conclusions