

**Marion Wallace**

Introduction by Shula Marks

**Health, Power and Politics  
in Windhoek, Namibia,  
1915-1945**

Basel Namibia Studies Series 7

# CONTENTS

<b>Basel Namibia Studies Series</b>	x
<b>Note on this Edition</b>	xi
<b>Introduction by <i>Shula Marks</i></b>	xii
<b>Health, Power and Politics in Windhoek, Namibia, 1915-1945</b> by <i>Marion Wallace</i>	1
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	4
<b>Introduction: Understanding Health and Colonial Power</b>	5
<b>Medicine and Imperialism</b>	6
Biomedicine as a Component of the Imperial Project	6
Power and the Practice of Medicine	10
Systems, Knowledge and Power	14
The Power of Received Knowledge	18
Text and Pain	22
<b>Space, Place and Colonial Domination</b>	23
The History and Historiography of Windhoek and SWA	23
<b>Sources of the Book</b>	30
<b>Conclusion</b>	34
<b>Part One: Disease, Colonial Medicine and Windhoek</b>	37
<b>1 Windhoek, 1915-1945:</b>	
<b>Origins, Demography and Politics</b>	39
Windhoek's Origins and Development	40
Black Urbanisation and Mobility	42
White Settlement and Municipal Politics	50
Conclusion	54
<b>2 Windhoek's Locations, 1915-1945:</b>	
<b>The Struggle for the Urban Space</b>	55
The Martial Law Period	57
The 1920s: Protest and Defeat	59
The Depression and Increasing Control	64
The Second World War	68
Conclusion	69
<b>3 Health and Medicine in Windhoek during the Period</b>	
<b>of Martial Law</b>	71
The Nature and Effects of Martial Law	71

	The South African Military, Public Health and Municipal Politics	74
	The Influenza Epidemic of 1918	82
	The Measles Epidemic	83
	The Course of the Influenza Epidemic	84
	Control and Chaos	85
	Death and Divisions	89
	Invisible Nurses?	92
	The Death Toll and the Aftermath of the Epidemic	93
	Conclusion	94
<b>4</b>	<b>The Epidemiology of Windhoek and South West Africa, 1920-1945</b>	97
	The Sources	99
	A Chronology of Health and Disease	101
	Discourses, Silences and Policy	111
	Infant and Maternal Mortality and Health	111
	Tuberculosis	116
	Conclusion	122
	<b>Part Two: Health Care, Politics and Power, 1920-1945</b>	123
<b>5</b>	<b>Indigenous Medicine</b>	125
	Indigenous Medical Practices in Central Namibia	126
	Indigenous Healing in Windhoek	137
	Conclusion	142
<b>6</b>	<b>Secular Biomedicine: Structures and Policies</b>	143
	The German Background	143
	The Organisation of Biomedical Health Care, 1920-1945	147
	The Law, the State and Health Provision	151
	Conclusion	158
<b>7</b>	<b>Secular Biomedicine: Hospitals and the Contested Dynamics of Power</b>	161
	The Windhoek Native Hospital	162
	The Location Clinic	168
	Windhoek's Hospitals: Struggles and Social Control	169
	Conclusion	174
<b>8</b>	<b>Missionary Biomedicine</b>	177
	Medical Mission Work, the RMS and Namibia	178
	District Nursing in Windhoek, 1926-1945	182
	Conservatism and Pathologisation	182
	Hygiene and Evangelism	186
	Conclusion	192
<b>9</b>	<b>Conclusions: Choices of Therapy</b>	193

<b>Part Three: Ideology and Coercion, 1920-1945</b>	199
<b>10 The Sanitation of Windhoek: Metaphors and Politics</b>	201
The Battle-lines	204
Struggles over the Main Location	209
The Klein Windhoek Location	216
Conclusion	223
<b>11 The Anti-VD Campaign of 1939: Public Health and Gendered Repression</b>	225
Venereal Disease in Namibia and the League of Nations	225
Examination and Coercion	227
The Implementation of the Examinations	235
From Health to Employment Legislation	244
Conclusion	245
<b>Conclusion</b>	247
<b>Appendix: Graphs and Tables</b>	253
<b>Glossary and Note on Orthography</b>	271
<b>List of Abbreviations</b>	272
<b>Bibliography</b>	274
<b>Index (Names, Organisations, Places)</b>	307