Banning the Slave Trade in the Indian Ocean: Humanitarianism, Imperialism, and International Law

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In the second half of the nineteenth century, the Zanzibar Sultanate became the focal point of European imperial and humanitarian policies, most notably Britain, France, and Germany. This talk will highlight the main features of the relationship binding the repression of the Indian Ocean slave trade with the expansion of European empires between the 1860s and the 1900s in East Africa. Meanwhile, it will also emphasize the impact which these anti-slavery and imperial policies had then on international relations as well as international law, especially over the emergence of “humanitarian intervention.”

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