

HANDBOOKS PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
HISTORICAL SECTION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE.--No. 124

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# SPANISH SAHARA

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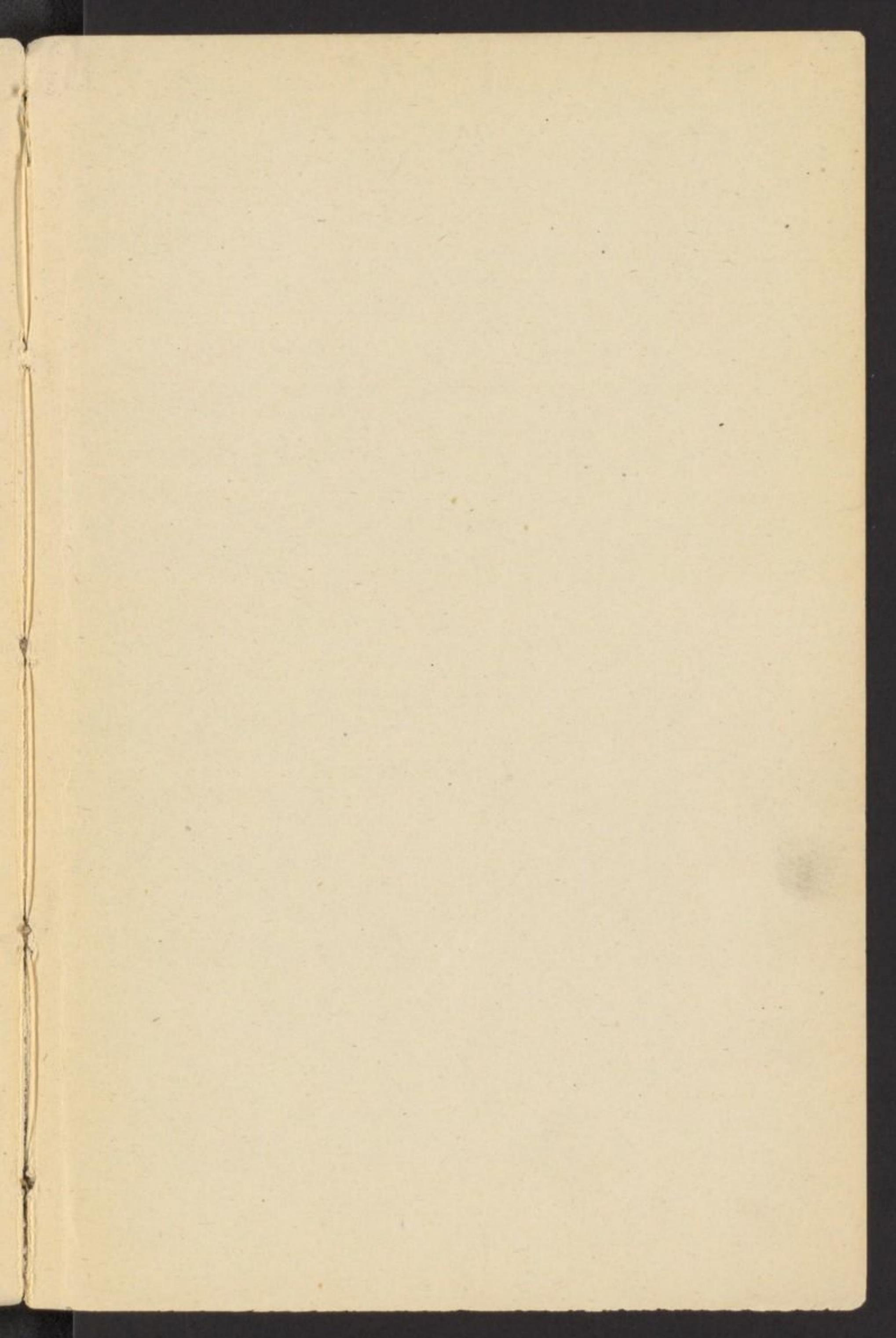
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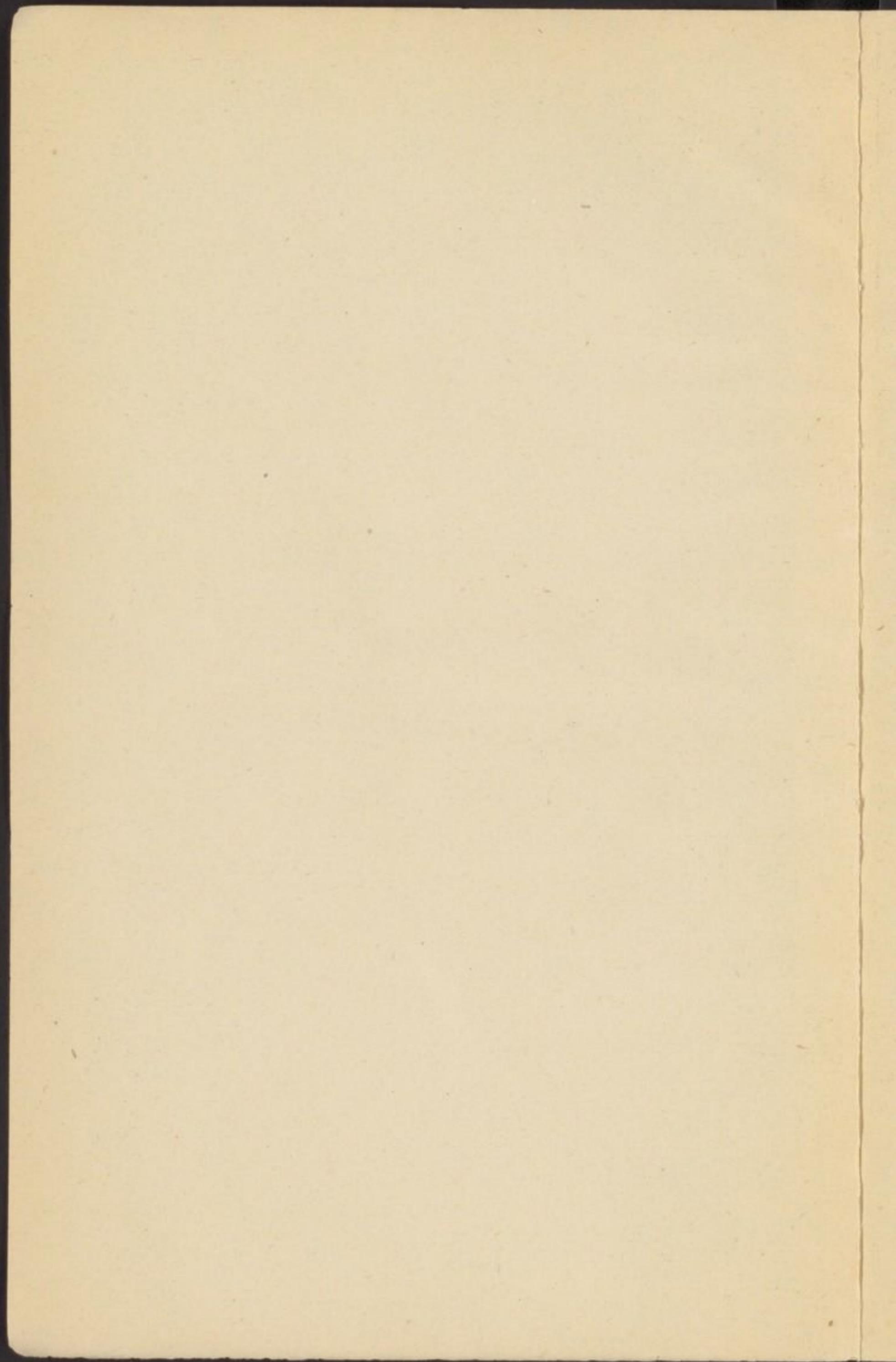


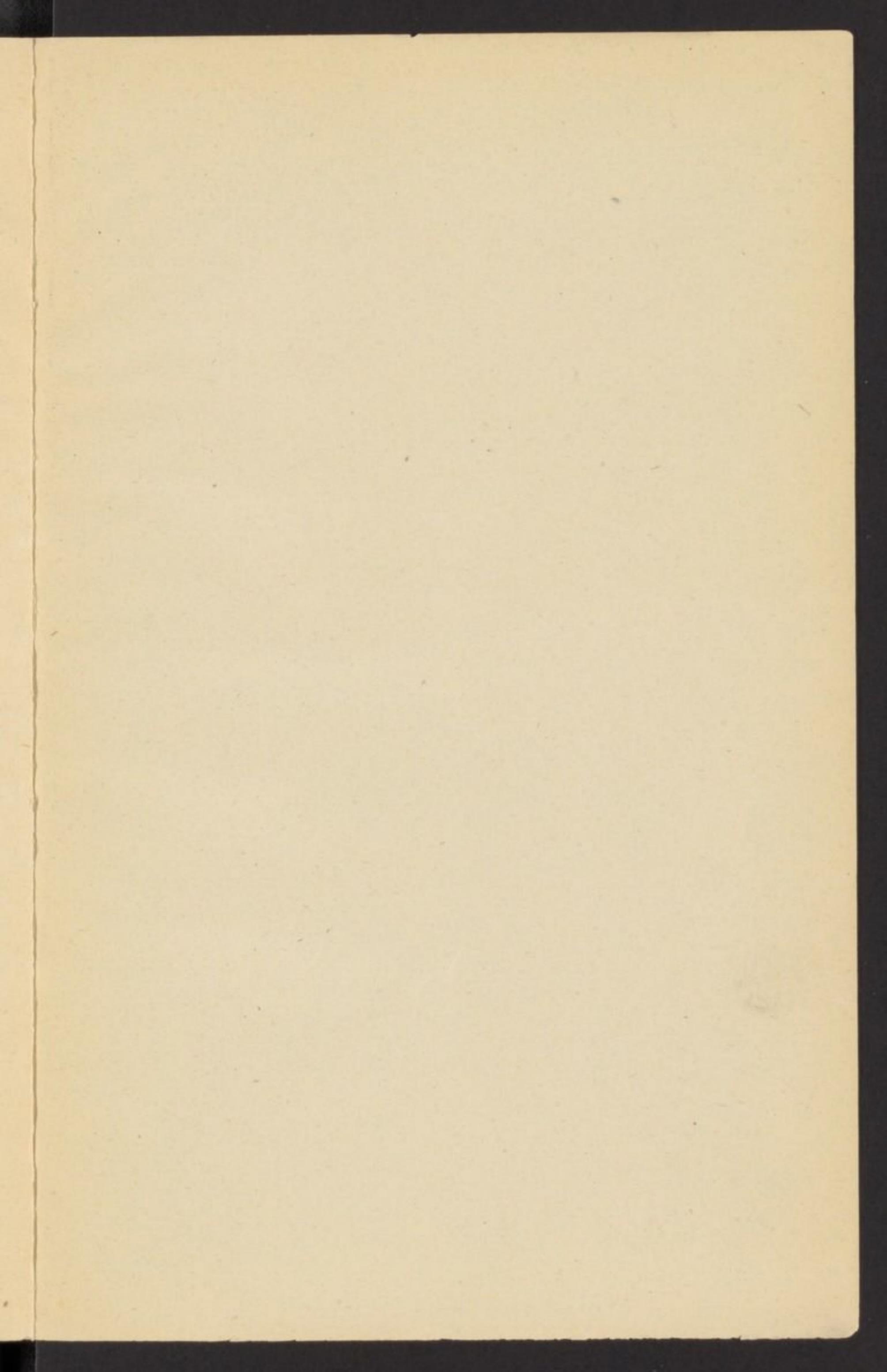


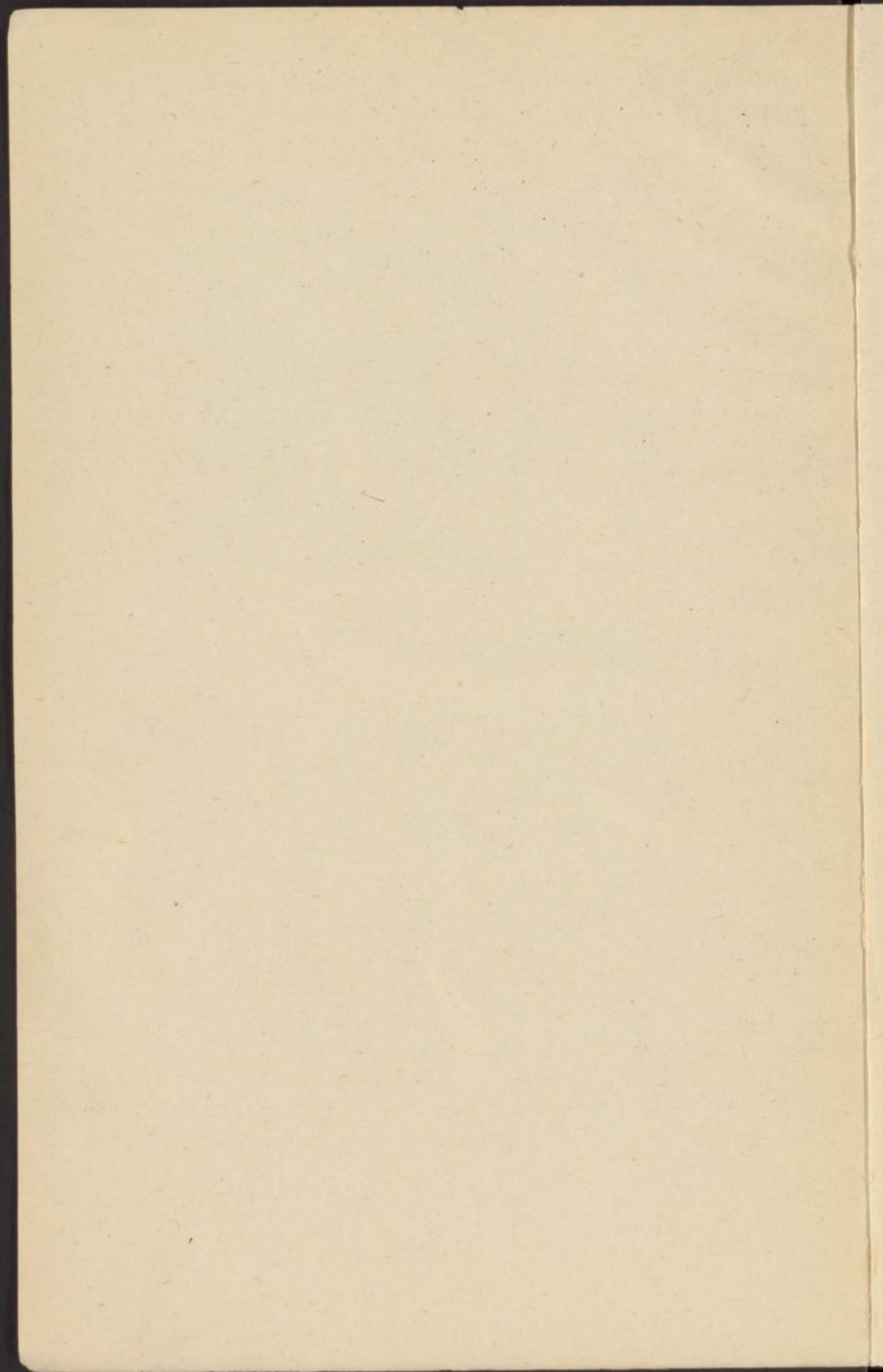
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HANDBOOKS PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
HISTORICAL SECTION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE.--No. 124

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# SPANISH SAHARA

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## Editorial Note.

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IN the spring of 1917 the Foreign Office, in connection with the preparation which they were making for the work of the Peace Conference, established a special section whose duty it should be to provide the British Delegates to the Peace Conference with information in the most convenient form—geographical, economic, historical, social, religious and political—respecting the different countries, districts, islands, &c., with which they might have to deal. In addition, volumes were prepared on certain general subjects, mostly of an historical nature, concerning which it appeared that a special study would be useful.

The historical information was compiled by trained writers on historical subjects, who (in most cases) gave their services without any remuneration. For the geographical sections valuable assistance was given by the Intelligence Division (Naval Staff) of the Admiralty; and for the economic sections, by the War Trade Intelligence Department, which had been established by the Foreign Office. Of the maps accompanying the series, some were prepared by the above-mentioned department of the Admiralty, but the bulk of them were the work of the Geographical Section of the General Staff (Military Intelligence Division) of the War Office.

Now that the Conference has nearly completed its task, the Foreign Office, in response to numerous enquiries and requests, has decided to issue the books for public use, believing that they will be useful to students of history, politics, economics and foreign affairs, to publicists generally and to business men and travellers. It is hardly necessary to say that some of the subjects dealt with in the series have not in fact come under discussion at the Peace Conference; but, as the books treating of them contain valuable information, it has been thought advisable to include them.

It must be understood that, although the series of volumes was prepared under the authority, and is now issued with the sanction, of the Foreign Office, that Office is not to be regarded as guaranteeing the accuracy of every statement which they contain or as identifying itself with all the opinions expressed in the several volumes; the books were not prepared in the Foreign Office itself, but are in the nature of information provided for the Foreign Office and the British Delegation.

The books are now published, with a few exceptions, substantially as they were issued for the use of the Delegates. No attempt has been made to bring them up to date, for, in the first place, such a process would have entailed a great loss of time and a prohibitive expense; and, in the second, the political and other conditions of a great part of Europe and of the Nearer and Middle East are still unsettled and in such a state of flux that any attempt to describe them would have been incorrect or misleading. The books are therefore to be taken as describing, in general, *ante-bellum* conditions, though in a few cases, where it seemed specially desirable, the account has been brought down to a later date.

G. W. PROTHERO,

*General Editor and formerly*

*Director of the Historical Section.*

January 1920.

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## I. GEOGRAPHY PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL

### (1) POSITION AND FRONTIERS

THE Spanish Sahara (including Rio de Oro) is a district of north-west Africa, extending in a north-easterly and south-westerly direction from the Wad Draa ( $28^{\circ} 45' N.$ ,  $11^{\circ} 4' W.$ ) on the southern frontier of Morocco to Cape Blanco ( $20^{\circ} 46' N.$ ,  $17^{\circ} 3' W.$ ) on the northern frontier of Mauretania. It has a total area of about 100,000 square miles, and is bounded to the west by the sea, and on all other sides by Moroccan and French Saharan territory. Politically it is divided into three zones: (a) The Colony of Rio de Oro, extending from  $26^{\circ}$  to  $21^{\circ} 20'$  north latitude; (b) The Protectorate, between  $27^{\circ} 40'$  and  $26^{\circ}$  north latitude, bounded to the east by the meridian  $8^{\circ} 40'$  west; (c) The Occupied Territory, between  $27^{\circ} 40'$  north latitude and the Wad Draa.

The frontiers, which have never been delimited, were settled by the Franco-Spanish treaties of 1900 and 1904, and confirmed by the agreement of 1912. (a) By the Treaty of Paris of June 27, 1900, the colony of Rio de Oro is bounded to the south by a line beginning midway between the southern point of Cape Blanco and West Bay, running north till it meets  $21^{\circ} 20'$  north latitude, and then east along that parallel to  $13^{\circ}$  west longitude. From this point the eastern frontier describes a curve between the meridians  $13^{\circ}$  and  $14^{\circ}$  west, leaving the salt *sebhka* of Ijil in French territory. From the spot at which this curve regains the meridian  $13^{\circ}$  west the frontier runs north-eastwards to the intersection of the Tropic of Cancer with  $12^{\circ}$  west longitude, and then northwards along that meridian to the parallel  $26^{\circ}$  north, which forms the northern frontier of the colony. The area of the

colony is about 65,500 square miles. (b) By the convention of October 3, 1904, a Spanish protectorate was recognised over the region north of the colony, which is bounded to the south by the parallel  $26^{\circ}$  north, to the north by the parallel  $27^{\circ} 40'$  north, and to the east by the meridian  $8^{\circ} 40'$  west. This zone has an area of about 34,700 square miles. (c) The occupied territory, comprising the South Tekna region and extending northwards from  $27^{\circ} 40'$  north latitude to the Wad Draa and eastwards to  $8^{\circ} 40'$  west longitude, has an area of about 9,890 square miles.

## (2) SURFACE, COAST, AND RIVER SYSTEM

### *Surface*

South of the basin of the Segiet el-Hamra the country is a desert of sand and rock, intensely arid. The general configuration is that of a central table-land (the Tiris) linked with the low coastal plain by a descending series of broken terraces. Between the Tiris and the Moroccan frontier to the north are the sandstone plateaux of El-Akrab and Negshir, the wide valley of the Segiet el-Hamra and its tributaries, and the rugged South Tekna district.

(a) The *Tiris*, a table-land about 1,000 ft. above sea-level, extending from the latitude of Villa Cisneros to Mauretania, is really the western prolongation of the main Saharan plateau. The surface is mostly covered by thin beds of sand and pebbles. The most important range of hills is the Adrar Suttuf, which extends south-west of the Tiris from the parallel of Cape Barbas to the southern frontier of the colony, and attains a height of 1,500 ft. The greater part of the Tiris is a waterless desert, incapable of supporting human life. Sandy depressions or *dayat*, which act as natural reservoirs, occur at intervals, and many of these depressions form salt *sebkhas* in which no vegetation can live. Others are small oases, containing brackish pools or wells, or slimy lagoons.

(b) The *western terraces*.—About sixty miles from the coast, a series of plateaux separated by ravines and depressions descends from the Tiris to the coastal plain and forms the regions known as the Zumul and Suhel el-Abiod. At various points to the north of Rio de Oro the outlying spurs of these terraces approach the sea, forming sandstone hills and cliffs. To the north they are continued by the sandstone plateaux of Negshir and El-Akrab, separating the Tiris from the Segiet el-Hamra valley.

(c) The *coastal plain* consists of a broad belt of slightly undulating sands, broken in the north by low hills, and in the south by dunes running parallel to the shore.

(d) The *Segiet el-Hamra*<sup>1</sup> and *South Tekna*.—The only part of the country which is suited for settlement and could conceivably repay development is the lower basin of the Segiet el-Hamra and its tributaries—a system of wide valleys between the Draa and the Tiris occupying an area of nearly 300 miles broad and 100 miles long. This is the most richly watered region of the Spanish Sahara. The most favoured district is Smara, about 100 miles from the sea; but it is rivalled by the linked series of valleys called Tilems (Tilemsi), which enter the Segiet basin from the south, 58 miles further to the west, and have a length of 100 miles and a width of 6 or 8 miles. The main Segiet valley is almost the only natural line of communication possessed by the Spanish Sahara. The region to the north, or South Tekna, is a rugged country; the depressions are fertile, and adapted to the cultivation of cereals.

### Coast

The coastline, which has a length of about 600 miles between the Draa and Cape Blanco, trends north-east and south-west, and is interrupted by the promontories of Cape Juby and Cape Bojador. The shores are

<sup>1</sup> D'Almonte (*Breve descripción del Sáhara Español*, p. 144) says that in the purest Arabic this should be Sékia el-Hamra ("the red water channel").

mostly low, and fringed with dunes of white sand, with sandstone cliffs. The principal inlets are the estuaries of the Draa and Segiet el-Hamra and one or two lesser *wadis*; the great gulf or bay of Rio de Oro; and the smaller bays of Cintra ( $23^{\circ} 7' N.$ ,  $16^{\circ} 11' W.$ ) and St. Cyprian ( $22^{\circ} 17' N.$ ,  $16^{\circ} 37' W.$ ). Access to the coast from the landward side is difficult except in the valleys of the Draa and Segiet el-Hamra, and access from the sea is hampered by the violent on-shore winds and dangerous surf which prevail in the winter months.

The only natural harbour open to sea-going ships is that of Rio de Oro ( $23^{\circ} 38' N.$ ,  $16^{\circ} W.$ ), a deep inlet running for 21 miles south-south-west and north-north-east between the mainland and the Dajila es-Sahria or Dakhla Peninsula. Its width varies from 4 miles opposite Point Durnford to 8 miles. The entrance is obstructed by a bar. The Spanish settlement of Villa Cisneros is on the peninsula at Point Mudge, about 7 miles north-north-east of Point Durnford. Other anchorages, suitable for small craft, are Tarfaya, south-west of Cape Juby; El-Msit, at the northern mouth of the Segiet el-Hamra; and West Bay, between True and False Cape Blanco on the southern boundary of the colony.

#### *River System*

Only two rivers of importance traverse this region, viz., the *Draa*, which forms in its lower course the northern frontier of the Spanish Protectorate, and the *Segiet el-Hamra*, which enters the sea about 100 miles south of Cape Juby. The *Wad Draa*, 1,000 miles long, draining the Anti-Atlas, never fails of water in its upper course, but in its lower course is dry during the greater part of the year. Water, however, can nearly always be found in the wells, pools, and swamps of the lower bed. The autumn floods only reach the sea every two or three years; but on those occasions the inundations usually recur at intervals throughout the winter, and are followed by abundant harvests.

The *Segiet el-Hamra*, which rises in the hills to the east of the Protectorate, traverses Spanish territory from east to west for 300 miles, and enters the sea midway between Cape Bojador and Cape Juby. During the greater part of the year the bed is dry, but water can be obtained by digging. In its middle and lower courses, the Segiet receives on both banks numerous tributaries. From Smara to the sea many shallow wells with abundant water exist in the river bed, and their number could easily be increased. The mouth of the river, 6 miles wide, is closed by dunes, through which the river when in flood forces its way by several channels, of which the chief is the Boca de Barlovento in the north, on which is the anchorage of El-Msit. Though dry in summer, the Segiet el-Hamra after the autumn rains carries to the sea a great volume of russet-coloured water. In September the stream below Smara gradually rises, until in December and January the floods cover the whole valley. They have great fertilising power.

The only other water-course of any importance is the *Wad Shebika*, which runs parallel to the lower Draa, and enters the sea about 36 miles south-west of its mouth, forming the southern boundary of the Tekna country. Though it only flows for a few weeks in the year, the bed contains permanent pools and swamps, and forms a spot of vegetation in strong contrast to the desert which surrounds it. Numerous small *wadis* taking the drainage of the Tiris cross the coastal plain from east to west, but seldom if ever contain surface water.

### (3) CLIMATE

The most bearable conditions are found on the coast, and the climate of Cape Juby resembles that of the Canaries. Inland, extreme heat and dryness, with great diurnal variations, are experienced. December and January are the coolest, and August the hottest, months.

The maximum summer reading at Villa Cisneros is  $86^{\circ}$  F. ( $30^{\circ}$  C.) and the minimum winter reading  $48^{\circ}$  F. ( $9^{\circ}$  C.). The daily winter range is  $2.5^{\circ}$  to  $5^{\circ}$  F. ( $1.5^{\circ}$  to  $3^{\circ}$  C.), but during spring and autumn it may reach  $26^{\circ}$  to  $30^{\circ}$  F. ( $15^{\circ}$  to  $17^{\circ}$  C.), the average being  $18^{\circ}$  F. ( $10^{\circ}$  C.). At Cape Juby the mean daily range is  $7.6^{\circ}$  F. ( $4^{\circ}$  C.), and the recorded maximum and minimum temperatures, based on twenty years' observation,  $103^{\circ}$  F. ( $38.5^{\circ}$  C.) and  $44^{\circ}$  F. ( $7^{\circ}$  C.). Diurnal variation reaches extreme figures in the interior. A difference of  $86^{\circ}$  F. ( $52^{\circ}$  C.) has been registered in the Agerger between 3 p.m. and sunset. On the plateau south of the Tekna in summer a reading of  $44^{\circ}$  F. ( $7^{\circ}$  C.) at dawn has risen at 3 p.m. to  $118^{\circ}$  F. ( $48^{\circ}$  C.) in the shade.

Rain is irregular and scarce. It is most frequent in the Tekna, where the north-east wind brings heavy autumn and winter showers; but south of the Segiet el-Hamra the annual fall, occurring between August and October, does not exceed 4 inches. On the coast the want of rain is compensated by heavy dews.

High winds prevail on the coast most of the year. The worst weather is from October to December, and at this period the coast can hardly be approached. In summer northerly to north-easterly winds, with comparatively good weather, prevail. South of Cape Bojador the wind blows from the north-east during eleven months of the year, seldom backing beyond north-north-west. An east wind (*harmattan*) is frequent in summer. This is felt at sea as a refreshing land breeze; but inland it brings intense heat and often dangerous sand-storms. On the coast cloudless blue skies prevail during the greater part of the year, but inland the clarity of the sky diminishes, owing to the amount of fine sand suspended in the atmosphere.

#### (4) SANITARY CONDITIONS

Thanks to the dryness of the air and equable climate, Europeans can live on the coast all the year round without great inconvenience, provided the

ordinary rules of health are observed and all risks of sunstroke avoided. In the interior, however, the great variations of temperature are very trying. Tuberculosis, syphilis, and rheumatism are frequent, and malaria is endemic in the few moist spots. Ophthalmia, aggravated by the sand and intense sunlight, is common.

### (5) RACE AND LANGUAGE

#### *Race*

The main population, known as Moors, are Arabs and Arabized Berbers, more or less crossed with negro blood. The Berbers represent the older strain, modified by intimate association with their Arab conquerors. The purest Berber blood is found among the semi-sedentary tribes of the south. The Moorish tribes are nomadic and fluctuate between French and Spanish territory; whilst the Berber tribes of the Tekna confederation are distributed upon the banks of the Draa, their principal *ksur* (villages) being on the Moroccan side.

The dominant tribe is the *Aulad Delim* ("Children of the Ostrich")—Arab warriors, exceedingly wild and turbulent, who range the west of Spanish Sahara and north of Mauretania. They have five divisions, with a total (1915) of 560 tents, or 3,360 persons. Their allies, the *Regeibat*, are Arabized Berbers of *marabut* origin, owning large numbers of camels and horses. Many of them are good agriculturists. They have two divisions, the *Regeibat* of the Tell, or Guassem, usually camping in the Segiet el-Hamra region, and comparatively peacefully inclined, and the *Regeibat* of the Sahel, to the west. The Tell division numbers 2,000 tents, or 12,000 persons, and the Sahel division 2,100 tents, or 12,600 persons.

The once important warrior tribe of *Aulad bes Sbaa* is now only a small group of about 200 tents, or 1,200 persons, generally found in the Tiris or Adrar Suttuf. The chief sedentary tribe of the Tekna appears to be a

division of the *Tajakant*, or *Jakana*, the warrior *marabutin*, who once controlled from Tinduf the whole caravan trade of the western Sahara. They number about 400 hearths, or 2,400 persons, and have 600 guns.

The *Imragen* ("shell-gatherers") are said to be Moorish negroid half-castes or *harratin*, and live on the coast. A group of 800 is attached to Villa Cisneros. Their total numbers are not known.

### *Language*

In the Tekna country both Shilha and Arabic are spoken; south of the Segiet el-Hamra, Arabic only. The Shilha of the Tekna is said to have close affinities with the Zenaga spoken by the Berber tribes of Southern Mauretania.

### (6) POPULATION

The population being almost wholly nomadic, and fluctuating between French and Spanish territory, an accurate estimate of its numbers and density is impossible. According to a rough computation in 1914, it was supposed to amount to about 80,000, or two to the square mile, in the more fertile region between the Draa and the Segiet el-Hamra, and 20,000, or about one to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, in the region south of the Segiet. There are no towns. The only villages are a few *ksur* of the South Tekna, inhabited during the winter months. Permanent camps exist at one or two favourable points. The most important of these is at Smara, which is an oasis, with palm groves, and contains a stone *kasba* (fort), five houses for the *marabutin*, and a large camp of their followers. The Spanish settlement of Villa Cisneros has a citadel with a garrison of thirty European soldiers and a native village containing about 800 Imragen. The official *Anuario General de España* for 1918 gives the population as 1,024 (495 Moors and 529 foreigners).

## II. POLITICAL HISTORY

### CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- 1433-34 Coast explored by Portuguese.  
1479 Portuguese claims in the Canary Islands finally resigned in Spain's favour by the Treaty of Alcaçova.  
1884 Movement in Spain for colonising the Saharan littoral and developing trade and fishery.  
1885 Spanish Protectorate over tract from Cape Bojador to Cape Blanco notified to the Powers. Factory founded at Rio de Oro: attacked and demolished by nomads, but rebuilt and garrisoned.  
1886 Exploring party under Señores Cervera and Quiroga visit the interior towards Adrar et-Tmar.  
1887 Protected territory placed under the administration of the Governor-General of the Canaries. French explorers penetrate to the Adrar.  
1900 Franco-Spanish Convention for delimitation of possessions in West Africa signed; 1901, ratifications exchanged.  
1912 Franco-Spanish Convention signed.  
1913 Convention of 1902 ratified at Madrid, April 2.

#### *Local British Occupation*

- 1875 Initiation of Mr. Donald Mackenzie's scheme for flooding the Western Sahara depression known as El-Juf, and for establishing a trading mart at Cape Juby.  
1880 The Cape Juby station burnt, and replaced by a fort.  
1895 Agreement<sup>1</sup> for the purchase of the North-West Africa Company's property by the Government of Morocco, which was given effect to, and British interests ceased.

#### (1) EARLY SETTLEMENTS

IN the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries of our era Genoese and Mallorcan seamen, notably one Jaime Ferrer, sailed along the north-west African coast as far as Cape Bojador; but the coast lying between Cape

<sup>1</sup> See Hertslet, *The Map of Africa by Treaty*, III, 970.

Bojador and Cape Blanco was first systematically explored by Affonso Gonçalves Baldaya and Gil Eannes, who were sent out from Portugal by Prince Henry the Navigator in 1433-34. The Portuguese soon found more attractive regions farther south, but they formed a station on an island in the Bay of Arguin, just south of Cape Blanco. In 1445 João Fernandes landed at Rio de Ouro (now de Oro), and spent some time among the nomad Mahommedans of the coast, known as Azenegues. He was well treated, but this journey led to no permanent Portuguese occupation. It was otherwise with Spain, whose growing interests in the Canary Islands were finally freed from Portuguese restraint by the Treaty of Alcaçova in 1479, and naturally led her to explore the adjoining coast of Africa.

Beyond the southern confines of the Sultanate of Fez (then claimed by Portugal as under the suzerainty of its Court) political and trading relations between Spain and the Berbers of the Western Sahara existed before the close of the fifteenth century. In 1503 the Casa de Contratación was instituted at Seville; and the sea-borne trade that had begun to spring up between Andalusian ports, the Canaries, and the Berber coast was brought within the new regulations and conducted under the supervision of the Governor of the Canary Islands. But the death of Queen Isabel in the following year, and the rising allurements of America, deprived the African traffic of encouragement; and the pursuit of Spanish interests along the Saharan coast was allowed to lapse for more than three and a half centuries. Nor were those interests taken over permanently by any other nation, though the Portuguese and Hollanders pushed their own commerce farther south. The Spanish fishing fleet has long, however, continued to resort to the *mar chico*;<sup>1</sup> and, with one base at Lanzarote and another at

<sup>1</sup> The *Mar Chico* or *Mar Pequeña* is the "narrow sea" or strait between the African coast and the islands of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura.

the Balearic Isles, its vessels are now met with along the Barbary coast as far south as Cape Blanco (in latitude  $20^{\circ} 46' N.$ ), where the French territory of Senegambia begins. This fishery has become one of the most treasured maritime industries of the Spanish nation.<sup>1</sup>

## (2) ESTABLISHMENT OF SPANISH PROTECTORATE

About the year 1884 all the European colonizing Powers were competing in the partition of Africa; and attention in Spain was drawn to the need for expanding the national commerce and home industries, and securing the "ancient rights" of her subjects abroad. A movement was initiated in Madrid by the *Sociedad Española de Africanistas y Colonistas*, by which a Commissioner, Don Emilio Bonelli, was appointed, with the approval of the Government, to investigate the Saharan littoral southwards from Cape Bojador as far as latitude  $20^{\circ}$  north, to examine its resources, and to treat with the natives. The result of his expedition was the establishment of a Spanish Protectorate over the entire tract from Cape Bojador (latitude  $26^{\circ} 7'$ ) to Cape Blanco (latitude  $20^{\circ} 46'$ ), and the installation of a "factory" or trading depot on the Rio de Oro, an inlet lying about midway between the capes mentioned, in the hope of tapping the commerce of the interior. This venture was organized by the then newly formed *Compañía mercantil hispano-africana*, which appointed Don Eusebio Pontón as its local manager at Rio de Oro.<sup>2</sup>

On January 9, 1885, formal notice was conveyed to the British Foreign Office of the Protectorate thus established, and of the motives which had led His

<sup>1</sup> It is not, however, developed on scientific lines, and is practically at a standstill as regards its profits. (Río Joan, *Africa Occidental*. See also d'Almonte, in *Boletín*, LVI, 1914.)

<sup>2</sup> Lucini, in *Boletín* XXXIII, 1892, p. 90.

Majesty the King of Spain to adopt the step.<sup>1</sup> The intimation was acknowledged by Earl Granville on January 28.

But scarcely had the permanent buildings of the *Compañía mercantil* on the Dajila es-Sahria or Dakhla Peninsula—the tongue of low, arid land which shelters the inlet called Rio de Oro from the ocean—been begun, when its occupants were treacherously attacked, while a market was being held, by a party of nomads from the desert. Some members of the staff were killed, and others detained as hostages for a ransom, which was eventually paid. The goods were all plundered, the wooden store was burnt down, and the beginnings of the projected stone fort were seriously damaged. After this misadventure Señor Pontón was relieved of his charge, and a small garrison was installed, which was replenished at intervals of three months from the Canaries.<sup>2</sup> The company then approached Señor Bonelli, who consented to act as local superintendent for a while. He brought about a great improvement in the conduct of the factory affairs, and in its relations with the natives. The principal objects of barter were merino wool, skins of various animals, flocks and herds, gold in small quantities, ostrich plumes, silver coin, and orchilla.<sup>3</sup> A substantial stone blockhouse, known as the Villa Cisneros, was built and armed, within a walled compound. But the enterprise failed to attract the necessary capital in Spain. Bonelli did not remain long at the factory; and, with his departure, its prosperity rapidly declined.

In 1886 an exploring party was sent out by the Society of *Africanistas*, under Señores Cervera and Quiroga, to obtain more exact information about the interior, its natural history and commercial outlook,

<sup>1</sup> For its text see Hertslet, *The Map of Africa by Treaty*, III 1163.

<sup>2</sup> Lucini, in *Boletín* XXXIII, 1892, p. 91.

<sup>3</sup> Official Report by D. Angel Villalobos, quoted by Lucini in *Boletín* XXXIII, 1892, pp. 91-93.

and to extend Spanish influence towards certain oases in the interior as far as the "Adrar" or highlands. On April 6, 1887, a Decree was signed,<sup>1</sup> placing the protected territory under the charge of the Governor-General of the Canary Islands. That officer promoted other tentative visits to the interior; and some of the explorers reached the confines of the productive and influential region known as the Adrar et-Tmar—the "date groves plateau"—with certain of whose chiefs compacts were made for the fostering of peaceful trade. French explorers were equally alive to the importance of the Adrar, and applied themselves to similar enterprise in competition with the Spanish envoys; but their efforts, it is said, were covertly opposed, in favour of Spain, by a Morabito prophet named Sid Ma el-Ainin, whose religious prestige gave him considerable political influence in western Adrar.<sup>2</sup>

### (3) AGREEMENTS WITH FRANCE

On June 27, 1900, a Convention between France and Spain was signed at Paris for the delimitation of their possessions in West Africa. Ratifications were exchanged in March of the following year. The text of Article I of that treaty<sup>3</sup> defines the boundaries then agreed upon as regards the Saharan claims of the two nations (see above, p. 1). This result was not attained without much discussion, for there was an overlapping of claims respecting the inland boundary, especially in the region of Adrar et-Tmar; and it is asserted that the control of that district nominally secured to France by the Treaty of 1900 had no material existence until the territory in question was invaded, and its reigning chief driven out, by a military force under Colonel Gouraud directed from Senegambia in 1908. Even after that date the Adrar is said to have

<sup>1</sup> Hertslet, *The Map of Africa by Treaty*, III, 1164.

<sup>2</sup> D'Almonte, in *Boletín* LVI, 1914, pp. 278-287.

<sup>3</sup> See below, Appendix, and Hertslet, *op. cit.*, III, 1165.

continued in a state of turmoil until after the death of Ma el-Ainin and the Franco-Spanish Convention of 1912.<sup>1</sup>

This latter treaty contains articles of much importance, certain of which are transcribed in the Appendix.<sup>2</sup> By Article II Spain acquired an extension of her Protectorate northwards as far as to the course of the Wad Draa, with an eastward limit at 11° W. of Paris, a territory roughly known as the Cape Juby tract. Article V carries particular weight, since it holds Spain to an undertaking not to cede or alienate her rights, even as a temporary measure, in or over the whole or any part of her sphere of influence to which this treaty of 1912 relates.

The coast and interior of the Spanish Sahara have remained almost entirely outside the realms of British exploration and commerce, Spain's one competitor having been France. But in 1878 a British trading post was established at Cape Juby by Mr. Donald Mackenzie, acting on behalf of the "North-West Africa Company." In 1880 it was burnt down by the Berbers.<sup>3</sup> A fort of masonry was next built in a position of security on the outlying reef, under the protection of whose guns barter was conducted on the opposite beach. The Spaniards viewed these proceedings with a jealous eye,<sup>4</sup> while the Moroccan authorities looked upon it with unconcealed disfavour, and, by levying exorbitant dues on all the goods sold by the "factory," baffled the company's hopes of attracting caravans from the interior and diverting them from the Moorish marts.<sup>5</sup> The fort was subsequently sold to the Sultan Muley Hassan on terms laid down in an Agreement

<sup>1</sup> D'Almonte, in *Boletín* LVI, 1914.

<sup>2</sup> The complete text is printed in Martens' *Nouveau Recueil général de Traités*, continuation par Heinrich Triepel. 3<sup>e</sup> Série. Tome VII (deuxième livraison), No. 42, pp. 323-333.

<sup>3</sup> *Boletín* X, 1881, pp. 75-76.

<sup>4</sup> *Boletín* V, 1878, p. 301.

<sup>5</sup> Schirmer, *Le Sahara*, pp. 378-9.

made between the British and Moorish Governments.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> D'Almonte, in *Boletín* LVI, 1914, p. 143. The main facts of this transaction are summarized in Hertslet's *The Map of Africa by Treaty*, II, 537, and the Agreement between the British and Moorish Governments signed on March 13, 1895, is printed in Vol. III, p. 970, of the same work. Consult also the Appendices in D. Mackenzie's book, *The Flooding of the Sahara*.

### III. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

#### (1) RELIGIOUS

THE small nucleus of Europeans, officials, and employees of the Government and of the Compañía Trasatlántica who reside at Villa Cisneros (see above, p. 8), are Roman Catholics, and a chapel has been built in that place for their use. The priest in charge is maintained by the company, and figures as one of the staff of the factory.

The more or less fixed native population around the fort and factory, numbering some 800 persons, is Mohammedan; and the nomads who resort to the factory for purposes of trade profess the same faith. Some of the resident natives belong to the Berber caste of *Imragen* and are fishermen by occupation. Most of these are regularly employed by the Compañía Trasatlántica, either on shore or in the fishing fleet and transports. They pay little attention to religious observances. The residents at Villa Cisneros, however, receive occasional visits from "Morabitos" of the interior, who devote themselves to the cultivation and nurture of the Islamic faith, and do not forget to collect the *hedia* (or Koranic impost) leviable by its clerics.

The creed of the general population of the interior of the Spanish Sahara is also that of Islam, most of the people belonging to the sect known as *ehel Berik* (or *Baraka*) *Al-lah*, i.e. the Blessed of God, which came into existence towards the close of the nineteenth century, through the teaching of the learned and influential Morabito prophet Sid Ma el-Ainin, and is still under the leadership of his son El-Hiba. This chief remains one of the two principal magnates of the

Western Sahara, where the majority of fervent Moslems acknowledge him as their Sultan and arch-ecclesiastic, according him the same titles, dignity, and reverence as attach to the Sovereigns of Marrakesh itself. The centre of his influence, religious as well as political, is, or lately was, Smara (about 160 kilometres inland from Cape Juby), which has become in consequence an important commercial focus.

Though all the western Moors pass for Moslems, they by no means all practise their religion with equal fervour. They are described, ethnologically, by Señor d'Almonte as Arabized Berbers, with here and there some admixture of the negro element; and he classifies them under four great divisions: (1) the nobility and warrior caste; (2) the clerics or lettered religious Berbers, known collectively as "Morabitos" or (arabiced) *Tolbas*; (3) the middle classes, owners of flocks and herds, traders, &c., who render tribute to the nobility; and (4) slaves. The Morabitos or *Tolbas* are the instructors and preachers, and conduct religious ceremonies. They learn the Koran by heart; many of them can read the Arabic script, and a fair proportion can write it. These accomplishments are much less general among members of the warrior caste, and still less so among the tributaries, to whom only such prayers are known as are in common use.

The warrior classes often abridge the forms prescribed by the Koran when there does not happen to be a Morabito in their company. The tributaries also neglect their devotions, though they dare not do so openly; their rectitude fluctuates with the temptations of the moment and the opportunities afforded by their entourage for the time being. Even Morabitos themselves and chieftains of highest renown are not always scrupulous, but often fail to keep aloof from roguery; the nomadic habit, which is an essential feature in their existence, favours the committal of delinquencies in respect of property rights.

Nevertheless, if one excepts certain bands of professional marauders, and the hereditary proneness to

theft which survives, especially among the tribe called *Aulad Delim*, but does not lack imitators throughout the Sahara, one cannot but recognise the good influence of many chiefs of Islam in the territory, which operates (though in a more or less attenuated degree) even among the members of the warrior caste. This influence, sanctified by the name of the Prophet, is furthered by innumerable Morabito disciples scattered over the country, who live in the atmosphere of his prestige, but never fail to hold their proselytes under a temporal as well as a spiritual yoke.

### (2) POLITICAL

The administrative government of the territory is subordinate to the Governor-General of the Canary Islands, who is locally represented by a deputy, called the Politico-Military Governor, residing at Villa Cisneros. In 1914 this post was held by Don Francisco Bens Argandoña, whose long experience of the country and knowledge of the people fitted him exceptionally well for it. A medical officer, with a small clinical establishment under his care, is also maintained at Villa Cisneros, and does useful work not only among the European staff of the Government and the factory, but for the native population. There is a small staff of Port and Customs officials, and (it is understood) a chief constructor of public works. The military garrison is there to keep order, and is relieved from the Canary Islands every three months. There do not appear to be any civil officials of the Government resident in the interior, nor is there any Government Council.

### (3) EDUCATIONAL

No systematic public education is conducted under the auspices of the Spanish Government, either at Rio de Oro or elsewhere in the Possession. But the priest of

the chapel at Villa Cisneros (built in 1896) began, soon after his appointment, to instruct a few native youths in the Spanish language and the literature and history of Spain; and the company has since erected a building which he is allowed to use for this purpose.

Among the Moors some secular teaching is combined with Koranic instruction, and given by pedagogues and disciples of the *Tolbas*, or clerical caste (see above, p. 17). Spanish explorers do not seem to have given attention to this subject, and their reports do not touch upon it.

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The future of Spanish Sahara does not appear to promise much success. Lack of fresh water and the consequent infertility of the soil, lack of harbours on the coast, the instability of the native population and of trade, and the laxity of Governmental control combine to make capitalists shy of investing money in this tract of country. In fact, the chief advantage which has hitherto accrued to Spain from its possession is the convenience afforded to the Canary and Balearic Islands' fishing fleets by Rio de Oro, as a curing station and fish depot. As a colony or dependency, and in part a Protectorate of Spain, the country is, to all intents and purposes, still in its infancy. The Rio de Oro inlet is, however, a harbour which might be of considerable strategical importance.

## IV. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

### (A) MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

#### (1) INTERNAL

##### (a) *Paths and Tracks*

VILLA CISNEROS, the chief settlement of Spanish Sahara, is disadvantageously placed as regards trade communications. It is situated on the narrow peninsula of Dajila es-Sahria or Dakhla, about 20 km. from the junction with the mainland; and its position was presumably selected rather for defensive value in case of tribal attacks than with a view to securing facilities of traffic with the natives. Facing it across the inlet, Rio de Oro, is Hasi Aisa, which may be taken as the starting-point of the system of paths and tracks serving the territory.

Three main tracks diverge from Hasi Aisa, one northward and the other two eastward towards the interior. The northward track follows the eastern shore of the inlet for about 30 km. to a place named Uain Texet, where it sends off branch paths right and left. Thence it continues northwards for about 525 km. to El-Aiyn (El Aiun), on the Segiet el-Hamra, and in the same direction for 200 km. further to the neighbourhood of Cape Juby, whence it follows the coast-line north-eastwards to Puerto Cansado, and, passing that anchorage, proceeds to the Wad Draa, where it leaves Spanish territory.

Of the two branches which leave this track at Uain Texet, the right strikes due east to El-Biar Nazara

(Bir Nezara), a distance of 150 km., and then turns north-east, taking a course roughly parallel with that of the main northward track. It crosses the Segiet el-Hamra at Smara, where it bifurcates, one fork continuing northwards to Puerto Cansado, the other striking north-east and passing out of the territory at the Wad Draa. The latter fork and the main northward track, already described, eventually meet at Ifni on the coast. The left branch of the main track, starting from Uain Texet, follows the curved head of the peninsula Dajila es-Sahria, then turns south-west and splits into two parts, the western one following the coast-line of the Atlantic and the other skirting the shore of the inlet. These tracks finally converge upon Villa Cisneros and form a single path to Point Durnford, the termination of the peninsula, 10 km. beyond the town.

The other two main tracks, starting from Hasi Aisa, run in an easterly direction until they enter the French territory of Mauretania. The more southerly of the two, and the longer by about 50 km., passes over the Zug tableland and crosses the boundary about 400 km. from its starting-point. The two tracks eventually converge upon Uadan (Adrar et-Tmar), in French territory.

About 60 km. to the south of Hasi Aisa lies the Bahia de Cintra, an anchorage frequented by fishing craft from the Canary Islands. From it a track runs south to El-Amar, a distance of 160 km., and thence across the French frontier, until it joins the path running inland from Port Étienne to Atar. The latter eventually meets the track from Hasi Aisa to Uadan *via* Zug.

This completes the network of paths serving the province. None of them can properly be termed roads. Further, it must not be supposed that the place-names given are those of towns or villages. They indicate for the most part merely the sites of groups of wells, resorted to as temporary encampments by the nomadic inhabitants so long as water is to be found in them.

(b) *Waterways*

The territory possesses no navigable river. The Rio de Oro, situated near the middle of its coast-line, is only an arm of the sea, about 38 km. in length and from 8 to 11 km. in breadth throughout its navigable portion—the first 25 km. Its entrance from the ocean is about 6 km. across, but this is narrowed on the west by a shifting sand-bank, known as La Sarga, and by another in mid-channel, called El Banco de en Medio. The navigable channel passing between these banks has a depth of about 5 metres of water at the entrance, and thence up to Villa Cisneros a minimum depth of 11 metres. Fifteen kilometres higher up, beside Herne Island, it shoals to 3 metres.

(c) *Railways and Posts*

There are no railways; and since the interior, which has at most three inhabitants per square kilometre, is peopled chiefly by nomadic and hostile tribes, neither postal nor telegraphic arrangements are possible.

(2) EXTERNAL

(a) *Ports*

*Villa Cisneros*, whose population numbers only 1,024, stands on the inlet Rio de Oro. Although the channel is accessible to sea-going vessels of moderate draught, the site which was selected for the factory and fort is very unfavourable to shipping. A former Secretary of State, Señor Castro Cazaleiz, has stated that even a launch of 80 tons cannot approach the landing place at Villa Cisneros, that there is no safe anchorage for sea-going vessels opposite the town, and that consequently it has been found impossible to land the machinery urgently required for public works. The removal of the factory and fort to Point Durnford, at the southern end of the peninsula, has been

repeatedly urged, and has now been for some years under consideration, without any decision being made. The authorities are divided as to whether the defects complained of can be remedied by less costly measures; but the weight of the evidence appears to be against the retention of Villa Cisneros.

*El-Msit*, at the mouth of the Segiet el-Hamra, and *Tarfaya*, about 180 km. further north, are open roadsteads, and their superiority to Villa Cisneros lies mainly in the fact that fresh water can be obtained in their neighbourhood, whereas the drinking water for Villa Cisneros has to be brought in barrels from the Canaries, three months' supply at a time. In the vicinity of *El-Msit* there is pasture-land where cattle-breeding is carried on to an important extent; moreover, nitrate of soda is obtainable. On these grounds Señor Enrique d'Almonte<sup>1</sup> has advised the establishment of a trading centre at this point, at the same time warning the administration not to go to excess in the imposition of customs duties, lest intending traders from the interior should be driven into the adjoining French territory. *Tarfaya* is perhaps safer as a port, but the trade routes taken by the natives whose custom is sought do not pass by it, and the district immediately served by it is too poor to justify any outlay on the part of the mother country.

*Puerto Cansado* lies to the east of Cape Juby. According to Señor d'Almonte, it has a double disadvantage, as compared with *El-Msit*; not only is it almost unapproachable during the winter months (November-March), but it is also exceedingly difficult for any vessel that may have succeeded in entering to make a safe exit. Señor d'Almonte admits that it is susceptible of improvement by dredging, staking, and other operations, but he thinks that no attempt should be made to render *Puerto Cansado* practicable as a port, since, being in the Occupied Territory and not in territory held in absolute sovereignty by Spain, the effect

<sup>1</sup> See list of *Authorities*, p. 34.

would be to attract foreign trade and open up the Sahara to other nations.

### *(b) Shipping Lines*

The factory of Villa Cisneros is the property of the Compañía Trasatlántica de Barcelona, but the vessels of that line do not make it a regular port of call. Postal and passenger communications with Spain are kept up *via* Lanzarote and Palma (Canary Islands), by means of launches and small sailing craft. In 1915 the Government decided to allot a vessel to the colony for this purpose.

### *(c) Cable and Wireless Communications*

The establishment of telegraphic facilities has been under consideration for many years, but, owing to lack of funds, no action has yet been taken. In 1915 Señor Río Joan, the engineer who had been deputed to inspect Villa Cisneros on his way to Spanish Guinea, incorporated his recommendations in a work on the Spanish possessions in West Africa. The fact that the question of the transfer of the fort and factory of Villa Cisneros to Point Durnford was under consideration hampered his investigations; but, in view of the extreme difficulty of landing machinery or heavy ironwork at any part of the peninsula of Dajila es-Sahria, he suggested the indefinite postponement of a wireless installation, and advised that communication with the outside world should be maintained by means of carrier-pigeons, flying between the Colony and the Canaries.

## (B) INDUSTRY

### *(1) Labour*

A considerable proportion of the labour available for recruitment is absorbed by the Compañía Trasatlántica de Barcelona, who have established recruiting arrangements on the mainland in order to supply

their factory at Villa Cisneros and their ocean-going fleet. Recently, however, a rival demand for labour has arisen in connection with the fishing and fish-curing industry, which for centuries past has been maintained in these waters by natives of the Canary Islands, especially of the nearest islands, Lanzarote and Fuerteventura. Formerly a steady supply of trained seamen and fishermen for the fishing fleets was secured by the practice of apprenticing boys from the islands at an early age, but the Spanish Government interfered with this system in the interests of elementary education, and the fishing communities have therefore been obliged to look to the mainland for the recruitment of labour.

### (2) *Agriculture*

Little information is forthcoming as to the agricultural products of the country, as the tribes are for the most part hostile. Wheat, barley, and many varieties of grasses suitable for pasture are grown in the scattered regions where water is available, but probably no more than is required for local consumption in the interior. Camels, horned cattle, sheep, and goats are reared, and are brought down to the coast for sale or barter, together with hides and skins, hair, and wool. From the interior, regions unvisited by Spanish officials or traders, specimens of wood-carving, pipes, &c., are occasionally obtained, indicating the presence of timber, and therefore of a greater degree of fertility in the soil than is to be met with at sea-level. Even in the coast regions, however, there can be found stunted trees and shrubs, such as the *Xisyphus jujuba* and the *Xderi*, providing a hard wood chiefly valuable for charcoal-burning.

### (3) *Fisheries*

There is abundant scope for sea fishery on a commercially remunerative scale. The banks of Arguin, retained by France under the Madrid convention of

November 27, 1912, have long been famous for the abundance and variety of their harvest. The deep water between the Canary Islands and the African Coast, and also the shallow banks fringing the shores of Spanish Sahara, are reputed to be the best fishing-grounds in the world. The bay of Ifni<sup>1</sup>, however, although it has the advantage of being easily accessible from Lanzarote, is said by Señor Lozano Muñoz (see below, p. 35) to be of little value, since it is open and affords no shelter from gales and storms.

The cherne (*Serranus æneus*) and pollack (*Serranus gigas*) are varieties of cod always to be found in abundance, especially on that part of the coast which extends southwards from the Rio de Oro to Cape Blanco. They are reputed to be of finer quality than Newfoundland or North Sea cod, and if their curing were more carefully conducted they would be at least as profitable commercially. Of migratory fish, the salmon, mullet, and sea-bream are plentiful in their season, also the Spanish mackerel (*Scomber colias*), the tunny (*Orcynus thynnus*), and the corvina (*Corvina niger*).

Fishing is carried on by all the Moorish tribes of the Atlantic coast, but on a small scale, with lines and hand-nets only. Those who cannot earn enough to buy a tent live in caves on the shore or build huts of brushwood and seaweed. Their catch is seldom large enough for regular trading purposes.

The Canary Islanders maintain in these waters a fleet of fishing-boats, which might with advantage be increased in number. At present the fleet comprises about seventy-five boats and a small steamer. Some of the vessels are tank-boats, in which the fish is conveyed alive to market in Teneriffe and Grand Canary; in other cases the crews bring with them cargoes of salt, cure and salt the fish on the African coast, and return with it to the islands. The tonnage of the boats varies from 20 to 60 tons. The smaller boats, most of which

<sup>1</sup> For Ifni cf. *Spanish Morocco*, No. 122 of this series.

are owned by natives of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura, cost about 9,000 pesetas (£360); the larger, manned by inhabitants of Tenerife and Grand Canary, carry about twenty-five men each, and cost 18,000 to 20,000 pesetas (£720-£800). Working expenses, including the amortization of the purchase money, run to about 30 pesetas per ton per month.

The best fishing season is between July and October, when a superabundance of fish coincides with almost continuous good weather. The favourite fishing-ground is between Rio de Oro and Cape Bojador. The winds aid the return journey from this part of the coast to the islands, so that it occupies only three days, whereas on returning from the fishing-grounds south of the Rio de Oro there is so much tacking to be done that the homeward voyage takes at least twice as long. This is a serious consideration, as the preliminary salting and curing of the fish on the mainland has to be completed without delay on arrival at the islands.

Much of the potential wealth of these waters is being wasted by the lack of enterprise shown in the fish-curing industry. Señor Castro Cazaleiz expressed himself very emphatically on this point in a speech delivered in the Spanish Cortes. "The factory" (at Villa Cisneros), he said, "has never produced anything but badly prepared fish, fit only for feeding negroes. The complaint brought against all the fish, both from Rio de Oro and from the Canaries, is that it smells rotten, and the reason for this is that it is not properly cleaned at the beginning. Under the auspices of another nation at Fécamp, there is a factory for drying and salting fish, the building of which cost its owners 500,000 francs. Will the Deputies of this house venture to tell me what results they think can be obtained from the Rio de Oro fisheries, with their very modest equipment? And, further, the fishing itself is carried on in a manner quite different from that employed in Newfoundland; for the Canary fishermen adhere to sixteenth-century

methods; they work on so small a scale, and with boats so diminutive, that the fish cannot be transported fresh to the drying-sheds, which are themselves most imperfect."

The factory in question belonged formerly to the Sociedad de Pesquerías Canario-Africanas; on the failure of that enterprise—a failure brought about largely by the lack of adequate financial assistance from the Spanish treasury—it was taken over by the Compañía Trasatlántica de Barcelona. The present company proceeds with great caution, explained by Señor d'Almonte as due partly to the fear of a fate similar to that of its predecessor, and partly to the prudence which would forbid operations on a large scale when all the factors in the case are not known.

Since the year 1913, the practice of exporting the fish in brine has been completely abandoned. The dried fish are now placed in rectangular moulds and submitted to moderate pressure; they are then tied in bundles and covered with sacking, the average weight of each bundle being 50 kg. The prices realized in the markets vary according to the fish which the bundles contain. The cherne, a fish of 5–10 kg. in weight, gives the best quality of African cod, though the sama, or sea-bream, whose weight varies from 5 to 15 kg., is only slightly inferior. Another variety commonly included in the bundles is the chacarona (*Dentex canariensis*), weighing from 4 to 6 kg. In Fernando Po the 50 kg. bundles usually sell at 20 pesetas, but when they contain sama or cherne they realize as much as 30 pesetas, while if they contain only chacarona their selling price is 16 pesetas.

The greater part of the produce is sent to the markets of West Africa *via* Spanish Guinea. There the price fluctuates between 450 and 500 francs per metric ton. Smoked fish realizes from 600 to 650 francs per ton, and Norwegian stock-fish 800 to 900 francs. In 1909 the output of fish, including a certain amount exported in brine, was 2,483 metric tons, according to statistics published by the Ministry of

State. If this figure is correct, the industry must have suffered severely between that year and 1913, for the figures for the latter year, as given by Señor Río Joan, show a total of only 260 tons, or roughly one-tenth of those for 1909.

Señor d'Almonte states that oil is extracted from the livers of the larger fish; but, generally speaking, the neglect of by-products in the fish industry has been lamentable. It has been found easy to extract fish-oil from the parts cut away, at the rate of 70 or 80 litres of oil per metric ton, and to utilize the residue as fish manure; normally, however, the parts discarded are thrown away. By a similar process use might be made of the coarse non-edible varieties of fish often caught in these waters, as, for example, sharks and hammer-heads. Further, the immense quantities of lobsters, cray-fish, crabs, and prawns that are available, some of special excellence in flavour, have been very largely neglected. The skin of the dog-fish (*Scyllium canicula*) used to be exported to Germany to be used for the graining of fine leather; a market might now be found for it elsewhere.

#### (4) Minerals

The only mineral product of which the source is known is nitrate of soda, obtained from El-Msit and the vicinity. Gold-dust is brought down to the coast, as also are gold coins and gold and silver jewellery, but no further information regarding them is obtainable.

### (C) COMMERCE

#### (a) Economic Penetration

The possibilities of economic penetration of the territory by Spain or by other nations are limited by the very imperfect authority exercised by the administration over the interior. Until this authority has been extended, the caravan trade and the supply

ing of the markets of the interior with imported goods must remain in the hands of the natives. Progress will also be hampered as long as the home Government imposes restrictions upon foreign trade with the interior, and continues to view with extreme caution any schemes for the improvement of the coast ports (see above, p. 22). That so rich and powerful a company as the *Compañía Trasatlántica de Barcelona*, with great ecclesiastical influence at its back, should find the scope of its enterprise limited by considerations of this kind, shows how difficult it would be for foreign capitalists to embark at present on any commercial undertakings in this region, however favourable the natural conditions might be.

(b) *Exports and Imports*

Tables showing the quantities and values of the principal exports and imports are given below. The total value of the exports from Spanish Sahara in the year 1913, by the sea coast, was 100,598 pesetas (£4,020), and of the imports 106,146 pesetas (£4,250). The exports consisted entirely of fish and fish products. The chief articles of import were food, clothing, drinking water, and cartridges.

No information is forthcoming as to customs and tariffs. The *Anuario General de España* contains no indication that the general tariff in force for Spain and the Balearic Islands or the special tariff for Spanish Guinea has been applied to Spanish Sahara.

QUANTITIES AND VALUES OF EXPORTS, 1913.

	Kilogrammes.	Pesetas.
Fish .. .. .	259,517	100,483
Fish manure .. .. .	920	115
Total .. .. .	..	100,598

## QUANTITIES AND VALUES OF IMPORTS, 1913.

	Kilogrammes.	Pesetas.
Boats and accessories .. .. .	2,380	1,175
Boots and shoes .. .. .	75	300
Building materials .. .. .	31,421	2,200
Cartridges (Mauser) .. .. .	3,300	9,000
Cases and packing materials .. .. .	4,725	5,060
Cereals .. .. .	3,900	982
Coal .. .. .	28,000	1,885
Drinking water .. .. .	400,000	2,948
Foodstuffs .. .. .	107,176	50,202
Hardware.. .. .	1,289	2,024
Live-stock .. .. .	—	225
Petroleum .. .. .	2,800	750
Salt .. .. .	57,500	4,764
Spirituous liquors .. .. .	4,356	1,742
Textiles .. .. .	2,243	10,496
Tobacco .. .. .	410	850
Wines .. .. .	2,309	1,123
Miscellaneous .. .. .	12,576	10,420
Total .. .. .	—	106,146

## (D) FINANCE

No information is available as to the budget returns for the territory. No banking is done. Trade is conducted both in the Spanish national currency and in *Hassani* currency, as in Spanish Morocco.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 130-135 Hassani pesetas = 100 francs.

## APPENDIX

### I. CONVENTION BETWEEN FRANCE AND SPAIN FOR THE DELIMITATION OF THEIR POSSESSIONS IN WEST AFRICA.

*Signed at Paris, June 27, 1900.*<sup>1</sup>

[*Ratifications exchanged at Paris, March 22, 1901.*]

*Article I.*—Sur la côte du Sahara la limite entre les possessions Françaises et Espagnoles suivra une ligne qui, partant du point indiqué par la carte de détail (A) juxtaposée à la carte formant l'Annexe 2 à la présente Convention, sur la côte occidentale de la péninsule du Cap Blanc, entre l'extrémité de ce cap et la baie de l'ouest, gagnera le milieu de la dite péninsule, puis, en divisant celle-ci par moitié autant que le permettra le terrain, remontera au nord jusqu'au point de rencontre avec le parallèle 21° 20' de latitude nord. La frontière se continuera à l'est sur le 21° 20' de latitude nord jusqu'à l'intersection de ce parallèle avec le méridien 15° 20' ouest de Paris (13° ouest de Greenwich). De ce point, la ligne de démarcation s'élèvera dans la direction du nord-ouest en décrivant, entre les méridiens 15° 20' et 16° 20' ouest de Paris (13° et 14° ouest de Greenwich), une courbe qui sera tracée de façon à laisser à la France, avec leurs dépendances, les salines de la région d'Idjil, de la rive extérieure desquelles la frontière se tiendra à une distance d'au moins 20 kilomètres. Du point de rencontre de la dite courbe avec le méridien 15° 20' ouest de Paris (13° ouest de Greenwich) la frontière gagnera aussi directement que possible l'intersection du Tropique du Cancer avec le méridien 14° 20' ouest de Paris (12° ouest de Greenwich), et se prolongera sur ce dernier méridien dans la direction du nord.

Il est entendu que, dans la région du Cap Blanc, la délimitation qui devra y être effectuée par la Commission Spéciale visée à l'Article VIII de la présente Convention s'opérera de façon que la partie occidentale de la péninsule, y compris la baie de l'ouest, soit attribuée à l'Espagne et que le Cap Blanc proprement dit et la partie orientale de la même péninsule demeurent à la France.

<sup>1</sup> Hertslet, *The Map of Africa by Treaty*, No. 359, III, 1165.

II. CONVENTION EN VUE DE PRÉCISER LA SITUATION  
RESPECTIVE DES DEUX PAYS À L'ÉGARD DE  
L'EMPIRE CHERIFIEN

*Signée à Madrid, le 27 novembre, 1912.<sup>1</sup>*

*[Ratifications échangées à Madrid, le 2 avril, 1913.]*

[Extract.]

*Article II.*— . . . . Au sud de Maroc, la frontière des zones française et espagnole sera définie par le thalweg de l'Oued Draa, qu'elle remontera depuis la mer jusqu'à sa rencontre avec le méridien 11° ouest de Paris; elle suivra ce méridien vers le Sud jusqu'à sa rencontre avec le parallèle 27° 40' de latitude N. Au sud de ce parallèle, les Articles V et VI de la Convention du 3 octobre, 1904, resteront applicables. Les régions marocaines situées au nord et à l'est de la délimitation visée dans le présent paragraphe appartiendront à la zone française.

*Article V.*—L'Espagne s'engage à n'aliéner ni céder sous aucune forme, même à titre temporaire, ses droits dans tout ou partie du territoire composant sa zone d'influence.

<sup>1</sup> Martens, *Nouveau Recueil général*, continuation par H. Triepel. 3<sup>e</sup> Série, VII, No. 42, p. 323. Cf. also *Journal officiel*. 1913, No. 92.

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N.B.—In the above list *Boletin* means the *Boletin de la Real Sociedad Geográfica de Madrid*; and *Revista* means the *Revista de Geografía Colonial y Mercantil* of the same society.

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### MAPS.

Spanish Sahara is covered by the War Office map of "Rio de Oro and the Ifni Enclave" (G.S.G.S., 2921), on the scale of one inch to 56 miles (1919).

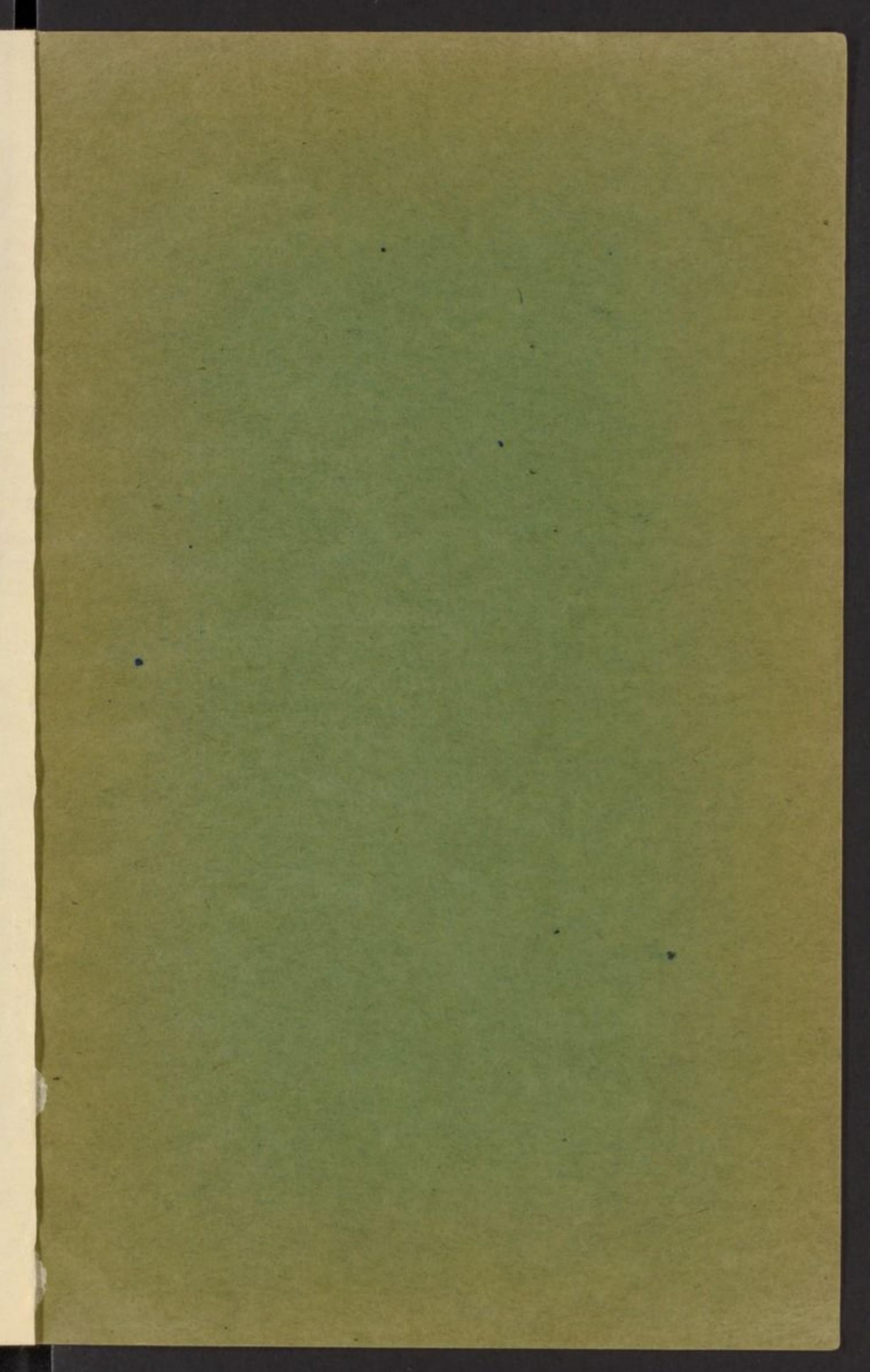
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