



Germany and Palau

Didellel a klauserechakl | Reciprocal Relationships

Important People during the Time of the German Administration

Acquiring German Citizenship. The Case of Pedro Ada in Saipan

a. The original application | Yokohama, April 7, 1904

The undersigned Chamorro Pedro Ada, protégé of the Reich with permanent residence on Saipan, obediently asks for himself and his wife by church wedding Maria, née Martinez, to be granted Reich citizenship, excluding however, the children he has so far who are all minors. I was born February 17, 1866 on the island of Guam at the time under Spanish rule; my wife [was born] *ibid.*, February 10, 1867. The two of us are of Catholic creed. In 1893, that is before Guam was occupied by the United States of North America, I migrated with my whole family to Saipan, where I have been residing permanently since. Neither myself nor my wife hold Spanish or any other citizenship.

[Sgd.] Pedro Ada.

b. The accompanying letter by the District Officer | Yokohama, April 7, 1904

I herewith hand in an application by the German protégé Pedro Ada from Saipan to be granted Reich citizenship. His statements in regard to his and his wife's personal affairs are correct. Certificates ... are not included, but might perhaps be supplied subsequently. As the matter is of urgency, however, and having regard to the fact that the circumstances are not complicated, I ask to leave out of account the presentation of birth or marriage certificates. Pedro Ada is the most respected of our Mariana natives, of proven probity, a reliable supporter of German rule. He has a certain education and as a pure Chamorro he belongs to the most civilized of all South Seas natives.

He is entirely worthy of Reich citizenship. Pedro Ada is lessee of a number of islands that belong to the district of Saipan and he transports his products to Japan on his own ships. Currently the co-lessee is Japanese. Thus, the ships fly the Japanese flag. From January 1, 1905 on, however, the Japanese will leave as a co-lessee; the ships will be signed over to Ada, thus they cannot fly the Japanese flag anymore. In the first instance, Ada's application to receive Reich citizenship is designed to enable him to fly the imperial flag on his ships and in this way continue his business altogether. ...

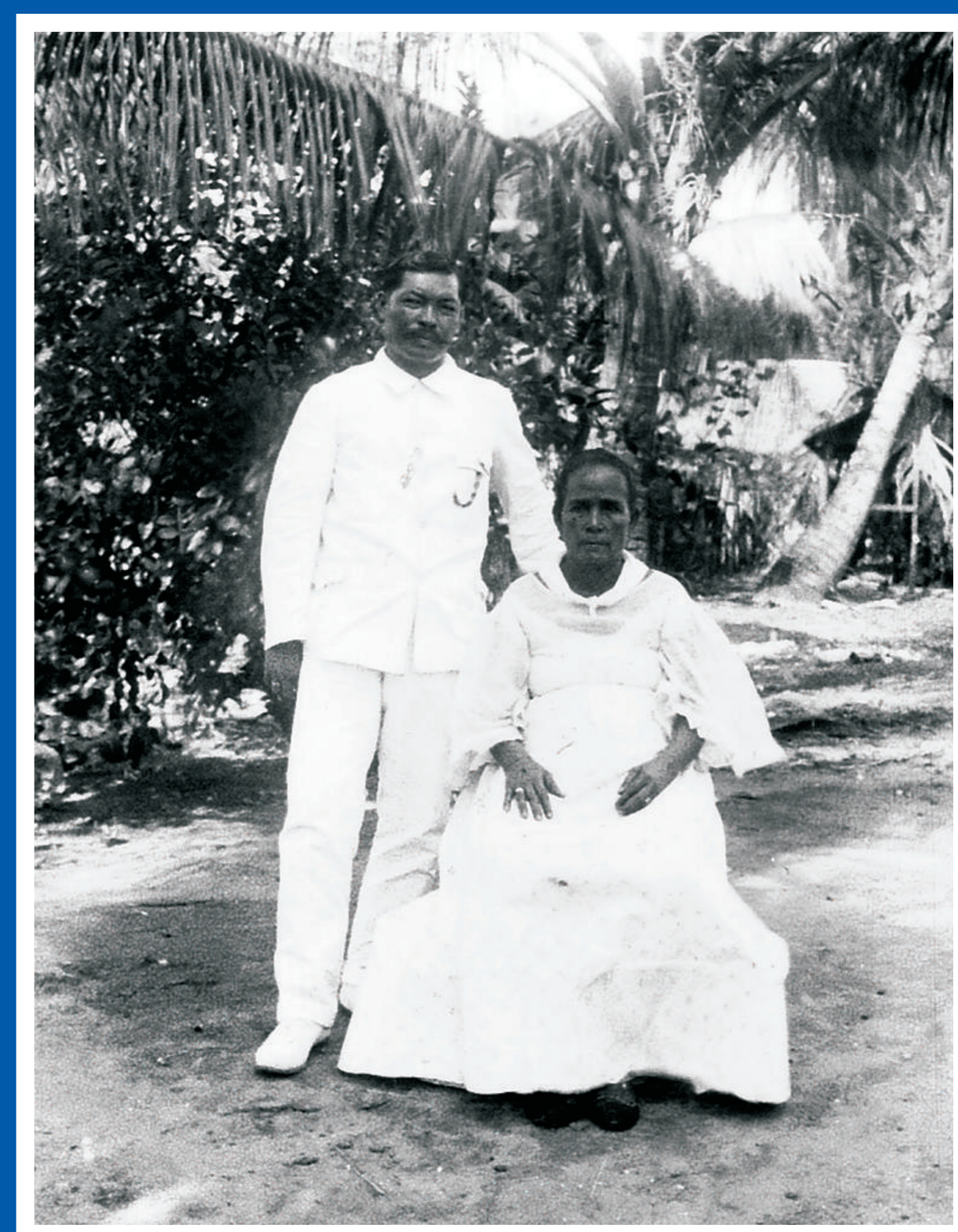
Ada asks to leave out his under-age children from registration [as Reich citizens]. He has three sons who are nineteen, eighteen and fourteen years of age. Military service that would result from Reich citizenship would put a too heavy financial burden on the father. The two eldest have already served in the police troop on Saipan for one year. ...
[Sgd.] Fritz

c. The bestowal of German citizenship | Saipan, November 23, 1904. Upon ordinance K. 7280 of May 28, 1904.

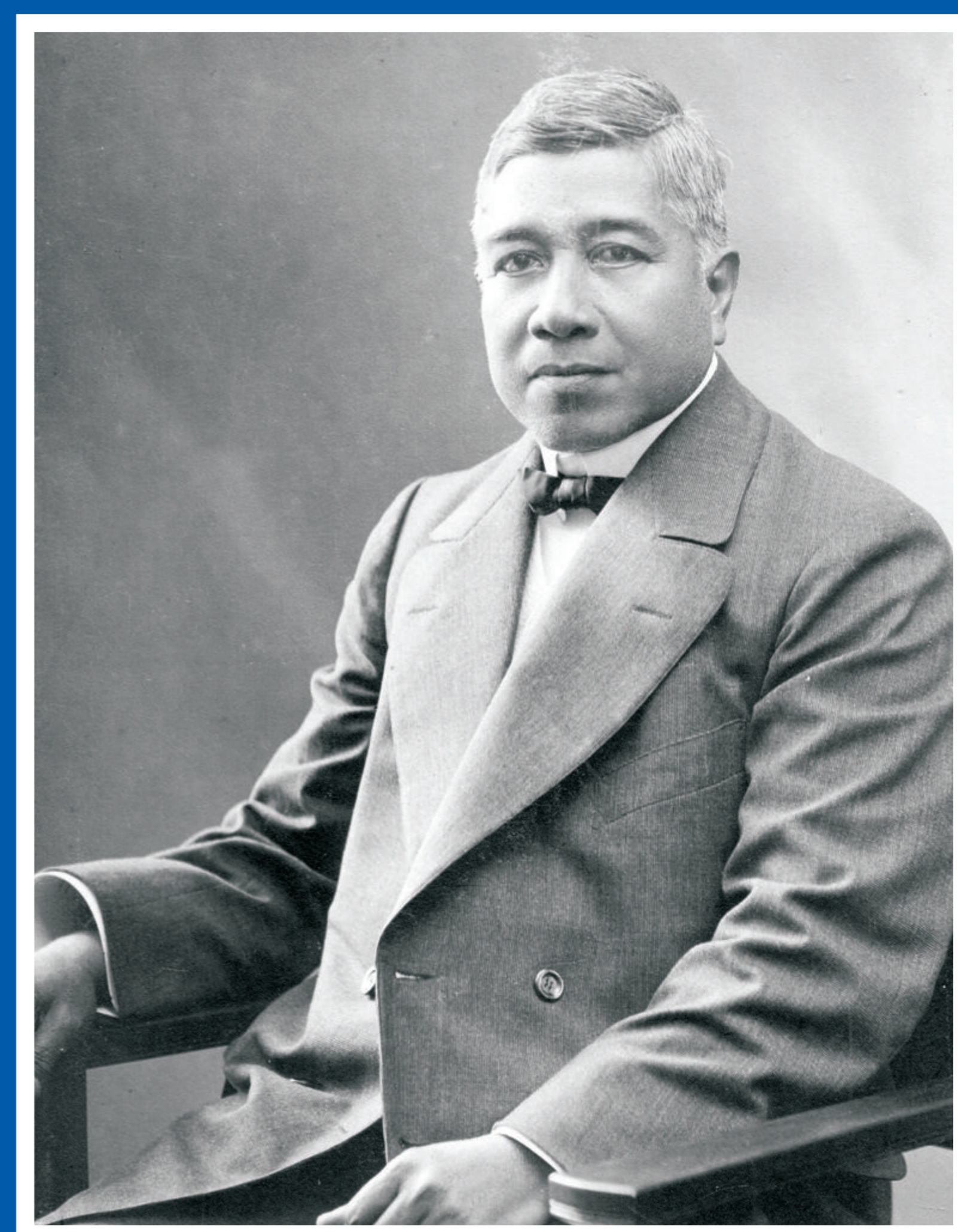
The Chamorro Pedro Ada in Saipan was handed the naturalization certificate intended for him and the act hereof registered in the deed appended. Ada was instructed that imperial citizenship also extends to his wife.

Fritz, Imperial District Officer.

To the Foreign Office Colonial Section, Berlin



Pedro Pangelinan Ada and his wife Maria Crisostomo Martinez, the only Pacific Islanders to gain German citizenship during the German period



Josef Martinez Ada (1885-1955)