

Herero and Namaqua genocide

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Part of [Herero Wars](#)

Location	German South West Africa , modern day Namibia
Date	1904-1908
Target	End Resistance from Herero , Saan and Namaqua peoples
Attack type	Genocidal massacre , starvation , concentration camps , human experimentation
Deaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24,000^[1] to 100,000^[2] Hereros killed• 10,000^[3] Namaqua killed
Perpetrators	Lieutenant General Lothar von Trotha and the German colonial forces
Motive	white supremacy , collective punishment, German colonialism , German imperialism

In the **Herero and Namaqua Genocide** (1904-1907), [soldiers](#) of the [German Empire](#) killed and [displaced](#) tens of thousands of [Herero](#) and [Nama](#) people during the [scramble for Africa](#). This happened in what is today called [Namibia](#). At the time, the area was part of a [colony](#) called [German South West Africa](#). The Herero and Nama were [ethnic groups](#) that were [indigenous](#) to this area.

[Historians](#) think this was the first [genocide](#) of the [20th century](#).^{[4][5][6][7][8]} It is also an example of an [ethnic cleansing](#).

The genocide

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On January 12, 1904, the Herero people, led by Samuel Maharero, [rebelled](#) against [German colonial rule](#). They were defeated that August by German [general Lothar von Trotha](#) at the [Battle of Waterberg](#).

German soldiers drove the Herero into the [desert](#) of [Omaheke](#), and did not allow them to return home. The Herero were now [refugees](#). Most of them died in the desert from [thirst](#) ([dehydration](#)).

Similar things happened to the [Nama people](#) when they rebelled against the Germans in October 1904.

Deaths

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Between 24,000 and 100,000 Herero died in the genocide; so did 10,000 Nama.^{[9][10][11][1][12]} Many people died from [starvation](#) and thirst because people who fled the violence were not allowed to go back to their homes in the [Namib Desert](#).

Some sources claim that the German colonial [army](#) regularly [poisoned](#) desert [wells](#).^{[13][14]}

After the genocide

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According to the [United Nations'](#) 1985 [Whitaker Report](#), this was an attempt to kill all Herero and Nama people: one of the first genocides in the 20th century.

In 2004 the German government admitted that the Herero and Namaqua genocide happened, and they apologized. However, they did not give any [compensation](#) to the victims' relatives.^[15]

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References

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- ↑ According to the 1985 United Nations' Whitaker Report, some 65,000 Herero (80% of the total Herero population) and 10,000 Nama (50% of the total Nama population) were killed between 1904 and 1907.
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