



*I, THE GREAT
GENERAL OF
THE GERMAN
TROOPS, SEND
THIS LETTER TO
THE HERERO
PEOPLE.*

*The Herero are no
longer German sub-
jects. They have mur-
dered and stolen, they
have cut off the ears,*

*noses and other body-parts of wounded soldiers, now
out of cowardice they no longer wish to fight. I say to
the people: Anyone who delivers a captain will receive
1000 Mark, whoever delivers Samuel will receive 5000
Mark.*

*The Herero people must however leave the land. If
the populace does not do this I will force them with
the Groot Rohr [Cannon]. **Within the German
borders every Herero, with or without a gun,
with or without cattle, will be shot.** I will no
longer accept women and children, I will drive them
back to their people or I will let them be shot at.*

These are my words to the Herero people.

The great General of the mighty German Kaiser

*General Lothar von Trotha's proclamation to the Herero people, issued on
October 2, 1904, translated by Jan-Bart Gewald*

**WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT.
A PAMPHLET ABOUT
THE HERERO OF NAMIBIA,
FORMERLY KNOWN AS
SOUTHWEST AFRICA,
FROM THE GERMAN
SUDWESTAFRIKA,
BETWEEN THE YEARS
1884 - 1915**



WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT... A TIMELINE...1884-1915

UNITED STATES

- 1884:** Cleveland elected president.
- 1886:** The American Federation of Labor is established and enforces an 8-hour work day.
- 1888:** Harrison elected president.

1889: Four new states are added to the Union: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington.

1890: The Mississippi Plan disenfranchises blacks throughout the state with tests at the polls-- six other Southern states would adopt similar measures over the next two decades. The National American Woman Suffrage Association is founded. Idaho and Wyoming become states.

1892: President Cleveland elected.

1894: 134 lynchings of black Americans are recorded, the highest known number to occur in a single year in US history.

1896: McKinley elected president. Jim Crow segregation laws for "separate but equal" facilities are validated by the Plessy vs. Ferguson case in the Supreme Court.



1898: The Spanish-American War begins-- sixteen regiments of volunteers are black and five black Americans go on to win Medals of Honor.



NAMIBIA

1884: Germany colonizes the area that is now Namibia; calls it German Southwest Africa

1885 - 1888: The military governor, Major Theodor Leutwein, knows nothing about Africa. He begins playing the Nama and Herero tribes off each other. White settlers continue to arrive and push tribesmen off their land with bribes and unreliable deals.

1889: The first German protective troops are sent to South West Africa in response to the Herero's growing hostility. They are not meant for combat, but as a police force.



Depiction of German troops fighting the Herero by German artist Richard Knotel

1896: There are only about 2000 German settlers in German Southwest Africa

Late 1890s: A cattle-virus epidemic kills many of the Herero's cows. The colonists offer the Herero aid on credit, and they amass huge debts.



Nama family circa 1900

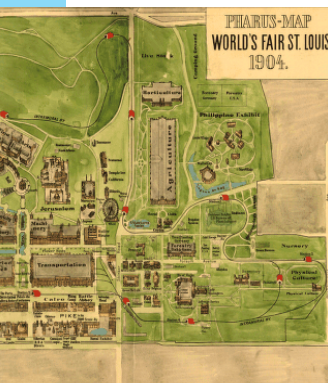
1901: President McKinley is assassinated in Buffalo, NY and is succeeded by Theodore Roosevelt.



Booker T. Washington becomes the first black man to dine with the president at the White House at the invitation of Roosevelt.



1904: The Louisiana Purchase Exposition World's Fair takes place in St. Louis, MO from April to December.



1903: The Nama begin a rebellion led by Hendrik Witbooi and Jacob Morenga. Despite being greatly outnumbered, they use guerrilla tactics. They are joined by the Herero months later.

1904: The Herero rebel, attacking German outposts under the leadership of Samuel Maherero. The German Emperor replaces Major Leutwein with another commander, Lieutenant-General Lothar von Trotha, who had a reputation for brutally suppressing African resistance to German colonization in East Africa.

August 11, 1904: German troops, led by von Trotha, defeat the Herero forces in the Battle of Waterberg, effectively ending the rebellion. Survivors are driven into the desert and not allowed to return to their homes.

October 2, 1904: von Trotha issues his extermination order.

1904-1907: The Herero are systematically killed by the German soldiers and by disease and starvation in the desert. Survivors are sent to labor camps, where many women are raped and forced to perform sexual services for soldiers. Many Herero people in the camps are also used as human subjects for lab experiments designed to prove the racial inferiority of black people. The Nama are also put in camps at this point. At Shark Island, considered to be the most brutal of the concentration camps, German soldiers would send Herero skulls to Berlin where they would be studied by scientists. The process is depicted here on a postcard:



Eine Kiste mit Herero-Schädeln wurde überliefert von den Truppen in Deutsch-Süd-West Afrika besetzt und an das Pathologische Institut zu Berlin gebracht, wo sie zu wissenschaftlichen Untersuchungen verwendet wurden. Die Schädel, die von Herero-Geiseln mittels Glasfasern vom Fleisch befreit und weichenfähig gemacht wurden, kamen von gefangenen oder gefallenen Hereros.

1907: The US hosts the World Expo in Norfolk, VA in honor of the 300th Anniversary of the Jamestown settlement-- the highlight exhibition is focused on railroads. Oklahoma becomes the 46th state.

1908: President Taft elected.

1909: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded to restore legal rights of African-Americans.

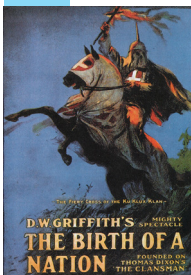


1910: Baltimore introduces segregated city neighborhoods for whites and blacks; other cities follow suit.

1912: President Wilson elected. New Mexico and Arizona are admitted as states.

1913: The Wilson administration begins government-wide segregation of work places, restrooms, and lunch rooms. The 50th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation is celebrated throughout the country. Suffragettes form demonstrations for women's rights in Washington, D.C. and London.

1915: The Superior Court in Fulton County, GA accepts the charter for the official establishment of the Ku Klux Klan. The highly controversial, racist film "The Birth of a Nation" is released in the US, chronicling two families in the Civil War and the founding of the Ku Klux Klan in a positive light. It is a commercial success, despite violent protests and an attempt from the NAACP to have the film banned. It becomes the first movie to ever be screened at the White House.



1905: In the face of growing criticism at home and abroad, von Trotha's orders are withdrawn and he returns to Germany, where he is greeted as a hero.

1907-1908: The camps are closed. The Herero population has been reduced from 80,000 to 15,000. 30-50% of the Nama have also been killed.



Female prisoners pulling a cart on narrow-gauge rails

Herero women forced into labour circa 1904



Herero women forced into labour circa 1904

July 1914: Tensions mount between European countries, and World War 1 begins.

August 4, 1914: Great Britain declares war on Germany

September 1914: At the request of the British government, South African forces attempt to invade German Southwest Africa for the first time but are defeated by German forces in the Battle of Sandfontein.

June 1915: South African forces, acting under the British government, force the Germans to surrender after months of fighting. South Africa occupies the territory.