

UCSB Hist 133D 2010, L 3:
Colonial Genocide: Namibia

- Roll call & Enrollment at end; textbook order
1. The European Context
 2. Germans in Southwest Africa
 3. Genocide in Namibia, 1904-1908

Genocide: Criteria

- Annihilation, destruction, murder
 - Systematic, planned
 - Violent, forced
- Does it depend on:
- Deliberate, intentional?
 - Type of group? (justification)

European History (textbook)

- Enlightenment
- French Revolution
- Rise of nationalism
- Pogroms & antisemitism in late 1800s
- "Pale of settlement" & Czarist Russia
- Theodor Herzl & Zionism
 1896: *The Jewish State*

Europeans in Africa

- **1800s: exploration & resources:**
 copper, cotton, rubber, palm oil, cocoa, diamonds, tea, tin
- **1871: Diamond rush in South Africa**
 24 German states united to 1 Empire
- **1873-1896: "Long Depression"**
- **1884-85: Bismarck's Congo Conf. in Berlin**
 1885, Dr. Heinrich Göring:
 "We demand a place where the sun is shining."
- **1886: Witwatersrand Gold Rush**
 1888: Cecil Rhodes merges to De Beers Consol. Mines
 1899, Oct. – 1902 May: 2nd Boer War
 3rd phase, March 1900: Guerilla war & c.c.s

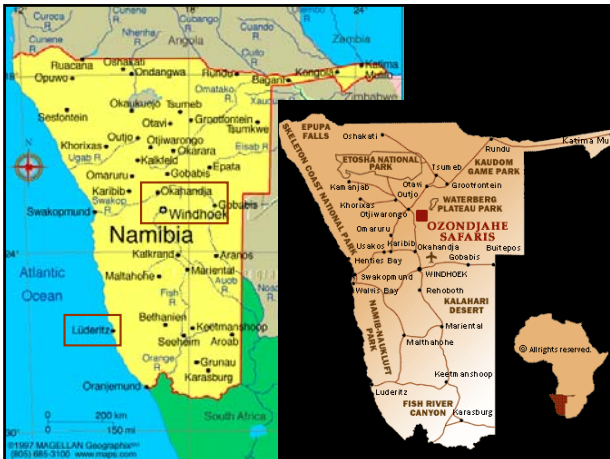
1884-85 "Congo Conf." in Berlin



14 signatories: A-H, Belg., Denm., Fr, UK, It., NL, Port., Russia, Spain, Swed+Norway, Ottoman Emp, [US]

German Southwest Africa

- **1840s: Germans arrive:**
 Missionaries, settlers, soldiers
- **1883: Bethanie people sell land to Adolf Lüderitz**
- **1884-1892: settlement period**
 Missionaries become involved in intertribal conflicts
 Dr. Goering calls for gov't to protect interests of "German Colonial company for South West Africa"
- **1889: Bismarck sends Captain Curt von François**
- **1892: Treaty between Samuel Maherero & Hendrik Witbooi (Nama chief)**
- **1893, March 1: Caprivi declares GSWA a colony**
- **1894: Theodor Leutwein replaces v. François**
- **1896: great cattle plague & die-off**



Letters

- 1903: Witbooi to Mahrero (intercepted by Leutwein): “Rather let us die together and not die as a result of ill-treatment, imprisonment, or all the other ways...Make haste that we may storm Windhuk—then we shall have enough ammunition. I am furthermore not fighting alone, we are all fighting together.
- 1904: Witbooi to Leutwein: Nama saw Germans as invaders had taken their land, deprived them of their rights to pasture their animals on it, used up their scanty water supplies, and imposed alien laws and taxes...

Timeline 1904

- Jan. 12: Attack on Okahandja
- Jan. 12: German mobilization
 - 300 +300 reservists;
 - Jan. 18: 50+3 from “Hawk” in Capetown
 - Feb. 3: 2,260 troops from Germany
- Samuel Herero’s motto:
 - “I fight – kill all Germans!”
 - 2 days later: “...not women, children, missionaries, Boers or Englishmen”
- May 11: v.Trotha sent to replace Leutwein
- June 11: arrives, martial law
- Aug. 11-12: turning point



Lothar von Trotha
(1848-1920)

Prussian army
German East Africa
China’s Boxer Rebellion

Von Trotha’s Oct. 2 Declaration

- "Within the German borders, every Herero, whether armed or unarmed, with or without cattle, will be shot. I shall not accept any more women or children. I shall drive them back to their people — otherwise I shall order shots to be fired at them."
- "I know enough tribes in Africa. They are all alike insofar as they only yield to violence. My policy was, and is, to exercise this violence with blatant terrorism and cruelty."

Trotha & the Nama

- 1905, April 22: “The Nama who chooses not to surrender and lets himself be seen in the German area will be shot, until all are exterminated. Those who, at the start of the rebellion, committed murder against whites or have commanded that whites be murdered have, by law, forfeited their lives. As for the few not defeated, it will fare with them as it fared with the Herero, who in their blindness also believed that they could make successful war against the powerful German Emperor and the great German people. I ask you, where are the Herero today?”
- 10,000 killed; 9,000 in concentration camps (Shark Island)

Kaiser Wilhelm II's Response

- 1900, July 2, on Boxers in China: :
“When you come upon the enemy, smite him. Pardon will not be given. Prisoners will not be taken. Whoever falls into your hands is forfeit.”
- 1905, Nov. 28 (11?), Reichstag:
“I warmly thank the troops ... who defended our territories with heroic courage.”

Numbers

- 180 German civilians killed
- 1,282 German colonial troops died
(1/3 in fighting, rest=800+ from disease)
- **1894 estimate: 244,000 Natives**
100,000 Ovambos
80,000 Herero
20,000 Nama
40,000 Bushmen → 4,000 others
- 1906: 26,000 Herero prisoners (15,000+ POWS)
- **1911 census: 82,000 natives**
60,000 Ambos
21,500 Herero



Herero couple, 1890s

Herero POWs, ca. 1906



caption

Captured Herero family during the genocide



The Filter of Time

- 1917 “blue book” by British Major Thomas Leslie O’ Reilly: “Report on the Natives of South West Africa and their Treatment by Germany”
 - Brutal daily punishments, rape
 - Germany can’t own colonies
- 1926: book declared “propaganda” by Britain & S. Africa
 - Why? South Africa had same policy...