

# Genocide Rememberance

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Grade - 9th Grade(Freshmen)

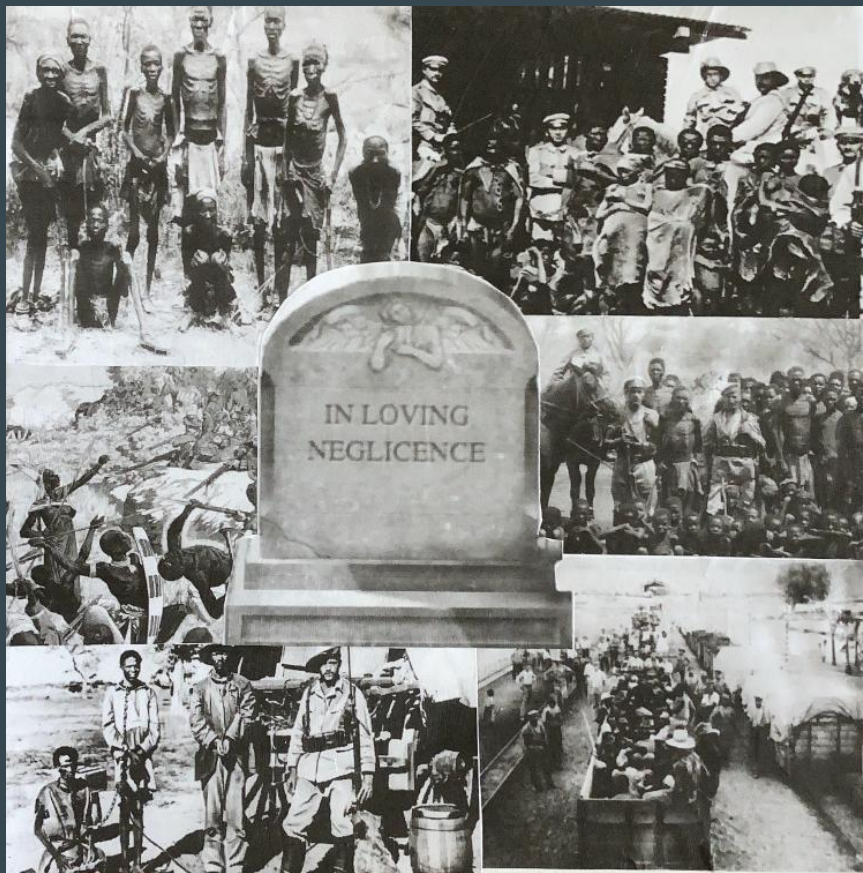
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Project Title - Namibia: The Forgotten Genocide

# Namibia: The Forgotten Genocide



# Artist's Statement

For my Genocide Remembrance Project, I chose to study the 1904 Namibia genocide. Between 1904 and 1907, Germany invaded the land of the indigenous Nama and Herero tribes of Namibia to gain more agricultural control. They attacked viciously and mercilessly for 3 years, against 2 tribes that had much less military size, coordination, and strength. Beyond killing them in battle for their land, they took them as hostages and committed terrible acts. The indigenous tribes people were beaten, subjected to sexual violence, had medical experiments done on them, were forcefully starved and dehydrated, and were sent to concentration camps. Many believe that this genocide laid the blueprints for the Jewish Holocaust in the 1930s. What was worse than everything that happened to these people, is that the world largely forgot about their suffering, because the shortly after, Germany became much more well known for its genocide against European Jews.

What struck me about this event was that Germany over a century to formally admit to and apologize for their atrocities. I wanted to convey this feeling of irrelevance into my memorial piece. I made a physical art piece with a collection of numerous black and white pictures of the events that unfolded. In the middle of the collage, there is a tombstone with the words, "IN LOVING NEGLIGENCE" written on it. I did this to symbolise Germany's feeble apology. They tried to put the past behind them with a large amount of money, which I think is similar to buying someone a big tombstone after ignoring the relevance of their death, so that's what I based my art piece on.. The choices I made were not only to present what was done to the Namibian tribes people, but also to convey what happened afterwards; that feeling of pain and ignorance that the people and their ancestors must have felt.

Throughout this project I learned a lot about the time period that this took place, but I also gained an altered perspective of history. Up until I started researching for this project, I had never really considered how much more there was to history than what was taught in school. I knew it existed, but I never thought much about the importance of those left-out parts. I think this will help me through the rest of my schooling career to look past what teachers put in front of me, and strive to learn about events that don't get as much attention. Ultimately project taught me that suffering, triumph, and struggle through history goes far beyond school assignments, and I will give more thought to lesser known history in the future.

# Works Cited

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