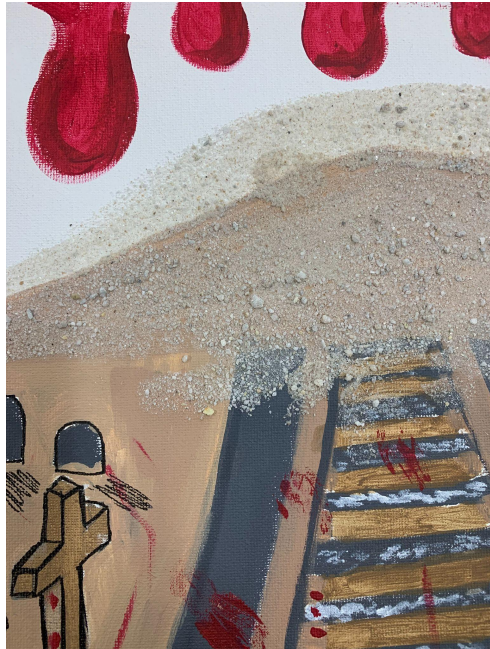


*Namibia:*  
Railroad of The Sand

# *Namibia:* Railroad of The Sand







# Artist's Statement

For my Genocide project, the place that I chose to study was Namibia and The Herero and Nama genocide. This genocide lasted three years from 1904 to 1907, when German military forces, called *Schutztruppe*, committed atrocities against indigenous people in their colony of German Southwest Africa, now known as Namibia.

Though this genocide is less well known, it is considered the “blueprint” of the Holocaust. During that time, Germany still had an influence after this genocide, with German occupants owning land in Namibia, German colonial forces displaced and killed up to 80% of the Herero tribe which is around 80,000 people, and 10,000 Nama died which was half their population. After years in 2021 Germany finally apologized and offered \$1.3 billion but it was rejected. All Namibia asked for was the land that Germany took from them to give back to the descendants of the victims who died during this genocide. Activists who have long campaigned for reparations say the compensation on offer doesn't doesn't truly reflect the suffering of the thousands who died. Germany rejected Namibia's request for the land back and there has been little to no progress from then.

Through my art piece I wanted to show how there has been no progress made from 2021. I used sand and the setting of a desert to show how the Herero and Nama people had to build railroads through deserts, and the sand blocks off the end of the railroad to show no progress. Usually, railroads/train tracks represent progress and moving forward but the sand blocking the end shows no progress and no movement. I used red paint to show the blood loss and death. I wanted to share how it isn't fair that though genocides are noticed, nothing is done that often to give back to the families and people who lost their lives.

# Works cited

<https://youtu.be/5A5T02rmwvc>

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