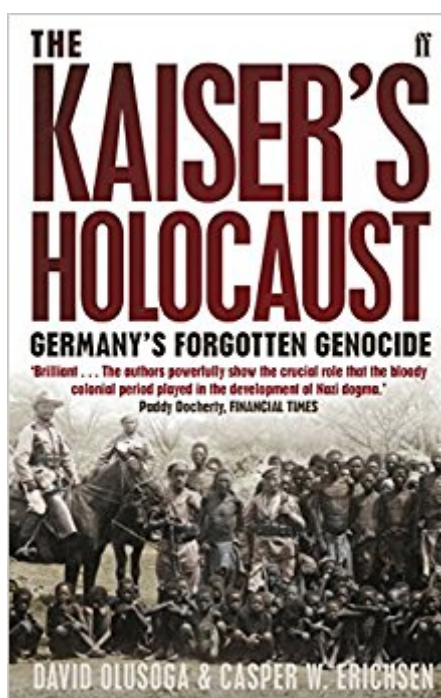


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The Kaiser's Holocaust: Germany's Forgotten Genocide And The Colonial Roots Of Nazism



Synopsis

On 12 May 1883, the German flag was raised on the coast of South-West Africa, modern Namibia - the beginnings of Germany's African Empire. As colonial forces moved in, their ruthless punitive raids became an open war of extermination. Thousands of the indigenous people were killed or driven out into the desert to die. By 1905, the survivors were interned in concentration camps, and systematically starved and worked to death. Years later, the people and ideas that drove the ethnic cleansing of German South West Africa would influence the formation of the Nazi party. The Kaiser's Holocaust uncovers extraordinary links between the two regimes: their ideologies, personnel, even symbols and uniform. The Herero and Nama genocide was deliberately concealed for almost a century. Today, as the graves of the victims are uncovered, its re-emergence challenges the belief that Nazism was an aberration in European history. The Kaiser's Holocaust passionately narrates this harrowing story and explores one of the defining episodes of the twentieth century from a new angle. Moving, powerful and unforgettable, it is a story that needs to be told.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

David Olusoga is an Anglo-Nigerian historian and producer. Working across radio and television, his programmes have explored the themes of colonialism, slavery and scientific racism. He has travelled extensively in Africa, and has been drawn to Namibia and its troubled history since the middle 2000s. He currently works as a producer for the BBC. Born in Denmark, Casper W. Erichsen has lived in Africa for the last 14 years. He obtained both his Degrees in History at the University of Namibia, devoting much of his scholarship to the genocide of the Herero and Nama peoples. He is currently the Director of a Namibian NGO dealing with HIV and AIDS.

One of the most informative books on a subject few know about. Very well written. Hard to put down.

I've unknowingly stood on the grassy slope outside the old German fortress (now museum) in Windhoek on the spot where the concentration camp was located. There is no mention of it in the museum. There are no memorials. Just a grassy slope with the Rider statue overlooking the city. Interest in things military prompted me to ask about possible battlefields in Namibia, and someone mentioned a war with the indigenous peoples with battlefields far to the northeast of the city in which the natives suffered catastrophic casualties, but there was no mention of any camps and how they contributed to those "battle casualties." When I discovered that Herman Goering's father had been involved, it was a simple link to make that the decimation of the the Herero and Nama peoples might have been a precursor to future Nazi horrors, much as the Spanish Civil War had been a test of blitzkrieg. When I found this book, I jumped on it. The authors explain that link with incredibly thorough researched, logic, and detail. The book is also very depressing. Perhaps having travelled through Namibia puts a reality to it for me, but even given that, this is at least a 4 star book. I need to go back to Namibia to pay the sites proper homage, and I need to walk on Shark Island. This is history that needed to be told and has been told very well, in my opinion.

Many books have been written about the holocaust and the Herero-Nama genocide, but few have attempted to make and yet succeed at drawing the intricate lines that weave together the two events. The book illustrates that Namibia was the progenitor for both the lebensraum and race purity notions which ere the ideological fodder that fed Hitler's madness.

Good Book! Good book on a little known story in history. Be warned though. This is not a history of the German campaign in SW Africa although that is part of the story. It is probably the best work on the history of German SW Africa, how it got started & the personalities involved. The book highly details the story of what happened to the indigenous people after the "War". Would love to see a book limited to the actual military campaign.

We only learned of this book on a recent trip to Namibia. We had no idea of the strong German influence imposed there and how strong that influence remains today. A fine and worthwhile read.

This is a very interesting perspective of Namibian colonial history, and it provides details that are not widely known. It is well-written and a riveting book! I often found it to take a biased stance, but overall a great read if you're interested in Namibian history.

Wanting to read about Namibia's history I found this book taking me from Colonial times to the 2nd world war concentration camps. A seamless link engrained in a deep understanding of history. The best book I have read in a long time clearly founded in a lot of research of a forgotten piece of our history, yet with profound influences on events that later shocked the world.

Absolutely horrifying descriptions of the massacre, which has all but disappeared in history. The genocide conducted in Namibia was the Germans' apprenticeship for the Holocaust. After the German Bundestag recently passed a resolution naming Turkey's murdering of the Armenians as Genocide, there are now voices to do the same thing for the genocide in Namibia. That being said, one should not forget that Germany has many "genocide colleagues": USA (Indians), England, Japan, China (Mao), Russia (Stalin), etc. etc.

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