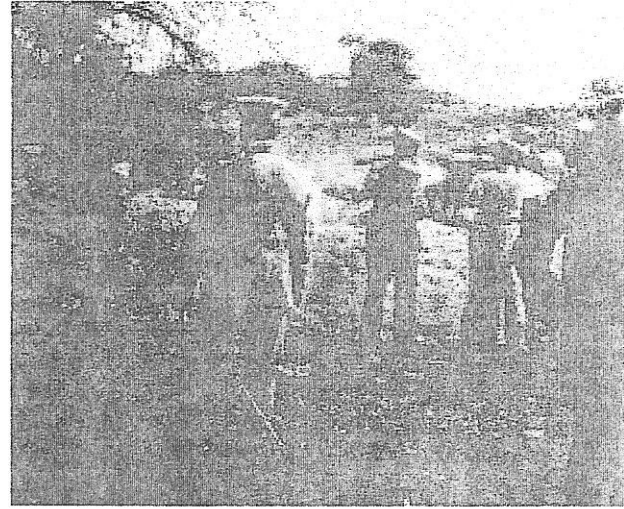


This was how colonisation began in what is today Namibia.

Not all colonisation took place in this way, and many colonial administrators went out of their way to develop their colonies - particularly in the run up to independence that came to Africa in the 1960s.

But as delegates gather in Durban, it is an aspect of history worth remembering.



Key Facts:

- 1892-1905 - Suppression of uprisings by Herero and Namas. Possibly 60,000, or 80% of the Herero population, are killed, leaving some 15,000 starving refugees.
- Deserts occupy much of the country; their dunes take on shapes and colours according to the elements. The country also boasts game-rich grasslands and a semi-arid Central Plateau, large tracts of which are given over to livestock farming.
- Namibians achieved independence in 1990 after a bush war of almost 25 years. Inter-racial reconciliation encouraged the country's white people to remain and they still play a major role in farming and other economic sectors.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) What does Germany "owe" anything to the descendents of the Herero people? (Basically, do they have a responsibility and if so, what is it?)
- 2) What does the international community "owe" to the descendents of the Herero people (or similar ethnically targeted groups)?