

people. However, it is important to remember that even in recent generations slavery plunged many into immense suffering. Most important of all is that the principal victims of the transatlantic slave trade, which saw perhaps ten million African slaves transported to the Americas, were almost all originally tribal people themselves.

## **Violence**

Violence has always been a more widespread problem than slavery. For most of the colonial era, tribes faced open warfare from those invading their lands. Killing parties were attacking Aborigines in Australia as recently as the 1920s, Bushmen in southern Africa decades later, and Indians in South America occasionally still today. The Central American wars which killed tens of thousands of Indians only a generation ago are now largely over, but violence persists on a wide-scale there, as well as in places such as Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and parts of Africa, where tribespeople are all too regularly attacked, raped, and killed by government forces, guerrillas or colonists.

## **Disease**

As already noted however, violence was rarely the cause of most deaths resulting from the invasion of tribal lands; this was illness – particularly measles, smallpox, and common viral respiratory infections such as influenza and colds. No one will ever know how many million American Indians died from disease after the European invasion, but it was