



Fig.031 Illustration showing a native man in a destituted state. His people have been civilized and now live in miserable conditions while their forest is being plundered for the sake of profit alone. Also the very clothes that have been provided to him to turn him decent are by now torn in pieces and are a vehicle to many diseases.

Annihilation Among the Natives of Higher Africa

Only in the course of centuries black people penetrated the "pathless jungle" settling in a "southerly direction" and invading from the north and east the forest. The natives "put up a stout fight" against the black invaders plundering their banana plantations. Eventually however the "white man's civilization" forced the blacks "deeper into the forest" and brought "in its train a host of diseases" like "epidemics of influenza and pneumonia" that claimed a great number of victims among the natives (Schebesta 1933). Missionaries banned dancing and distributed clothes making the natives more "decent" but in the forest's "moist heat, fostering germs and chilling the skin" causing "pulmonary disorders." If previously the natives "inhabited a continuous belt of rain forest" remaining groups grew "steadily smaller as invaders "cut down the trees". The invasion took place about "three hundred years ago by a variety of Bantu and Sudanese" people at the time in which the native population is "estimated to have been about two million". The remaining natives are exhorted to hunt "bigger game" like the forest elephant. The blacks are "entitled to almost all" the spoils giving rise to an infamous "social contract" resembling "European feudalism, with its idle great lords and serfs at their complete mercy" (Hallet 1973).