

- C. Africa, S equator - the great lakes region, E Democratic Republic of Congo
- Grasslands, rolling hills, rugged mountains chain volcanoes NW
- Terraces
- Gitarama, Butare, Gisenyi.
- 10.7 million - Highest
- Hutu 85%, Tutsi 14%, Twa 1%
- Rich in resources
- Agriculture
- Colonization Germany (1894-1916)
- Racial distinction >1914
- Belgian colony - Treaty of Versailles
- Belgians believe Tutsi was a communist threat, supported the PARMEHUTU(Hutu)
- 1959 Hutus - rebellion 10 -100 tutu killed
- Independence 1962
- Tutsi massacres 1968 1971.
- (UN)1945 after WW2, 51 countries

- President Juvenal Habyarimana (Hutu) plane shot Kigali 06/04/1994
- Paul Kagame blamed (once the leader of a Tutsi rebel group)
- Kagame blamed the attack on Hutu extremists
- Roadblocks barricades - slaughtering Tutsis/moderate Hutus.
- 800,000 killed -100 days
- RPF took control of Rwanda (Kigali+) July - 2 million Hutus fled to Congo
- Coalition government formed (Hutu resident and a Tutsi Vpresident)

- German's colonization fair
- Social division grew - Belgian 1916
- Tutsi - education job opportunities taught Catholicism (Tutsis were naturally superior)
- Hutu leaders removed 1929
- Identity cards
- Violence
- Tutsis identified appearances

- Killing each other
- 75% Tutsis killed, and called cockroaches
- 250,000 rapes

- France China supply weapons
- UN ignored the force commander of UNAMIR (Romeo Dallaire)
- Belgian & UN forces left Rwandan day after the plane was shot. 450 solders
- US UN didn't admit genocide - have to involved - UN Genocide Convention
- UN NATO busy Bosnia ethnic conflict
- Communication - organize killings
- Selfishness

- The deliberate and systematic extermination of a specific nation, race, political or ethnic group .

RQ: Can the RWANDA genocide be solely blamed on colonization?

ednesday 26th March 2014.

Can the Rwanda Genocide be Solely Blamed on Colonization?

A genocide is the deliberate and systematic extermination of a specific nation, race political or ethnic group. One of the biggest genocides that took the lives of 800,000 people happened in 1994 within Rwanda, Africa. There has been many different perspective of whether the Rwanda genocide can be solely blamed on Belgian's colonization, or were there other factors such as ^{or} the actions of the Rwandan people and the international community's ignorance that lead to such a drastic situation.

Rwanda is located in Central Africa, at the south of the equator near the Great Lakes region. It is to the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Rwanda's environment is exceptional, consisting mainly of grasslands, rolling hills, rugged mountains and chain volcanoes located in the northwest area. It is famous for its many terraces located on the mountains, creating ideal conditions for agriculture. The capital city of Rwanda is Kigali, with other main cities such as Gitarama, Butare and Gisenyi. It has a considerably high population of 10.7 million in Africa, of which is divided into the tribes of Hutus (85% majority), Tutsis (14% minority) and the Twas with 1%. Its economy is highly dependant on agriculture of corn, rice, tobacco etc. as well as tourism which maintains over 40% of their annual GDP. Rwanda is also a place rich in resources such as gold, methane and hydropower. Rwanda has had two colonizations in its history, the first being a colony of Germany from 1894 to 1916. There was a relatively small racial distinction in Rwanda prior to 1914, where the Tutsis minority were more superior than the Hutus. Although there was racial distinction, the quality within both groups were relatively fair. Racial distinction increase rapidly after Belgian colonization under the Treaty of Versailles, where Hutus lost all their rights completely. Towards the end of Belgian colonization, the Tutsi's attempt to gain independence resulted in the change of power to the Hutus (PARMEHUTU) as

the Belgians felt that Tutsis were becoming a communist threat. This resulted in a Hutu rebellion in 1959, where 10,000 Tutsis were killed. Rwanda gained its independence in 1962, with the Hutus in power. From 1968 to 1971, Tutsi refugees staged ten major attacks on Rwanda in attempt to regain power, each resulting in major Tutsi massacres, increasing the political tension within two tribes. After world war two, a United Nation consisting of 51 countries was established in 1945 in hopes of maintaining peace and friendliness within the countries.

The genocide first began on the 6th of April 1994, when the Hutu president Juvenal Habyarimana's plane was shot down above Kigali airport. His death was blamed on the current president (Paul Kagame) who was once the leader of a Tutsi rebel group. In contrast, Kagame believed that the attack was the action of Hutu extremists in attempt to attack Tutsis. This led to roadblock barricades being set up and Tutsis or moderate Hutus being slaughtered. During this period of 100 days, Hutu extremists took over the Rwandan government, resulting in over 800,000 deaths. In July, the RPF took control of most of Rwanda, including Kigali, resulting in approximately 2 million Hutus fleeing to Congo and other neighbouring countries. As a resolution to violence, a coalition government consisting of a Hutu president and a Tutsi vice president was formed.

One of the main factors that led to the genocide is Belgians selfish colonization. The sudden growth in social division led the Hutus to be repressed and miserable, losing all the rights they should have as humans. Examples of this social division was that only Tutsis received education, job opportunities, and was classified by the unfair factor of physical appearance. As Tutsis were genetically taller, thinner and had much stronger facial features than Hutus, they were classified as the more superior. Another factor that increased the build of tension was that

If Hutu leaders in the Rwanda government was removed in 1929, and identity cards which stated the tribe of the person was used to determine their status within the community. Such repression and buildup of tension led to the angry outburst of violence and revenge when the Hutus were eventually in power.

Another factor that led to the genocide was the ignorance of international community due to selfishness. For example, France and China supported the Hutu's violence by providing the military with weapons for financial benefits. Another reason was that the UN ignored the force commander's of UNAMIR (Romeo Dallaire)'s warnings of the many deaths of Tutsis and the plan of genocide. The US and UN did not want to admit that a genocide was happening as they would then have to become involved under the UN Genocide Convention. To make matters worse, the Belgian and UN forces left Rwanda to fight for itself the day after the plane was shot, leaving a mere 450 soldiers to fight over millions. Another example of ignorance was that the UN and NATO was too busy dealing with the Bosnia ethnic conflict to become involved in another African conflict.

The last factor that led to the serious condition of the genocide was the actions of local Rwandan people. The local government encouraged regular Rwandans to kill the friends, family or others, resulting in the death of 75% Tutsis. The use of violent beating and approximately 250,000 rapes were also factors that increase political tension. Lastly, the Tutsis were deeply disrespected by being called cockroaches.

In conclusion, I believe that the Belgian colonization of Rwanda is not the only blame for the genocide, but is definitely the major and most important factor of the genocide. This is because, the colonization

lead to the build up of intensity and stress over a long period of time, and the Belgian's decision to support the HUTUs was also the catalyst to the explosion of violence afterwards. The international community cannot be the blame of the genocide as it was not the reason of violence, just that it did not do what they could do to minimize the damage and seriousness of the consequences. Furthermore the actions of the Rwanda government only made the issue more serious, but is not sufficient to act as the reason to start a genocide on it's own. Hence, I believe that the colonization factor is the main reason that built up sufficient political stress of a genocide.