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Philips-Indal: The Deal from Heaven? (A)

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Background Information

- During the 1990's, the country of Rwanda experienced an on going civil war between its two major ethnic groups, the Hutus and Tutsis.
- After World War 1, Rwanda was under Belgian control. Having been colonized once before in the past, splits begun to cause problems and tension between the two ethnic groups, the Hutu and the Tutsis.
- The Tutsis, being the smallest population wise, had controlled most of Rwandan land. They were also favored by Belgium.



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Description of Genocide

- On April 6th, 1994, a plane which was carrying Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundian president Cyprien Ntaryamira was shot down. Everyone on board died. Many believed the culprits to be the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). This set a chain reaction of events which would become the Rwandan Genocide.
- During the next 100 days, nearly 1,000,000 people would be killed. Most of the victims were Tutsi; however, there were many who were Hutu as well.



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What is the origin of the Rwandan Genocide?

- Under German and then Belgium colonial rule, economic differences between the two groups increased.
- The Belgium openly favored the Tutsi and because of this they were granted more privileges and opportunities than the Hutu.
- In 1959 the Hutu gained control of the Rwandan government. In 1962, Rwandan-Urundi gained independence.
- In 3 years of Civil War, 50,000 Rwandans were killed. Tutsi in Burundi used their control of army to override elections and seize political power. In 1972, 100,000 Hutu were killed in Burundi.
- The hunger for political power grew as the Tutsi army killed the first Hutu president along with 100,000 more Hutu in October of 1993.
- In 1994, Hutu extremist killed 2 of Burundi's Presidents and 11 UN Peacekeepers from Belgium. These massacres were eventually halted by other UN peacekeepers.

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How it Happened

The genocide first started with the death of the Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana. His airplane was shot out of the air on the 6th of April in 1994. Other important politicians were killed almost immediately as well. Juvenal Habyarimana was a Hutu along with about 85% of the Rwanda population and the remaining 14% were tutsi. The tutsi group took the presidents death as a chance to eliminate the hutu population.



How the U.S, and the world responded

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The whole world just let it happen they never tried to help. They chose to ignore this situation. People called this a foregone conclusion. The UN was ill equipped to help this it was things like medicine and non-functioning vehicles.

What happened after the Crisis

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- Since the genocide, the Rwandan government has established Gacaca courts that focuses on the truth and reconciliation to bring justice and healing to the remaining victims. The Gacaca courts have had to handle about 1.2 million cases and 761,446 of those cases were from people that were accused of genocide.
- The Rwandan Genocide not only affected the people back then, but it's affecting the people now. Like for example, many Hutu and Tutsis live in displaced refugees. Also the intermarriages and close friendships between the Hutu and Tutsis aren't as common as they used to be. After the genocide happened, Rwandas poverty worsened as well as regional instability which threatens to touch off further ethnic conflicts.
- To every tragic event there has to be recognition to the deceased. In Rwanda there are various museums and memorials to look back to a horrible time in life where innocent people died for nothing.





5 FACTS
RWANDA GENOCIDE



800,000

800,000 minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus perished in the Rwandan genocide, perhaps as many as three-quarters of the Tutsi population

SOURCE: Reuters. PHOTO: REUTERS

