

Rwanda DBQ

Prompt: Use the following documents to answer this question: What are the causes and consequences of the 1994 genocide crisis in Rwanda?

Document 1

In 1998, President Bill Clinton traveled to Rwanda to pay America's respects to those who suffered and died in the Rwandan genocide. During the visit, a panel discussion was held and later aired by Frontline. This is an excerpt from the transcript of that broadcast

...**Narrator:** In 1993, Rwanda, one of Africa's smallest countries with just seven million citizens was a deeply troubled country with a deeply troubled past. Decades earlier, under colonial rule, the Belgians had used the Tutsis, Rwanda's aristocracy, to enforce their rule over the Hutu majority, who were mostly poor farmers

Philip Gourevitch, "The New Yorker":

The Belgians created an idea whereby the Tutsi were a master race, the Hutu an inferior race. And ethnic identity cards were issued. Much like in South Africa, an apartheid-like system was imposed. All privileges went to the Tutsi minority, and the Hutu majority was almost in bondage.

At independence in the late 50's and early 60's, this system was reversed. The majority Hutu rebelled, seized power, in the name of majority rule imposed an apartheid like system in reverse and oppressed the Tutsi bitterly.

Narrator: Faced with discrimination and increasing Hutu violence, most Tutsis fled to neighboring countries, where they formed a guerrilla army, the Rwandan Patriotic Front. In 1990, the rebel Tutsis invaded Rwanda and forced peace talks with Juvenal Habyarimana, the Hutu president. Anxious to stay in power himself, Habyarimana signed a peace treaty agreeing to share power with the Tutsis...

Student Question

1. Why were the Hutu so resentful of the Tutsi?
2. How did the Belgians contribute to this conflict?
3. Why did the Tutsis form a rebel army after 1990 and what did they do?

Document 2

The following day we had rumours that Hutus were out to kill every Tutsi in the country, claiming that we, the Tutsis had killed the Hutu president. We were advised to stay indoors. I had never seen my parents so agitated and terrified all my life."

"Then there was a knock at the door and before we could even respond, the door fell in and about four or so people came in and dragged my father out by his legs. That was the last we saw of him."

"We were hiding under the bed but we could see everything. Mother told us to keep quiet. Then the shooting began."

"The bullets came in and hit everything in the way. Yet no-one dared scream. Mother could not cover all four of us."

"I could feel blood coming from under my right shoulder and I did not know whether I was hit or not. I could not feel any pain then. My mind was occupied with the terror of being hacked to death."

"Suddenly the door burst open and they came in praising themselves for a good job done. I was closer to the door and they kicked me in my belly. It was painful but the thought of being severed alive with their machetes, made me stay as quiet as a mouse."

"One of them said: 'Let's make sure that he is dead with this'. I didn't move an inch, nor did I make any noise. They must have thought that I was dead."

"I just felt a very sharp pain on my leg and I must have passed out. I don't know for how long. But when I woke up, my mother was nursing my wounded leg. I was trying to look at the wound when I lost consciousness again."

"The armed Hutu men, the Interahamwe, were scattered and patrolling every corner. The situation was tense for a very long time and we could smell the stench of the dead even inside our fenced house. We were terrified."

"We thought that those men were going to return and realise that we, a Tutsi family were still breathing. The leg was getting worse and I was feverish all the time."

"The fact that at age 11, my mother had to do everything for me, including helping me to relieve myself, drove me insane. We were running out of food. We kept praying for some rescue mission from somewhere."

"Mother peeped through the wall and saw Tutsi soldiers coming towards the house. She prayed and waited for our fate. What would it be? It was RPF (Rwanda Patriotic Front) soldiers. These were good people."

"They liberated us and freed us from our self-imposed solitary confinement. The RPF soldiers took me to the hospital. I was there for about six months."

Hamis Kamuhanda, 11 years old in 1994

Interview by BBC

Student Question

1. What tribe did this boy belong to? What happened to him and his family?
2. Who helped the family and why?



Document 3 Stamp issued in Rwanda honoring victims of the genocide

Student question

1. What is being pictured? What tribe do you think this man belongs to?

Document 4

Excerpt from *Teenage Refugees from Rwanda Speak Out*. After the assassination of President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6, 1994, radical Hutus attempted to exert control over Rwanda.

..The Hutu officials who took over the government organized the murders of Tutsis nationwide. They used the government-run radio and press to do this. They also used the private newspapers and private radio station, known as Radio Television des Mille Collines(RTLM). RTLM told the population to look for the 'enemies' and to kill them. Those Tutsi and Hutu(who did not support the murders) fled to safety in neighboring countries, to Europe, or to Canada and the US...

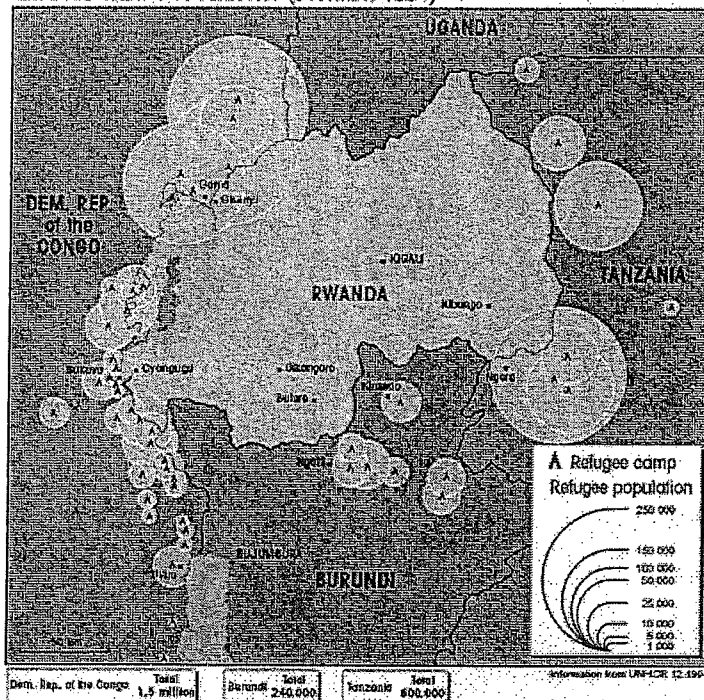
Student question

1. What did the Hutu led government do after the assassination of President Habyarimana?
2. How would the majority of people(Hutu) have responded to this?
3. How did the Tutsi people respond to these orders?

Document 5

1994 Map showing Refugee camps

REFUGEE CAMP POPULATIONS (December 1994)



Student Question

1. Where are the majority of refugee camps located?
2. What is the purpose of the refugee camps?

Document 6

Interview with Terry George in Hotel Rwanda

....Over the course of the genocide nearly one million people were killed, and more than three million fled to other countries, creating the world's worst ever refugee crisis. Only then did the West respond, launching the largest aid effort in human history, which finally concluded two years later in March of 1996. Soon after war broke out in several neighboring countries causing almost all of the refugees to return home by 1997.

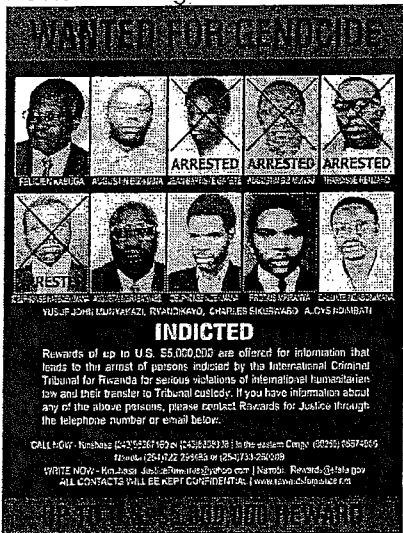
Post-genocide, a Unity government was formed in Rwanda and in 2000, Paul Kagame, former head of the RPF, was elected transition president. Kagame was then elected to a regular term in the country's first standard elections in 2003. The United Nations established the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, which has been trying high-level Hutu officials for crimes against humanity, while local governments have resorted to tribal councils, called 'gacaca' to sanction the estimated 80,000 people involved in the genocide..

Student Question

1. What happened as a result of the Rwanda genocide?
2. Why did many refugees return home by 1997?
3. What was created after 2000 to bring justice to Rwanda?

Document 6

Poster for alleged Hutu leaders of the Rwanda crisis



Student Question

1. Who is on the wanted list and why?
2. What incentive would people have to help the government arrest the people on the wanted poster?