

# February 26-27, 2019

## Chronology of the Rwandan genocide

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRE-COLONIAL ERA OF SOCIAL HIERARCHY AND PEACE (until the 1890s)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COLONIAL ERA OF IMPERIALISM AND RACIAL DIVISION (1890s-1950s)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ERA OF REVOLUTION &amp; EUROPEAN EVACUATION (1950s-1960s)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>POST-COLONIAL ERA OF DISCRIMINATION (1960s-1980s)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRE-GENOCIDE ERA OF POLARIZATION &amp; NEGOTIATION (late 1980s-1993)</b></p>
<p>Rwanda is settled mainly by pastoralists (the Tutsis) and farmers (the Hutus). Rwandan society generally accepted the Tutsis as the upper class of society (mainly due to myths about Tutsi god-kings). However, these social classes were flexible. Hutus could move up and become Tutsis by gaining wealth, and Tutsis could fall in status as well. <b><u>Despite the class system, there was peace during this era</u></b> – community, friendship and intermarriage between Hutus and Tutsis.</p>	<p>German imperialists (empire-builders) arrived in Rwanda in 1897. The imperialists favored the more respected Tutsi class and gave them positions of influence. More importantly, <b><u>the Germans categorized Hutus and Tutsis on the basis of race</u></b>, using physical characteristics like skin tone and height as distinguishing factors. Europeans liked that Tutsis were lighter-skinned and taller, which made them seem more European. After World War I, the country of Belgium assumed control of Rwanda and continued to foster racial division. <b><u>Tutsis lived well; Hutus did not. But unlike the previous era, racial divisions were permanent. Hutus could not move up.</u></b></p>	<p>Hutu resentment of Tutsi privilege led to the formation of a Hutu freedom movement. In 1959 a wave of violence broke out after the attempted assassination of the Hutu movement's leader. <b><u>Between 20,000 and 100,000 Tutsis were killed in the riots</u></b>, and many thousands more fled the country.</p> <p><b><u>Hutus were growing in power while the Belgian-Tutsi government structure was weakening.</u></b> Tutsi refugees formed guerilla armies and waged attacks against the Hutu forces. The Belgians tried to arrange a power-sharing agreement between the Hutus and Tutsis, but the violence prevented its success. <b><u>By 1962, the Belgians pulled out of Rwanda altogether.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Hutus held official control of Rwanda; anti-Tutsi attitudes and discrimination dominated from the 1960s-1980s.</u></b> Laws prevented Tutsis from serving as members of the government and also limited their ability to access to high-quality education. Many Tutsi doctors and educators were forced to resign from their jobs because Hutus complained that Tutsis held too many positions of influence. Some restrictions against intermarriage were also enforced (for instance, a Hutu military officer was not allowed to marry a Tutsi). Tutsis were second-class citizens.</p>	<p>Determined to push their way back into Rwandan politics, in 1987 Tutsi leaders formed a rebel army known as the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). <b><u>In 1990 the RPF invaded Rwanda from its base in Uganda. After 3 years of fighting, a peace settlement was reached.</u></b> Signed in August 1993, the Arusha Accords promised a return to Hutu-Tutsi power-sharing. <b><u>But the agreement never became reality.</u></b> Hutu-Tutsi violence in neighboring Burundi spilled over the border and caused a return to violence in Rwanda. Throughout this era anti-Tutsi extremists flooded magazines (like <i>Kangura</i>) and radio waves (i.e. RTLM) with <b><u>radical propaganda intended to inspire fear and distrust of Tutsis.</u></b></p>

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### THE GENOCIDE OF 1994: Major Events

- April 6:
  - Hutu President Habyarimana (president since 1983; in power since 1973) is killed when his plane is shot down by a missile.
  - Hutu army Colonel Theoneste Bagosora holds a meeting of Hutu leadership to discuss next-steps. UN task force General Romeo Dallaire is in attendance. Dallaire suggests that power pass to the acting Prime Minister – a moderate Hutu woman named Agathe Uwilingiyimana. Though the Prime Minister is next-in-command after the President, Bagosora declares that Madame Agathe will not be in charge.
- April 7:
  - Dallaire sends UN troops (from the African country of Ghana and the European country of Belgium) to guard the Prime Minister Agathe.
  - Rwandan soldiers subdue the UN troops (who were forced to turn over their weapons), enter the compound, and kill Madame Agathe and her husband. The Ghanaian troops were released. The Belgian troops were taken, beaten and killed.
  - Other prominent Tutsis and moderate Hutu leaders are targeted and killed throughout the day. [Moderates are non-extremists; a moderate Hutu leader like Madame Agathe would have been popular among many Tutsis.]
  - Dallaire requests support from the United Nations. Kofi Annan, the UN Head of Peacekeeping, instructs Dallaire not to intervene.
- April 9-11:
  - Extremist leader Jean Kambanda is named acting Prime Minister following the death of Madame Agathe.
  - Troops from the US, Belgium, Italy and France are sent to evacuate their citizens in Rwanda.
  - Dallaire requests that the UN raise his troop total to 5,000. No action is taken.
- April 15:
  - Belgium pulls all of its UN troops out of Rwanda. [Most of Dallaire's troops were from Belgium.]
  - US Ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, proposes that the UN cut back its involvement in Rwanda and leave only a small force behind. [Albright was opposed to a *complete* withdrawal.]
- May 17:
  - With the death toll over 320,000, the UN and US agree to send 5,000 troops (mainly Africans) and 50 US armored carriers to aid Dallaire.
- May 25:
  - President Clinton reiterates that US intervention in humanitarian crises depends on US interests.
- Late June:
  - With the UN/US deployment not yet in Rwanda, the UN Security Council authorizes a French force to create a “safe area” in Rwanda.
- Early July:
  - The UN/US deployment arrives in Rwanda.
- July 17:
  - The RPF under the leadership of Paul Kagame forces its way into Kigali (the Rwandan capitol), takes control, and ends the genocide. *Between 800,000 and 1,000,000 are dead.*