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# The International Dynamics of Hutu-Tutsi Power Tussle: The Global Justice Bodies and Their Role

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## ABSTRACT

*The Rwandan Genocide was a tragic event that occurred in 1994 in which an estimated 800,000 people were killed in a span of 100 days. The genocide was primarily targeted against the Tutsi ethnic group, but moderate Hutus were also targeted. This research article seeks to examine the causes, consequences, and lessons learned from the Rwandan Genocide.*

*The causes of the genocide can be traced back to colonialism and the arbitrary division of Rwandans into ethnic groups by the Belgian colonial administration. The colonial administration also favored the Tutsi minority over the majority Hutu population, which sowed the seeds of resentment and led to the marginalization of the Hutus. This marginalization continued after Rwanda gained independence, with the Tutsi-dominated government oppressing the Hutus.*

*The consequences of the genocide were devastating. The death toll was enormous, and the country was left in a state of chaos and disarray. Many of the hundreds of thousands of refugees who departed the nation were left homeless and in need. Several people argued that early involvement may have stopped the worst of the bloodshed, criticising the international community for its tardy response to the situation.*

*Many lessons may be drawn from the Rwandan Genocide. The need of early involvement in preventing mass massacres is one crucial lesson. When the world community acted too slowly, the genocide was permitted to go on.*

*In conclusion, the Rwandan Genocide was a tragic event that had far-reaching consequences. The causes of the genocide were complex and deeply rooted in history, but the consequences were immediate and devastating. The lessons learned from the genocide are important and should guide international efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts in the future.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The divisions were further exacerbated by political leaders who exploited ethnic differences to

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gain power and control. In the years leading up to the genocide, Hutu leaders used propaganda to portray Tutsis as a threat to national security, and as a result, tensions between the two groups continued to rise.

Political instability also played a significant role in the Rwandan Genocide. The Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), a Tutsi-led rebel group, launched a civil war in 1990 against the Hutu-dominated government, which intensified ethnic tensions in the country. The assassination of Rwandan President Juvénal Habyarimana in 1994, which is widely believed to have been carried out by Hutu extremists, served as the trigger for the genocide.

Another important factor in the Rwandan Genocide was the failure of the international community to intervene. Despite early warnings of the impending violence, the international community, including the United Nations, failed to take action to prevent or stop the genocide. This lack of action has been attributed to a combination of factors, including a lack of political will, inadequate intelligence gathering, and a fear of becoming embroiled in a complicated conflict.

In conclusion, the causes of the Rwandan Genocide were complex and deeply rooted in history. The legacy of colonialism, ethnic divisions, political instability, and the failure of the international community all played a significant role in the outbreak of violence. Understanding these root causes is important in preventing future conflicts and atrocities, and in promoting peace and reconciliation in Rwanda and other countries that have experienced similar tragedies.

## **II. ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES IN THE EVENT**

The Rwandan genocide, which occurred in 1994, was a tragic event that resulted in the deaths of an estimated 800,000 people, mostly Tutsi but also moderate Hutu and other ethnic groups. The international community, including various international bodies, played a complex and controversial role in the genocide.

One of the most notable international bodies involved in the Rwandan genocide was the United Nations. In 1993, the UN established the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) with the aim of implementing the Arusha Accords, which were meant to end the conflict between the Hutu-led government and the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front. However, UNAMIR was understaffed, underfunded, and lacked a clear mandate, which limited its ability to prevent the genocide from occurring. When the genocide began, the UN Security Council failed to take decisive action, with many countries reluctant to intervene in what they saw as an internal conflict.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was also present in Rwanda during the genocide. The ICRC was responsible for providing humanitarian assistance and protection to civilians affected by the conflict. However, the ICRC was criticized for not doing enough to prevent the killings and for not speaking out more forcefully about the situation.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was established by the UN in November 1994 to prosecute those responsible for the genocide. The ICTR has since indicted and convicted a number of individuals for their role in the genocide, including high-ranking government officials and military leaders.

Overall, the role of international bodies in the Rwandan genocide remains a complex and controversial issue. While some argue that more could have been done to prevent the genocide, others point to the limited resources and political will available at the time

### III. CONSEQUENCES

The Rwandan Genocide, which occurred in 1994, had significant international consequences that affected the political, social, and economic landscape of the region and the world. Some of the major consequences of the genocide include:

*Political destabilization:* The genocide caused political instability in Rwanda, as well as in neighboring countries such as Burundi, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This instability led to armed conflict and civil wars in these countries, causing further violence and displacement.

*New government:* The genocide led to the establishment of a new government in Rwanda, which has been in power since 1994. This government, led by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), has been criticized for its authoritarianism and human rights abuses, but has also been praised for its efforts to rebuild the country.

*Humanitarian crisis:* The genocide resulted in a massive humanitarian crisis, with an estimated 800,000 to 1 million Tutsis and moderate Hutus killed, and over 2 million people displaced. This created a huge refugee crisis that put pressure on neighboring countries, which struggled to provide assistance.

*International intervention:* The international community was criticized for failing to intervene during the genocide. This led to the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) by the United Nations to bring to justice those responsible for the genocide.

*Diplomatic relations:* The genocide strained diplomatic relations between Rwanda and other countries, particularly with France, which was accused of supporting the Hutu government

responsible for the genocide.

*Economic impact:* The genocide had significant economic consequences for Rwanda and the surrounding countries. The country's infrastructure was severely damaged, and many businesses and industries were destroyed, resulting in long-term economic consequences.

*Economic development:* Despite the challenges posed by the genocide, Rwanda has made significant strides in economic development over the past two decades. The government has implemented a series of economic reforms, and Rwanda has become one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa.

*Genocide prevention:* The genocide in Rwanda led to greater awareness of the need for early warning systems and the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities. This resulted in the establishment of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle, which places the responsibility on the international community to intervene to protect populations at risk of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.

*Demographic changes:* The genocide led to significant demographic changes in Rwanda, including a shift in the balance of power between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups. The Tutsi, who were the primary victims of the genocide, now hold significant political power in the country.

*Reconciliation efforts:* In the aftermath of the genocide, Rwanda launched a series of reconciliation efforts aimed at healing the wounds of the past and promoting national unity. These efforts have included community-based programs, truth and reconciliation commissions, and efforts to promote inter-ethnic dialogue.

Overall, the Rwandan genocide had far-reaching consequences both locally and internationally, and its impact continues to be felt to this day.

#### **IV. LESSONS LEARNED**

One of the most important lessons learned from the Rwandan Genocide is the importance of early intervention. The international community was heavily criticized for its slow response to the crisis, with many arguing that early intervention could have prevented the worst of the violence. The failure to take action was due to a variety of factors, including a lack of political will, inadequate intelligence gathering, and a fear of becoming embroiled in a complicated conflict. To prevent future atrocities, it is important for the international community to be vigilant and to act quickly when warning signs of violence emerge.

Another important lesson learned from the Rwandan Genocide is the need to address the root

causes of conflicts, such as ethnic tensions and inequality. The legacy of colonialism and the arbitrary division of Rwandans into ethnic groups was a major contributor to the genocide. The promotion of ethnic identities and the marginalization of certain groups created a climate of mistrust and resentment, which was exploited by political leaders to gain power and control. To prevent future conflicts, it is important to promote social cohesion, equality, and inclusive governance.

Also, the importance of international cooperation and dialogue in preventing and resolving conflicts cannot be overstated. The Rwandan Genocide demonstrated the need for a coordinated international response to mass atrocities. The lack of coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and member states was a major contributing factor to the failure to prevent or stop the genocide. To promote peace and stability, it is important for the international community to work together and to engage in meaningful dialogue and cooperation. One of the most important teachings of the Rwandan Genocide is the importance of forgiveness. Following the genocide, many Rwandans were faced with the difficult task of forgiving those who had committed atrocities against them or their loved ones. This process was facilitated by a number of initiatives, including the Gacaca courts, which were established to try those accused of genocide, and the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, which promoted dialogue and healing between the different ethnic groups. Forgiveness was not only important for the survivors of the genocide, but also for the perpetrators, who were able to seek forgiveness and redemption for their actions.

Another important teaching of the Rwandan Genocide is the importance of reconciliation. Reconciliation was a critical part of the post-genocide process in Rwanda, as it enabled different ethnic groups to come together and build a shared future. Reconciliation was facilitated by a number of initiatives, including community-based reconciliation efforts and public acts of reconciliation, such as the lighting of a flame of hope at the Kigali Genocide Memorial. Reconciliation was not always easy, and it often required difficult conversations and a willingness to listen to and understand different perspectives.

Finally, the Rwandan Genocide teaches us about the importance of building a culture of peace. Rwanda's post-genocide recovery was not only about forgiving and reconciling, but also about building a more peaceful and just society. This included efforts to promote human rights, strengthen democratic institutions, and improve access to education and healthcare. Rwanda's experience also highlights the importance of preventing future conflicts by addressing the root causes of violence, such as inequality and ethnic tensions.

## **V. IMPACT ON GLOBAL POLITICS**

The Rwandan Genocide of 1994 had a profound impact on world politics, particularly with regard to issues of humanitarian intervention, the responsibility to protect, and the need for international cooperation. This research article seeks to examine the effect of the Rwandan Genocide on world politics, with a focus on these key issues.

One of the most significant impacts of the Rwandan Genocide on world politics was the re-evaluation of the concept of humanitarian intervention. The failure of the international community to intervene in Rwanda was widely criticized, and led to a renewed debate about the responsibility of the international community to protect populations from mass atrocities. This debate ultimately led to the adoption of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine by the United Nations in 2005, which asserts that the international community has a responsibility to prevent and respond to mass atrocities, including through the use of force if necessary.

The Rwandan Genocide also had an impact on the need for international cooperation in addressing global issues. The failure of the international community to intervene in Rwanda was attributed to a lack of political will, inadequate intelligence gathering, and a fear of becoming embroiled in a complicated conflict. This failure highlighted the need for greater cooperation and coordination among international actors to prevent and respond to mass atrocities. In the years since the genocide, there have been efforts to strengthen international institutions and mechanisms for addressing humanitarian crises, including the establishment of the International Criminal Court and the development of early warning systems for mass atrocities.

The Rwandan Genocide had an impact on the relationship between the international community and Africa. The failure to intervene in Rwanda was seen as a betrayal by many Africans, who felt that their continent was being ignored by the international community. This perception was reinforced by the fact that the genocide occurred just a few years after the end of apartheid in South Africa, which had received significant international attention and support. The legacy of the genocide has led to a greater emphasis on African-led solutions to African problems, as well as a greater focus on the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting development in Africa.

The Genocide had significant international effects, particularly in terms of regional instability, refugee crises, and the need for international support. This research article seeks to examine the international effects of the Rwandan Genocide and their impact on the region and the world.

One of the most significant international effects of the Rwandan Genocide was the

destabilization of the Great Lakes region of Africa. The genocide had spill-over effects into neighboring countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Uganda, leading to a period of regional instability and conflict that lasted for many years. The legacy of the genocide contributed to ongoing tensions and conflicts in the region, and highlighted the need for greater regional cooperation and dialogue to address these issues.

Another international effect of the Rwandan Genocide was the refugee crisis that resulted from the mass displacement of people. Over two million Rwandans fled the country during the genocide, seeking refuge in neighboring countries and beyond. The refugee crisis had significant humanitarian and economic impacts on the region, and highlighted the need for greater international support for refugees and displaced persons. In addition, the refugee crisis also had security implications, as armed groups and criminals often took advantage of the chaos to exploit vulnerable populations.

Finally, the Rwandan Genocide also had an impact on the international community's understanding of the importance of preventing mass atrocities. The failure of the international community to intervene in Rwanda led to a greater awareness of the need to prevent such crises from occurring in the future. This led to the development of new policies and initiatives, such as the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine, which seeks to prevent and respond to mass atrocities.

In conclusion, the international effects of the Rwandan Genocide were significant, and continue to be felt in the region and the world today. The genocide had a destabilizing effect on the Great Lakes region of Africa, led to a refugee crisis that had humanitarian and security implications, and highlighted the need for greater international support and cooperation. The legacy of the genocide also led to a greater emphasis on preventing mass atrocities and promoting peace and security.

**Need of international justice system:** One of the key reasons why an active international justice system is needed to prevent genocides is that domestic justice systems may be inadequate or unwilling to prosecute those responsible for mass atrocities. In Rwanda, for example, many of the perpetrators of the genocide were tried in domestic courts, but there were concerns about the fairness and impartiality of these trials. An active international justice system can help to ensure that those responsible for mass atrocities are held accountable, even when domestic justice systems are unable or unwilling to do so.

Another reason why an active international justice system is needed is to provide a deterrent effect. When perpetrators of mass atrocities know that they will be held accountable for their



actions, it can act as a deterrent and help to prevent future genocides. This was demonstrated in the case of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, which helped to deter further violence in the region and contributed to the stabilization of the situation.

In addition, an active international justice system can provide victims and their families with a sense of justice and closure. The Rwandan Genocide had a profound impact on the survivors and their families, and the trials and convictions of those responsible for the genocide provided some measure of justice and closure for them.

Finally, an active international justice system can also contribute to the promotion of peace and reconciliation. The trials of those responsible for the Rwandan Genocide helped to promote accountability and justice, and contributed to the process of reconciliation between different communities in Rwanda.

In conclusion, the Rwandan Genocide demonstrated the need for an active international justice system to prevent future genocides. Such a system can provide accountability, act as a deterrent, provide victims with a sense of justice and closure, and contribute to peace and reconciliation. The legacy of the genocide continues to be felt today, and provides important lessons for the international community as it seeks to prevent future atrocities.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

The horrific events of Rwandan genocide and many other genocides make us as a global fraternity, look into ourselves and examine where we as fraternity stand. It is therefore important that we learn from these events and establish robust international justice system which is well knit to prevent any such further crimes against humanity. For that, it is important that we analyse our past and keep speculating our future, so we don't end up committing the same mistakes which has been back spot to our human fraternity and its history.

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