The Rwanda Genocide
Historical Development and Cultural Contexts
Prior to European Colonization

- Cow herding was the main source of power and wealth in Rwanda
- Tribal system made of up Tutsi and Hutus
- Elite: Tutsi cow herders
- Farmers: Hutus
Post World War Colonization

- Europeans began colonization in early 19th century
- Rwanda fell under German East Africa Rule
- After WWII, power transferred to Belgium
Under Belgian Rule

• Tutsis favored

• Ethnic ID cards become mandatory in 1933

• Tension worsens between Tutsis and Hutus
Liberation in 1959

- Hutus revolt
- By 1961, Hutus declare Rwanda a Republic
- 1962, UN passes referendum, and Belgium grants independence to Rwanda
- Majority rule
- Violence used against Tutsis to maintain Hutu power
Juvenal Habyarimana

- Came into power in 1973
- NRMD
- Remained in power for two decades
- Led a corrupt and thieving government, while citizens suffered
April 6, 1994

- Presidents plane shot down over Rwandan capital
- Hutus and militia begin Tutsi slaughter
- Civil war begins
Hutus Flee Rwanda
Civil War Ends

- Pasteur Bizimungu becomes President
- Paul Kagame becomes Vice President
- Capital of Rwanda destroyed
- Schools, hospitals, and police force also destroyed
- Population falls from 300,000 to 50,000
Consequences

- 100,000 children separated from their families
- 300,000 children were killed in genocide
- 250,000 women widowed
- Total death count estimated at 800,000
Economical Factors

- Tutsis were given better paid and more respected jobs over Hutus
  - When Belgians left, the more populated Hutu took revenge

- Collapse of the international coffee market in 1989

- Overpopulation

- Landlessness and great amount of unmarried men
  - Marriage cost too much: this enticed more men to join military effort
Economical Factors

- Directed World Bank funding to Military rule society, thus cheap weapons
  - Modern barbaric war
- RTLM led Hutu citizens to fight for the RPF
- Interahamwe taxed refuge camps
Political Factors

- Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF)
  - Fred Regime
  - Paul Kagame
- President Juvénal Habyarimana to sign a peace agreement in 1993
- The dictator of Zaire, Mobutu Sese Seko
  - Zaire= current Democratic Republic of the Congo
Social Factors

- Tutsi and Hutu moderates shared same fate
  - Between 500,000 and 1 million massacred within 100 days

- Normal Hutu citizens represented strongest Tutsi killing force

- Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM)
  - Hutu patriotes and Tutsi cockroaches

- Interahamwe Militia

- Paul Rusesabagina
  - Hotel Rwanda Protagonist: housed over a thousand during the conflict

- Tutsis hid in swamps and bungalows
Foreign Relations (Allies and Outsiders)

- Uganda and Tanzania aided RPF
- Plane carrying President Habyarimana and Burundi’s Hutu president Cyprien Ntaryamira shot down (Apr. 6, 1990)
- Developed Western nations aided Rwanda’s Hutu forces
- United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), Roméo Dallaire
Foreign Relations (Allies and Outsiders)

- Ten Belgian members of the UNAMIR tortured, mutilated, killed

- U.S. Ignored
  - Prior conflict with Somalia

- Refugee camps sprang up in Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and Zaire

- Uganda aided Rwanda Tutsi defense militia
How did the genocide actually end?

- Rwandan Patriotic Front took over the country in July 1994
  - Trained military group of Tutsis
  - Exiled from Rwanda

- After the RPF takeover, about 2 million Hutus fled to neighboring countries
How could it have ended sooner?

Why did no other countries intervene?
- US had nothing to gain
- France and China were supplying Rwanda with arms
- Failure to identify the conflict as Genocide

Possible solutions
- Military intervention
- Radio Jamming
Rwanda Today

- RPF is still in control of Rwanda
- Led by President Paul Kagame

RPF values:
- Social Democracy
- Left-Wing Nationalism
- Tutsi Interests
Rwanda Today

- Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR)

- FDLR is the primary remnant Rwandan Hutu rebel group in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

- FDLR want a word without Tutsi

- FDLR is composed of ethnic Hutus opposed to Tutsi rule
Rwanda Today

- According to the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center, the FDLR is believed to be responsible for about a dozen terrorist attacks committed in 2009

- These acts of terrorism have killed hundreds of civilians in Eastern Congo
2012 Terrorist Incidents by FDLR

- On January 3, a grenade attack killed two people and wounded 16 people in a Kigali market.

- On January 24, a grenade attack in Gitarama injured at least 14 people. Rwandan National Police (RNP) arrested two suspects.

- On March 23, an explosion at Ruhengeri bus station killed one person and injured five people. There were no arrests.
2012 Terrorist Incidents by FDLR

- On March 30, two nearly-simultaneous grenade attacks in Kigali markets injured six civilians. The police arrested four suspects.

- On November 27, approximately 120 armed men reportedly crossed into Rwanda from the DRC to attack Rubavu province. The RNP repulsed the attack with no civilian casualties.
Rwanda 2013

- Terrorism is subject to prosecution in Rwanda under the 2008 law on counterterrorism

- Improving the counterterrorism capacity of its security services remained a high priority for the Government of Rwanda

- No Terrorist attacks in 2013
Question ?