

The History of Modern Rwanda through Photos

PHOTO LINKS WITH HISTORICAL DESCRIPTIONS

DIRECTIONS: The photo URLs and accompanying historical descriptions listed below are the basis for the photo/time line activity in *The History of Modern Rwanda through Photos* lesson plan. See Procedure 1 in the lesson plan for procedural options for student use of the photos/descriptions.

1. Ethnic Differentiation between Hutus and Tutsis, 1920's

<http://modernhistoryproject2012.wordpress.com/history-of-hutu-tutsi-relations/>

(First illustration, right side)

The racist eugenics movement was popular in the United States and Europe in the 1920's and 1930's. It is this racism by European powers that influenced the interactions with Africans. Racism was the filter by which Belgian scientists, interested in understanding the nature of the relationship between the Hutu (75% majority) and the Tutsi (15-20% minority), measured heads, noses, skin color, height and body shape in an attempt to explain "scientifically" why the Tutsis were a "superior" tribe. The Belgian scientists concluded after their "research" that the Tutsis had European features, and this explained why they held the power despite being in the minority. This process brought institutional racism into Rwanda.

2. Tutsis Fled Ethnic Violence After Independence, 1959-1962

<http://bengal.missouri.edu/~smwgz8/history.htm>

(Second image, first photo on page)

Tutsis fled Rwanda after the Hutus rose to power and the resulting violence between the two groups when the Tutsi-led monarchy was overthrown. Over 150,000 Tutsis fled the country to Uganda and Burundi, and those remaining in Rwanda were barred from political office after the 1962 constitution. The Belgians, who had for so long supported the Tutsis' claim to power, changed positions when the tides turned against the Tutsis and put their full support behind the Hutus. Hundreds of thousands more fled over the coming years, and over 70,000 Tutsis were killed in the first few years of the Hutu-led government.

3. The UN Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) Headed by General Romeo Dallaire, 1993

http://www.holocaustengenocide.nl/?page_id=819

(Second photo on page)

The United Nations Security Council approved the **United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR)**. The mission was under a limited mandate to monitor and report on the implementation of the Arusha Accords. This limitation of their mandate prevented forces from effectively protecting people during the genocide. The mission force had 2,500 personnel attached to it under the command of Major General Romeo Dallaire. General Dallaire saw warning signs such as intelligence about weapons caches being stored by militia movements, but the Security Council in New York had no desire to increase the mandate, keeping the mission's role limited.

4. Rise of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, 1987-1993

<http://www.zcommunications.org/FCKFiles/ZMagOct10-Images/Kalyegira-Kagame1993-Big.jpg>

(First photo)

Although other guerilla movements had occurred over the years following the exile of the Tutsi king in 1960, it is significant that members of the Rwandan Tutsi refugee community in Uganda formed an army in the 1980's to invade Rwanda. Tutsis in Uganda realized they would never be part of Uganda and were being removed from

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Rise of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (cont'd)

government and military posts. With this realization, the RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Front) turned to Paul Kagame, who was attending military leadership school in Kansas to lead the RPA (Rwandan Patriotic Army). The invasion started in 1990 and while not successful in taking back Rwanda, the RPF turned into an effective insurgency movement forcing the government into peace negotiations and the eventual signing of a power-sharing agreement at the Arusha Accords in 1993.

5. Belgian Colonial Rule, 1919-1962

<http://daddyandmama.blogspot.com/2011/04/hutu-and-tutsi.html> *(Scroll to fourth photo on page)*

<http://www.rwandaembassy-japan.org/en/modules/tinyd/index.php?id=59&tmid=76> *(First photo on page)*

<http://www.uganda-visit-and-travel-guide.com/strife-and-independence.html> *(Scroll to second image (first photo) on the page)*

The Belgians came to Rwanda as a result of World War I. The Germans, who had control of this region, lost it to Belgium who controlled the nearby Belgian Congo and had a much more powerful military force in Africa. The League of Nations gave legitimacy to Belgian control with a mandate in 1923. Belgian rule over Rwanda was decidedly more impactful as Belgium would bring in Catholic missionaries, European bureaucracy and agricultural innovation. They did this because they wanted to make Rwanda profitable for Belgium, and they would enforce a production of coffee by all farmers for the purpose of export, often through the use of a whip. Since the Tutsis were favored and still the head of government, they were the enforcers of Belgian policies, creating “ethnic tension” between the Hutus and the Tutsis.

6. Rwandan Ethnic ID Card, 1932-1933

<http://dalanddavid.blogspot.com/2010/10/more-genocide-memorials.html>

(Scroll to second photo on the page)

The Belgians began issuing ID cards to all Rwandans over the age of 10 in 1932-1933. These ID cards, the first Rwandans ever had, showed which tribe they belonged to, Hutu, Tutsi, Twa, or Naturalist. Racial identification of the Hutus and Tutsis grew into resentment of the Tutsis by the Hutu. The level of patronage given to the Tutsis grew substantially during this period as did the size of the government. Prior to European colonial control, the Tutsi monarchy was accepted, even if not liked by some, by the majority. However, those who benefited in this relationship were relatively few. With the “Europeanization” of the Rwandan government, many more would benefit by this relationship, which led to both resentment by the Hutus and abuse by some Tutsis. During this period Tutsis functioned as the arm of the yoke of Belgian colonial power.

7. The President's Plane Crash, April 6, 1994

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jan/17/new-evidence-rwanda-inquiry-kagame>

(First photo on the page)

The presidents of Burundi (**Cyprien Ntaryamira**) and Rwanda (**Juvénal Habyarimana**) were shot down as they approached the airport in Kigali on April 6, 1994, killing all on board. Blame for the assassination would go both to the Rwandan Patriotic Front and to Hutu extremists upset with their own president for signing the Arusha Peace Accords. Years later, conclusive evidence would show that government forces shot the plane down. Within an hour, members of the Akazu, an extremist Hutu power movement with key members in positions of government, took charge, occupied key positions of power, began a coordinated effort to kill moderate Hutu government officials, and deployed militia groups to man roadblocks, starting the 100 days of genocide that would follow.

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8. Rwandan Independence, 1962

<http://amafotoyurwanda.blogspot.com/2012/02/amafoto-gregoire-kayibanda-ii.html>

(Scroll to fourth image on page)

The Tutsi-led monarchy began pushing for independence in the early 1950's. When Belgium determined it could not hold on to its African colony, it decided to switch allegiance from the Tutsi monarchy to the Hutu majority. This ensured that if Hutus rose to power, economic ties could be maintained between Belgium and Rwanda. In 1957, Hutu leaders in Rwanda published a Hutu Manifesto, a document that called for Hutu solidarity and discrimination against Tutsis and a ban on intermarriage.

9. The Berlin Conference, 1884-1885

<http://www.dipity.com/ttatham1/Unit-6-Timeline>

(Click on 'Berlin Conference Convenes to Discuss Terms for African Colonization')

The Berlin Conference 1884-1885 convened the major European powers to divide Africa up without resulting in a European war. Europeans were busy growing their empires globally, focusing on Africa and Asia. The Europeans drew up artificial boundaries that benefited themselves at the expense of long-standing history between African tribes. No Africans were invited to attend these proceedings, nor were any ever consulted. These artificial lines still play a role in the national makeup of many African countries today.