

Hotel Rwanda Discussion Questions

1. What kind of person does Paul initially appear to be to viewers?
2. What event seems to precipitate the genocide? Is the political, historical context handled by the film adequately? (Was enough information given to explain why the genocide occurred?) Explain.
3. Why does the UN Colonel refuse to take action or to take the hotel's refugees?
4. What are Paul's initial expectations of a Western response to Rwanda's crisis?
5. Why does the UN withdraw its forces and the non-Rwandan inhabitants?
6. Explain the UN Colonel's disturbing comments on the UN's decision not to intervene. What do you think he means when he tells Paul, "you're not even a nigger"?
7. Who is George Rutaganda? How does he respond to Paul's question about the Hutus' plans?
8. Describe your reaction to the scene immediately after Paul's meeting with Rutaganda (in car w/ Gregoire). Why do you think the filmmakers decided to film the genocide this way?
9. Recall the convoy of Rwandans who have obtained visas to leave. What are your thoughts on the conflict between Tatiana & Paul after he decides to stay.
10. How is Paul able to convince General Bizimungu into helping him at the end? What does this say about how the outcome of the war might have ended differently?
11. To what degree do we witness the Rwandan genocide in the film?
12. How, in general, are Rwandans represented by the film? Rwanda itself? Compare these representations with how WWII-era Germans were portrayed in the documentaries, readings, etc. you have seen.
13. How does the film represent the conflict between Hutus and Tutsis?
14. Rwanda was widely considered the most "Christian country" in Africa. Close to 90% of Rwanda claimed to be Christians. How do you account for the genocide which occurred in light of this information?
15. Based on the end of the film, what might you speculate about Rwanda's future (from the perspective of 1994)?

How is it possible that most people did not know what was happening in Rwanda? The same reason(s) many have not heard of Darfur. What can we do today to be made more aware of potentially tragic situations around the world? Check out these links:

<http://www.savedarfur.org> Save Darfur

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/sudan/index.do> Amnesty International's Sudan Crisis

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/> Amnesty International USA

<http://www.hrw.org/> Human Rights Watch

Statistics:

Rwanda

800,000-1.07 million killed in **100 days**

8,000-10,710 killed per **day**

334-447 killed per **hour**

6-7 killed per **minute**.

Holocaust

6 million Jews killed in **1460 days**

4,110 killed per **day**

171 killed per **hour**

3 killed per **minute**

Darfur, Sudan

400,000 people have been killed in **1095 days**

366 people are killed every **day**

15 people are killed every **hour**

1 person is killed every **minute**

