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Film Response: Genocide Worse Than War

The first genocide mentioned in this documentary was the Genocide that took place in Rwanda. Most of the people belonged to the Tutsi group and were murdered by the Hutu majority. People in the Tutsi group were subjected to violence with machetes, clubs, and guns. The main reason for this genocide was cruelty and ignorance; with racism motivating the genocide.

The next genocide discussed in this video is the genocide in Guatemala. In this genocide, the government mass slaughtered over 2,000 indigenous Maya during the 1980s. The government said that the Mayan people were insubordinate and opposed progress. The military would drain local Mayan lakes, and take Mayan people from their homes. Soldiers would separate women and men, and massacre them; they would even smash babies on the ground and kill them in front of the mothers. The government projected the false value that the Maya were a danger to the progression of Guatemalan society.

Another genocide mentioned in this film is the Holocaust that took place in Germany; Jews and other minority/disabled individuals were given death sentences. These individuals had their homes raided and were sent to concentration camps; where they would either be worked to

death, experimented on, or sentenced to a gas chamber. This was done based on the Nazi idea of cultural cleansing and purification; this ideology was further supported by the government.

Throughout this documentary, many genocides all over the world were discussed; with each holding its horrors that cannot be compared. Even though each genocide was unique to the people who were subjected to them; there are some similarities regarding genocide as a whole. Some similar patterns in these genocides that I have identified are the major components of violence and cruelty. In most of these genocides, this use of violence and ill-treatment was supported by some type of ideology; some of these ideologies were: cultural cleansing, purification, or a certain group of people brought a threat to the progression or way of life of a society. Another pattern in these genocides is the government's involvement or lack of involvement in the violence and cruelty brought about as a result of the genocide.

To stop genocides from happening, I think there should be a global innovation or task force created to stop genocides. I think the formation of this would be tricky especially when getting countries' leaders to agree to have outside interference in their own country should a genocide arise there. However, when thousands of people are being slaughtered military/outside interference is needed to stop this violence. Another measure that can be taken is setting up safe havens around the borders of countries where genocides are taking place; to offer safe asylum to people fleeing. Holding prosecutors accountable for actions committed in genocide is also of uttermost importance. Lastly, educating people about the consequences of genocide, and why it's morally wrong.

Works Cited

PBS. "Genocide Worse than War Full Length Documentary PBS." *YouTube*, YouTube, 23

May 2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsMe7QvqpaU&t=4995s>.