

Film Response: Genocide

- 1) What was the stated reason for the genocide in each instance?
 - a. In Rwanda, the Hutu tribe wanted to kill the Tutsis before their unfounded belief that the Tutsis would reclaim their rule over them.
 - b. In Guatemala, the government said the Mayans were inherently subversive and an impediment to progress. In layman's terms, they were murdered because the government felt they hindered their country's development and were incapable of obeying the law.
 - c. Nazi Germany believed the Russians, Poles, and Gypsies were subhuman or "Untermenschen," which also meant they were mentally handicapped. An idea turned doctrine, making their "Lives unworthy of life..."
 - d. Cambodia, the rebels, who recently took control of the country, wanted to transform Cambodian society.
- 2) Do you see a pattern in these reasons?
 - a. The commonality in all who decided to use genocide as a tactic chose to do so for political power. Another theme in genocide is the cruelty with which genocide is always executed. Whether dashing infants against trees or rocks, raping the female victim before murdering them, or using a machete to chop a generous friend to pieces. Pure savagery and barbarism are other factors.
- 3) Are elements of civil war, or nationalism, or racism, or religion involved in genocides? Do you see examples of identerest? Be specific as to the nation/group and the aspect involved.
 - a. Yes, all of these elements can be associated with genocides. "They tap into the prejudices they already have." Hitler and building his *master race* which connotates other races, must be inferior. Slobodan Milošević wanted to "make a greater Serbia, a nationalist view that drove him to mass exterminate the Muslim population that was preventing the unification of Serbian territories. Hutus being taught that the Tutsi tribe once ruled over them and would again unless they kill and rule over them instead is an example of tribal warfare.
- 4) How do hierarchies and politics impact genocides? How?
 - a. Tharcisse Karcigaramana blames the "mass hysteria" of those executing the genocide on the ideas that the politicians used to fuel the rage of the Hutu with the fear that the other group was planning against them. Pol Pot wanted to turn Cambodia into a Marxist Agrarian utopia that opposed the modernity of the industrial revolution that the entire globe had been exposed to.
- 5) What do you think can be done to stop genocides from happening in the present/future?
 - a. I don't want to give the impression that I have no hope for humanity. On the contrary, my faith in Christ is where my eternal hope for us lies. However, until then, I must expect humanity to exhibit the sin-filled symptoms of sickness we are all carriers of. Therefore, I don't believe much can be done to irradicate genocide totally. However, a preventative measure to deter this kind of ideology from being adopted would be consistent education. It must be spoken about and made a reality to an earlier generation who have not yet invested in the "isms" of society which assemble the divisive cultural frames which fence these evil screen images.

Work Cited

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“Genocide Worse than War Full Length Documentary PBS.” *YouTube*, YouTube, 23 May 2015,
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