

Hanna Perez

Professor Lyndell O'Hara

HIS114 World Civilization

20 April 2023

Film Response: Genocide

1. What was the stated reason for the genocide in each instance?

The Rwandan Genocide in 1994 was fueled by the belief that the Tutsi minority posed a threat to the Hutu-dominated government. **The Holocaust** during World War II was driven by the belief that Jews were a subhuman race endangering the purity of the German people. **The Cambodian Genocide** in the 1970s targeted educated individuals, ethnic minorities, and perceived enemies of the regime due to the belief that they threatened the stability of the communist government. **The Bosnian Genocide** in the 1990s was aimed at Bosniak Muslims and Croats, driven by the belief that they posed a threat to Serbian nationalism. **The Armenian Genocide** during World War I targeted Armenians based on the belief that they were collaborating with the enemy and posed a threat to the Ottoman Empire.

2. Do you see a pattern in these reasons?

Genocides stem from animosities or conflicts between ethnic, religious, or racial groups.

3. Are elements of civil war, nationalism, racism, or religion involved in genocides? Do you see examples of interest? Be specific as to the nation/group and the aspect involved.

Civil wars, nationalism, racism, and religion often play roles in genocides. Civil wars can create a volatile environment where groups target perceived opponents. Nationalism can drive genocides, such as the Bosnian War in the 1990s. Racism has fueled genocides like the Holocaust by the Nazis. Religion has been used as a pretext for genocidal acts, as seen in the Rohingya genocide in Myanmar.

4. How do hierarchies and politics impact genocides? How?

Hierarchies and politics can impact genocides through power dynamics, political ideologies, political instability, and international politics. Understanding and addressing these factors is crucial in efforts to prevent and respond to genocidal violence. Political power struggles can also impact genocides as leaders may use violence to gain or maintain control, exploit existing tensions, or mobilize support for political gain.

5. What do you think can be done to stop genocides from happening in the present/future?

I believe that in order to prevent genocides, promoting and protecting human rights is crucial, including the rights of minority groups and holding perpetrators of human rights abuses accountable. Also, educating people about the history, causes, and consequences of genocides can foster empathy, tolerance, and understanding among different groups.