

## 17.523: Ethnicity and Race in World Politics-Fall 2005

Prof. M. Nobles

Lecture 22: In – Class Screening: “Ghosts of Rwanda” (PBS Frontline Series) Contd.

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*Note: the following notes are a synopsis of the documentary film and do not represent the views of Prof. Nobles or her students.*

Ghosts of Rwanda movie Continued

Red Cross

- Gaillard asked the new Prime Minister to stop the killing, that it was absurd.
- Gaillard’s network gave him the most accurate death toll
- In first two weeks 100,000 Rwandans had been killed.
- Gaillard decided to speak out against Hutu. Red Cross traditionally didn’t take sides.

April 21

- Rwandan human rights activist traveled to Washington
- Monique Mujala Maria was smuggled out of Kigali mujawamariya.
- Washington voted to withdraw 90% of the troops.
- Congress wasn’t supportive of more peacekeepers and neither was the Pentagon.
- Gen Dallaire only had 450 ill-equipped troops
- Dallaire was essentially abandoned by the UN.

April 25

- Wilkins hadn’t left his home in nearly 3 wks.
- There were horses wandering the streets and there weren’t horses in Rwanda.
- Kids were playing with western toys.
- Gromo Alex began a UN humanitarian team in Kigali.
- Alex: killing was like a drink for them. Keep killing to get intoxicated.
- 4 wks into the genocide the red cross estimate 300,000 rwandans had been killed.

May 3

- The problem for most senior officials in Washington was that it never became a serious issue.
- Anthony lake national security advisor to Clinton said it didn’t get the exposure.
- Bushnell’s hands were tied by US’s non-intervention policy
- Called General Paul Kagame and told him to negotiate with the extremist.
- Bushnell: the only effort she could make to reach out a hand of humanity was, General, I wish you peace.

Kigali

- Tcapt. Mbaye’s secret missions.
- He had large groups of people who would appear and then next day be gone.
- Mbaye brought people in to town and then had them evacuated.
- There’s a Senegalese officer who was saving people.
- Gen. Dallaire had a plan to create more safe havens

- He wanted to secure football stadiums because of the tall concrete walls.
- Need more troops though.
- Asked UN to bring in more troops.
- Belgium had pulled out and was the strongest western presence.
- UN wouldn't send anymore troops.
- Dallaire continued with cease fire negotiations
- Inside Kigali hotel, leaders of the Interahamwe (death squad) were waiting
- The Interahamwe continued to threaten UN soldiers
- Dallaire put the church under UN guard.
- Unarmed UN guards were able to keep armed extremists from coming in and killing the people in the church.
- After the holocaust, UN established and a charter created to prevent genocide.
- Christen Shelly-state department, wouldn't label the situation in Rwanda as genocide because it had serious legal implications.
- Madeleine Albright: no one realized that it was happening in the proportions it was.

May 17

- Finally authorized 5,000 peacekeepers. UN didn't have any troops. They weren't immediately available.
- The governments wouldn't give the UN troops.
- Washington promised logistical support, but the state department had difficulty getting the pentagon to act.
- One lawyer from the Pentagon said that blocking the radio waves in Rwanda would be unconstitutional and violate freedom of the press, etc.
- It would take 3 mths for troops to arrive. Who would pay, who pays for transport, who pays for training, etc.

May 25

- Seven weeks into the genocide, Clinton reiterated that US would only intervene if it was in the use's national interest.
- Wilkins probably saved more lives than the entire US government.
- Wilkins discovered that the Interahamwe had surrounded an orphanage.
- 50 militia guys with machine guys.
- While his colleague stayed at the orphanage, Wilkins tried to get help.
- Friend of Wilkins told him to ask the prime minister. (Kbanda)
- Prime minister said we're aware of situation, and the orphans were safe.
- By late may, the extremists were running out of Tutsi to kill.
- Capt Mbaye Diagne Jain sent 600 Tutsi to the other side of town.
- Capt. Mbaye stopped at the checkpoint, and some shrapnel shot through the window and killed him.
- They couldn't find a body bag to put him in.
- He saved 100's, maybe even thousands.

Nyabuye

- As civil war was drawing to a close, BBC journalist and others approached the church where the 5,000 Tutsi had sought refuge.

- Got to the Mayor's offices because they had heard there were survivors.
- Valentina's fingers had been chopped off and she had a wound on the back of her head. All of her family was dead.

June 10

- George Moose: Assistant Secretary of state for Africa: didn't know how we would be viewed if we admitted it was genocide.
- The fact that we hadn't admitted it already was tarnishing already.
- Rwandan genocide ended in July 1994 and had lasted 100 days.
- Tutsi won the civil war and that's the only reason why it had ended.
- 800,000 Tutsi had been killed.
- World leaders who didn't do anything came to Nyabuye
- Anthony Lake realized after going to Rwanda that the US should have done more.
- Madeleine Albright went to Rwanda and saw the remains of a small child with machete marks on the skull. (January 1006)
- Clinton went to Rwanda in march 1998
- Clinton admitted that the US had made a mistake, but never said sorry.
- May 2003, Clinton said that congress was still reeling from what happened in Somalia. He regrets deeply the decisions they made.
- Dallaire fell into a depression and became an alcoholic and suicidal.