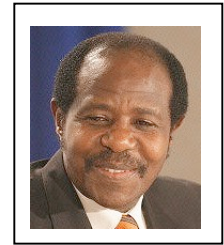




2005 Freedom Award
International Recipient
Paul Rusesabagina



PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

Biography

As the manager of the Hotel des Mille Collines, Paul Rusesabagina used the hotel’s grounds to shelter over 1,200 Tutsis and Hutus during the Rwandan genocide of 1994. Following the murder of the Hutu president, over one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed during a one hundred day period by bands of Hutu militias known as Interahamwe. The genocide was a product of decades of tensions between Rwanda’s two ethnic groups that had emerged during the nation’s colonization by Belgium.

What action is Paul Rusesabagina known for? How does he represent the ability of ordinary people to act courageously in the defense of human rights?

Vocabulary

Genocide: The deliberate, systematic killing of an ethnic or racial group
Militia: An organized military force

Can you name another incident of genocide in world history? How did the world respond?



1.



2.



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4.

Can you identify the images above?

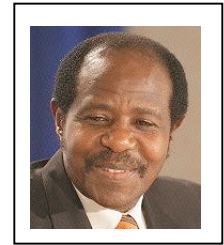
1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

Answers:
1. World Map 2. Africa 3. Rwanda 4. Rwandan Flag

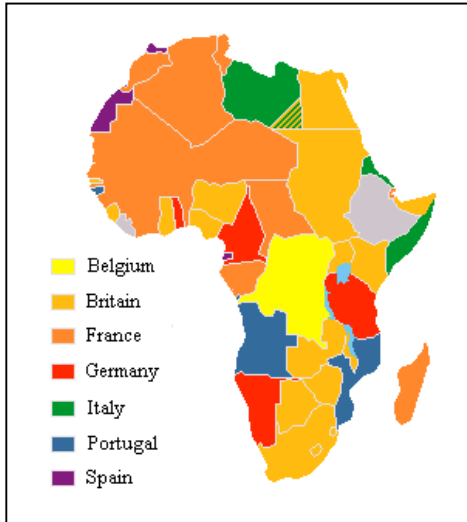


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POST-VISIT ACTIVITY

Tensions between the Hutus and the Tutsis date back to the late 1800s. At that time, Rwanda was a monarchy controlled by a Tutsi royal family. Although many of the highest-ranking members of society were Tutsi, Hutus were also among the nobility. Racial divisions were not well defined. In 1890, Germany overtook Rwanda and made it



a colony. European nations had been engaged in colonialism since developing colonies in the Americas in the 1500s. Widespread colonization by European countries began in Africa at the end of the 1800s and lasted until the independence movements of the 1950s and 1960s. Rwanda was initially a German colony, but following World War I, Rwanda and some of Germany's other colonial possessions were awarded to Belgium.

Belgian officials began to privilege the Tutsi minority, who numbered 15% of the population, based on assumptions about their racial superiority as members of the Bantu tribe, a racial category that included the Hutus. Although the Tutsis and the Hutus shared a common language and many of the same traditional practices, the colonizers enforced the usage of identity cards that relied on ethnic affiliation. From 1916 until Rwanda became independent in 1962, Tutsis had access to better education and better jobs and they slowly became the sole members of the elite. Hutus came to power following independence and Tutsis were seen as the scapegoats for the nation's social and economic problems.

New Vocabulary

- Colonialism:** Direct governmental control of one country by a foreign power
- Colony:** A territory inhabited or governed by another nation

How did the racial assumptions of Europeans create new tensions among the Hutus and the Tutsis?

What were some of the issues that led to the American Revolution? How might some of our nation's problems as a colony have been similar to those of African nations? In what ways might it have been different?
