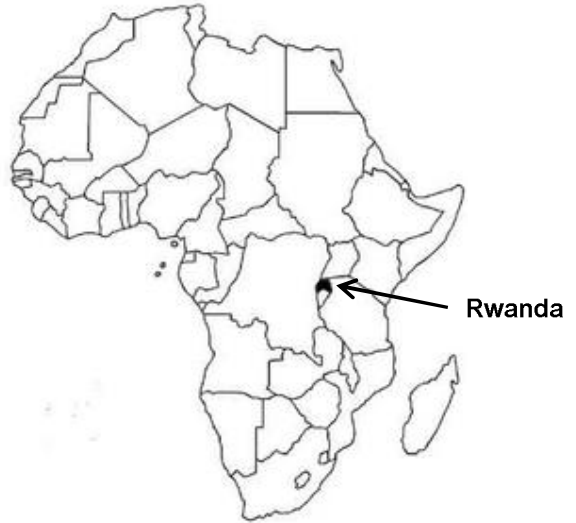


Worksheet 1: Background Information

Rwanda

Rwanda is a country in Central Africa with a population of 10 million people. Historical records begin with a Tutsi king who took power in 1860. During this time, the Tutsi were the aristocracy and the Hutu were their servants. After World War I the League of Nations (an early version of the United Nations) gave Belgium power to administer Rwanda.



The Belgians used the already existing Tutsi and Hutu differences and made these differences part of their colonial system. The Hutu were used as forced labour for the colonial administration, and the Tutsi supervised them. In 1933, Rwandans were given an ethnic identity card showing if they were Hutu or Tutsi. At that time, 85% were Hutu and 15% were Tutsi. This ID card and Belgium's policy of favoring the Tutsi over the Hutu prepared Rwanda for future violence.

In 1959, three years before independence from Belgium in 1962, the Hutus overthrew the ruling Tutsi king. Over the next several years, thousands of Tutsis were killed. About 150,000 went into exile in neighboring countries. The children of these Tutsi exiles later formed a rebel group, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), and began a civil war in 1990. This war, along with political and economic problems, made ethnic tensions worse and led to the April 1994 genocide shown in the film *Hotel Rwanda*.

The Film

Hotel Rwanda is based on real characters and events that happened in Rwanda in 1994. It focuses on the efforts of Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager, to hide hundreds of Tutsi refugees from the Interahamwe militia.



The real Paul Rusesabagina with Don Cheadle, the actor who played him in *Hotel Rwanda*.

Characters in the Film

Paul Rusesabagina is the manager of Milles Collines Hotel. He is Hutu.



Tatiana is Paul's wife. She is Tutsi. They have three children.



Colonel Oliver is commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in Rwanda.



General Bizimungu is head of the Rwandan Armed Forces.



George Rutaganda is a businessman and leader of an Interhamwe militia group.



Jack Daghish is a journalist and photographer who documents the Rwandan genocide.



Dube works at Milles Collines.



Gregoire works at Milles Collines.

Madame Archer is a Red Cross Worker.

Thomas and **Fedens** are Tatiana's brother and sister-in-law.