

Challenges for Britain, Europe and the wider world 1901 to the present day

Why do genocides happen?

Lesson 3: Who was to blame for the Rwandan Massacre?

In this lesson you will:

- Investigate reasons why the 1994 genocide happened in Rwanda
- weigh up the importance of different causes of genocide.

Why did the Hutus try to kill all the Tutsis?

In many schools there are different groups of students who sometimes do not get along.

Janet's story

1 Read source a. Try to pick out reasons why Janet thinks the Hutus wanted to murder her.

? How do these groups identify themselves? Why do these groups sometimes not get along?

Who were the Hutus and Tutsis?

Rwanda is a beautiful, but poor country in Central Africa. Most people who live there are farmers who make just enough money to survive. The two main groups of people in Rwanda are Hutus and Tutsis. They have lived alongside each other for more than 400 years; they speak the same language, and share the same religion, dress and customs. But in 1994, ordinary Hutus began to murder their Tutsi neighbours. More than 800,000 Tutsis were murdered in just 100 days. Most of these people were hacked to death with **machetes**.

a Hutus think Tutsis are too tall and delicate; that they keep all the cattle and money for themselves rather than work hard on the farms like the Hutus. Hutus feared that the Tutsis would rise up and kill them. When the Hutus came to the school, grandmother told us to be quiet and to lie down. I lay down between a lot of grown ups, I saw them kill my sister and grandmother with machetes. I crawled under my grandmother's dead body to hide. All the screaming stopped and the only voices I could hear were those of the killers. One killer said, 'I think that little thing is still alive.' Another said, 'I will cut her and if she does not move she is dead.' That was when I felt a heavy blow on the back of my neck.

■ From an interview with Janet Uylsbye, in 2004. Janet is a Tutsi who managed to survive a horrific attack at her school by the Hutus.

Key words

Colony
Country or area of land that is ruled by another country.

Interahamwe
Extreme Hutus who formed into groups armed with guns and machetes.

Machete
Long heavy knife, usually used to hack through jungle or to clear plants.

TASK: Read Source A. What questions do you want to ask?

Group	How guilty? (1 - not guilty, 9 - guilty)	Explain mark
The Belgians		
President Habyarimana (Hutu)		
The RPF (Tutsis)		
The Akazu (Hutus)		
The United Nations		

Read each of the cards and complete the table, to explain how guilty and responsible you think each group is for starting the Rwandan Massacre.

Card 1 The Belgians

Rwanda was a Belgian colony from 1919 until 1962. The Belgians believed that the Tutsis were racially superior. In 1931, they introduced identification cards that said whether a Rwandan was Hutu or Tutsi. Only the Tutsis could work for the Belgians, and the Hutus became jealous. When the Belgians left, the Hutus rose up and took power for themselves.

Card 2

President Habyarimana (Hutu)

President Habyarimana had ruled Rwanda since 1973. He did not let the Tutsis in neighbouring countries return home. He gave all the best jobs to Hutus. In 1993, he signed the Arusha Accords, an agreement to share power with the Tutsis, and to merge the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and the Rwandan army. He was killed on 6 April 1994 when his plane was shot down. The genocide started the next day.

Card 3 The RPF (Tutsi)

In 1962, many Tutsis fled to neighbouring countries where they were forced to live in refugee camps. In 1988, when it became clear they would not be allowed home, the Tutsis formed their own army, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) to fight their way back home. In October 1990, the RPF started the attacks on Rwanda that eventually forced Habyarimana to sign the Arusha Accords. Many Hutus began to fear the return of Tutsi power.

Card 4

The Akazu (Hutu)

Akazu means 'little hut'. It was the name given to the small group of President Habyarimana's friends and relatives who controlled all the powerful jobs in Rwanda. In 1990 they started to organise the **Interahamwe**. Between 1992 and 1994, the Interahamwe leaders imported a huge number of machetes. They were handed out by local mayors in the villages. The mayors also drew up lists of local Tutsis. In 1993, the Akazu set up the RTLM radio station. On 7 April 1994, the DJ said, 'The cockroaches [Tutsis] have killed the president. You must take your spears, clubs, guns, swords, stones, everything - hack them, those cockroaches!'

Card 5

The United Nations (UN)

Romeo Dallaire, the UN General in Rwanda, reported that Interahamwe members were making lists of Tutsis to murder. He asked for permission to seize their guns. Kofi Annan, his boss at the UN headquarters, told him to do nothing but keep watching. On 21 April 1994, the UN evacuated all white people, and reduced their number of troops in Rwanda from 2,568 to 270.

TASK: Use the information from your table, to complete the PEEL paragraph below, explaining who you think was mainly responsible for the Rwandan Massacre and why.

I think _____ was / were mainly responsible for the genocide because

P = Point
E = Evidence
E = Explanation
L = Link

Lesson 4: Was Cambodia a genocide?

Cambodia is a country in South East Asia, twice the size of Scotland.



In 1953 Cambodia gained independence after nearly 100 years of French rule. In the 1960s the population was over 7million, almost all Buddhists, under the rule of a monarch, Prince Sihanouk.



In 1970 **Prince Sihanouk** was overthrown in a military coup.

The leader of the new right-wing government was lieutenant-general **Lon Nol**, who was made president of the 'Khmer Republic'.



Prince Sihanouk and his followers joined forces with a communist guerrilla organisation founded in 1960, known as the **Khmer Rouge**. They attacked Lon Nol's army and civil war began.

By 1975 the Khmer Rouge guerrilla movement had grown to over 700,000 men. Their leader was **Pol Pot**.



In 1975 Lon Nol was defeated by the Khmer Rouge. It is estimated that 156,000 died in the civil war - half of them civilians.

TASK: Use this information to complete the matchup task.

- Cambodia
- Prince Sihanouk
- Lon Nol
- Khmer Rouge
- Pol Pot
- Leader of the Khmer Rouge guerrilla movement
- Leader of the new right-wing government and made president of the 'Khmer Republic'.
- A country in South East Asia
- Ruler of Cambodia until he was overthrown by a military coup in 1970.
- Organisation formed to overthrow the Khmer Republic.

The genocide

Under Pol Pot's leadership, and within days of overthrowing the government, the Khmer Rouge embarked on an organised mission. They believed that the population must be made to work as labourers in one huge federation of collective farms.



Anyone in opposition - and all intellectuals and educated people were assumed to be - must be eliminated. So, at short notice and under threat of death, the inhabitants of towns and cities were forced to leave them.

The ill, disabled, old and very young were driven out as well, regardless of their physical condition: no-one was spared.

People who refused to leave, those who didn't leave fast enough, and those who wouldn't obey orders were killed. All political and civil rights were abolished. Children were taken from their parents and placed in separate forced labour camps. Factories, schools, universities and hospitals were shut down. Lawyers, doctors, teachers, engineers, scientists and professional people in any field (including the army) were murdered, together with their extended families.

Religion was banned and all leading Buddhist monks were killed and almost all temples destroyed. Music and radio sets were banned. It was possible for people to be shot simply for knowing a foreign language, wearing glasses, laughing, or crying.

People who escaped murder became unpaid labourers, working on minimum rations and for impossibly long hours. They slept and ate in uncomfortable communes deliberately chosen to be as far as possible from their old homes. Personal relationships were discouraged; so were expressions of affection. People soon became weak from overwork and starvation, and after that fell ill, for which there was no treatment except death.

Also targeted were minority groups, including ethnic Chinese, Vietnamese and Thai, and also Cambodians with Chinese, Vietnamese or Thai ancestry. Half the Cham Muslim population was murdered, and 8,000 Christians. The Khmer Rouge also repeatedly interrogated their own members, imprisoning and executing them on the slightest suspicion of treachery or sabotage. Civilian deaths in this period, from executions, disease, exhaustion and starvation, have been estimated at well over 2million.

TASK: Make a list of all the different types of people who were targeted in this genocide, and give an example of what happened to them.

e.g. Children = taken from their parents and put in forced labour camps

How did it end?

In 1978 Vietnam invaded Cambodia and overthrew the Khmer Rouge. The guerrillas were driven into the western jungles and beyond to Thailand. Pol Pot's policies had ruined the economy and all the competent professionals, engineers, technicians and planners had been killed.

In 1989, it became legal to own land again and the state religion, Buddhism, was revived. In 1991 a peace agreement between opposing groups was signed. Democratic elections, and a peacekeeping force to monitor them, were arranged for 1993, and the former monarch, Prince Sihanouk, was elected to lead the new government.

From 1995 mass graves began to be uncovered, revealing the genocide's horrifying extent. The resurrected bones and skulls have been preserved to create simple and potent memorials of the dead in 'the killing fields' where they died. At the torture centre in Phnom Penh, where the Khmer Rouge terrorised and murdered their own members, not only skulls but also identity photographs of the victims are displayed on the walls as a memorial.



TASK: Genocide is defined as the systematic and widespread extermination or attempted extermination of an entire national, religious, or ethnic group. Explain why you think what happened in Cambodia is a genocide. Use PEEL to structure your answer.