

Student's Name  
Instructor's Name  
Course  
Date



# FILM CRITIQUE

In the film *Hotel Rwanda*, Terry George represents historical events based on the worldwide known Rwandan tragedy called genocide in 1994. The plot of the film reflects how Hutu extremists massacred around one million of Tutsis within one hundred days. Thus, the primary issue is to reveal unjust and the contravention of human freedom and identity connected with racism that led to genocide.

Reality can be too cruel at times as hate reigns over the human deeds and actions. The director portrayed the revolution between Tutsis and Hutus that referred to two different African groups being unequal in their rights. He questions who Tutsis and Hutus are in order to reflect the history. It occurred on the sixth of April in 1994 when the President of Rwanda, Habyarimana was killed by Hutus relentlessly considering themselves as the highest race. Thousands of children lost their parents and living shelters, or they were merely killed like animals. The hotel manager, Paul Rusesabagina (Don Cheadle) used his influence to save more than one thousand victims being found a refuge at the hotel *Des Mille Collines* during the period of genocide (Thompson). Working at the luxurious hotel, a man begins to defend the Tutsis risking his own life despite he

relates to Hutus. Paul revealed mercy and compassion for the Tutsis and hundreds of orphans when he paid money for every single person.

The points of identity are an integral part of the story as people suffer from their genealogy even today. Before the Belgian colonists arrived, there was no such evident tension between Tutsis and Hutus, and the question of identity did not bother anyone. Coming back to the background of the story, the Belgian colonists stated in 1916 that Tutsis were superior to Hutus because of their lighter skins and more European features. In such a way, they made Tutsis the ruling class giving them more educational and working possibilities during that period. Gradually, Hutus' resentment increased, and it led to irretrievable events when Hutus shot the President's aircraft. According to the film, both ethnic groups looked similar as they spoke the same language and lived in the same territory following identical traditions. However, the Belgian colonists contributed to the inequality producing the cards of identity in order to "classify people according to their identity". They called Tutsis **the cockroaches** destroying their dignity and will. It was the beginning of inhuman attitude to people who could not assert their rights. As a result, the story shows the devastating events when any time a person had to bear violence and cruelty. The worst thing was that people could not rely on the government. They could not expect any support from other countries as their lives did not mean anything because of the black skin. As for Hutus, they possessed neither moral nor spiritual values expressing just hate and nothing more. Even nowadays, a boundless amount of people suffer from racism experiencing "the color of fear". Nobody can be less than another as all people must have the same privileges.

In conclusion, *Hotel Rwanda* depicts a human holocaust during the Rwandan Revolution when Britain and France refused to prevent the bloody and endless genocide. Rwanda lost its power, and Hutus decided to destruct Tutsis limiting their rights. Then, they took away their liberties and life. Undoubtedly, the film does have any entertaining feature as it demonstrates the history of Rwanda. Thus, it is a precise message to all nations that can have an illuminative character as it depicts cruelty and unjust combined with human sufferings due to ethnicity and identity.