

Rwanda: Shared Blame

Possible answers

The **Belgians** put the small population of Tutsi in charge of the Hutu and Twa. The people of Rwanda were told the Tutsi were better than the other people. The Belgians educated only the Tutsi, trained them government jobs, and kept a Tutsi king in power. The Belgians made everyone be classified as a Hutu, Tutsi, or Twa. When the Tutsis wanted independence, the Belgians stirred up the Hutu against the Tutsi hoping it would help the Belgians keep control of Rwanda.

The **Hutu leaders** led the revolt against the Belgian and Tutsi colonial government, and killed thousands of Tutsis during that revolt. This included women, children, and other civilians. Thousands of Tutsis fled the country and became refugees in nearby countries. The Rwanda government would not let Tutsi refugees return home. Tutsis who stayed in Rwanda did not have many rights. They were denied positions in government and were very limited in educational opportunities.

When the genocide started, a huge number of **regular Hutu** attacked and killed Tutsis – even their friends and neighbors. They listened to the radio and hunted down Tutsis according to the instructions they were given.

Tutsi refugees attacked Rwanda in 1990 and again in 1993. The Tutsis had also “lorded it over” the Hutus prior to independence.

The Media: *Kangura* magazine and the radio station stirred up hate. The radio station even gave specific names of people to be killed and told where to look for them.

The **United Nations and other countries** refused to send help or to even jam the radio station when the U.N. commander asked them to do that. They also pulled out half of their troops after the genocide started.