



Just Now

a toolbox
for teaching
human rights

RWANDA HISTORY

JustNow timeline cards set

The “JustNow – A Toolbox for Teaching Human Rights” project is focused on the development of methodological-didactical materials relating to human rights education, combined with simulation games and diversity learning in non-formal and formal youth educational work.

This timeline card set focuses on teaching about Rwanda through history up until today, covering some key events of Rwanda. The cards can be used in history or civic education, or in other non-formal education settings. It is advised that educators supplement the cards with local (history) examples.

The cards were created using images and information researched online, with sources noted on the back of the cards. The cards are created for exclusively non-profit educational purpose and use, in classrooms or non-formal educational settings.

Created by: JustNow project team

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Introduction on Rwanda

Rwanda, often referred to as "the land of a thousand hills", is a landlocked country in East-central Africa. In 1994, Rwanda had a population of around 7 million, composed of three ethnic groups: Hutu (85%), Tutsi (14%) and Twa (1%). There is an ongoing debate whether the Hutu and the Tutsi are separate ethnic groups, however, ethnic conflicts had erupted between them. The two groups share similarities in language, traditions, religion and culture. The split between the groups arose from economic circumstances: the Hutu were traditionally farmers and the Tutsi were cattle owners. Gradually, the class differences between the Tutsi and the Hutu became the basis of ethnic designation, particularly through the eyes of colonial powers. The Tutsi minority became privileged, and had dominated the country for the larger part of its history.



Photo by Florian Wehde on Unsplash

Berlin Conference

1884

The end of the 19th century marked the start of the partition and colonization of the majority of the African continent between European imperial powers. At the Berlin Conference held in 1884-1885, artificial borders were created to define separate states, not following the existing political or territorial traditions. Many existing kingdoms were divided or joined into new territories. However, Rwanda and neighboring Burundi (at the time administered as a joint colonial territory of Ruanda-Urundi) were left intact, and it was decided they were to be under German influence and control, later becoming part of German East Africa.



Photo by Dylan LaPierre on Unsplash

Establishing the German control

1890

In 1890, Rwanda (as part of Ruanda-Urundi) formally becomes part of German East Africa. It was nine years after the Berlin Conference that the first European entered Rwanda and visited the royal court – a German count by the name of Gustav Adolf von Götzen, who would later become governor of German East Africa. After the death of the Rwandan king in 1895 and the struggles for the succession of the throne, the Germans entered Rwanda in 1897 and established their first administrative offices under the rule of emperor Wilhelm II.



Photo by redcharlie on Unsplash

Beginning of the Belgian administration

1923

Rwanda and Burundi (administered as a joint territory of Ruanda-Urundi) were located at an intersection between three empires: the British, the Belgians and the Germans all tried to claim power over the area. During World War I, the Belgians took control over the territory. In 1923, the League of Nations (the predecessor of the United Nations) granted Belgium a mandate to govern Rwanda, which they ruled through the Tutsi monarchy.



This is a new nation, bound by a new law.



Photo by ConverKit on Unsplash

Introduction of ID cards

1933

In 1933, identity cards which included the ethnic affiliation of all Rwandan citizens were introduced by the Belgian powers. By using an extensive racial theory established already by the Germans, the population was arbitrarily classified as either Tutsi, Hutu or Twa. This was conducted primarily by measuring physical traits such as height, nose, mouth or eyes, in order to prove the claimed distinctions between the groups. The stereotypical view of the colonizers was that the Tutsi were taller, leaner and had lighter skin than the Hutu, who were short and of heavier build. In reality, this was not the case: not all members of a certain group looked like “typical” representatives, and the affiliation to a group could change through marriage or by acquiring wealth. The Tutsi were prioritized by the Belgians based on their “more European” appearance, and were provided with more education and job opportunities.

FIN DU MOIS, FIN DU MONDE, MÊME COMBAT !

Voici ce que nous réclamons et les raisons pour lesquelles nous le réclamons.

En trois points, nous réclamons :

- plus de démocratie par le biais du RIC, d'une assemblée de citoyens, d'une nouvelle constitution pour l'élaboration de laquelle les citoyens auront leur mot à dire ;
- plus d'équité et de justice sociale par le biais notamment d'une refonte totale des prélèvements (disparition de toutes les niches fiscales, meilleure répartition de l'impôt et autres taxes suivant son revenu), lutte contre la fraude fiscale, l'évasion fiscale (fraude déguisée), TVA allégée sur les produits de base, TVA augmenté sur les produits de luxe, fin du CICE (qui pour les 2/3 est capté par des actionnaires), allègement fiscal pour ceux qui investissent dans des PME, abrogation de la flat tax, réintroduction de l'exit tax, entre autre, annulation de la dette (indue), revalorisation des minimas sociaux ;
- lutte contre la corruption (1/3 des élus (en fait serviteur de l'état, et donc des citoyens) ont un casier judiciaire), remise à plat des salaires des hauts fonctionnaires avec contrôle citoyens. Non cumule des mandats (et donc des retraites), Etc.

Pour plus d'information, nous vous conseillons vivement la chaine internet Thinkerview. Entre autre, interview de Jean-Marc Jancovici, Etienne Chouard, Olivier Delamarche, Philippe Pascot et Juan Branco. Les excellents docs d'Arte sur la propagande, la monnaie ou le pétrole.

Si vous réfléchissez un peu et si vous vous renseignez un peu, vous allez vite découvrir 4 faits : le monde s'effondre, plus vite que ce que l'on nous dit, les mesure prise par Macron ne crée aucun emploi mais ne servent qu'à un transfert de fonds des pauvres et classes moyennes vers les plus riches parmi les riches (voir le dernier livre de Juan Branco), les riches n'ont nullement l'intention de changer en profondeur leur manière de vivre (pourtant extrêmement polluante) ni de partager plus équitablement. Que pensez vous donc qu'ils envisagent de faire ?

Renseignez-vous. C'est un devoir citoyen. Et si vous êtes d'accord avec ce texte, photographiez-le, copiez-le, photocopiez-le et diffusez-le. Via le net mais plus encore en l'attachant sur les murs de votre ville. A raison de 100 affiches par Mois et par personnes nous aurons bientôt recouvert les murs du pays, informé tous nos concitoyens qui bientôt recouvreront leur dignité

Photo by ev on Unsplash

Publication of the Hutu Manifesto 1957

In March of 1957, a group of Hutu intellectuals published the Hutu Manifesto, calling for ethnic and political solidarity among the Hutu in order to overthrow the Tutsi-ruled monarchy. They called for the rule of the Hutu majority and blamed the problems in Rwanda on the superiority of the Tutsi. The Manifesto also called for banning marriages between the two groups, as well as banning the Tutsi from military service. After the publication of the Manifesto, first Hutu political parties start to form, including the far-right Parmehutu (Party of the Hutu Emancipation Movement) led by Grégoire Kayibanda.



Photo by Clay Banks on Unsplash

Hutu revolution

1959

After rumors of the death of a Hutu leader committed by Tutsi perpetrators, a group of Hutu launched attacks and started an uprising on 1 November 1959. Over 150,000 Tutsi had been displaced from their homes. Mid-1960, communal elections were held and the Hutu won over 90% of leadership positions. The new Hutu leaders announced the end of the revolution after the election of the new president Grégoire Kayibanda, one of the original authors of the Hutu Manifesto and founder of the far-right Parmehutu party, in 1961. Rwanda was proclaimed a republic, and the monarchy was formally abolished.



Photo by Iftikhar Shah on Unsplash

Independence from Belgium

1962

On 1 July 1962, Rwanda was granted full independence, and Rwanda and Burundi became independent separate states recognized by the United Nations. Grégoire Kayibanda, leader of the far-right Parmehutu party which propagated Hutu superiority, was inaugurated as president.



Photo by Mike Von on Unsplash

Tutsi resistance from exile

1963

The Hutu revolution forced over 300.000 Tutsi to flee to neighboring countries. Some of the Tutsi in exile formed military groups (called by the derogatory term “inyenzi” or “cockroaches” by the Hutu government in power), who launched attacks into Rwanda. In late 1963, the government fought off a series of attacks by the rebels, killing thousands of Tutsi who remained in the country and sending even more into exile.



Photo by Koen Suyk (ANEFO) on Wikimedia Commons, Rwandan president Juvénal Habyarimana and Dutch prime-minister Dries van Agt toasting. The Hague (the Netherlands), 13 May 1980

New Hutu government

1973

On 5 July 1973, President Kayibanda was overthrown in a military coup led by former Minister of Defense Juvenal Habyarimana, who became the new president. A totalitarian one-party state with no allowed political activity was established under the rule of the MRND (National Revolutionary Movement for Development). A strict ethnic quota policy was introduced in public administration employment.



Photo by أخفي الله on Unsplash

Establishment of the RPF

1987

In December 1987, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (Front Patriotique Rwandais) was formed in Uganda by mainly the Tutsi in exile, as a political and military movement aimed at repatriation of the exiled and a takeover of the Rwandan government.



Photo by Khalifan rw on Wikimedia Commons, Statue of Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) soldiers during Stopping of 1994 Genocide Against Tutsi in Rwanda

RPF attacks

1990

The Tutsi-led RPF forces begin attacks from Uganda and the civil war in Rwanda started. The Hutu government started considering all Tutsi in the country RPF accomplices. A cease-fire was negotiated in 1991, and negotiations between the RPF and President Habyarimana began in 1992.

VILLE NEGOCIATION REMET

te

Les men de IL FAUT UN TRAITE AVEC LES ETATS ALIENS

Les membres du Pacte
de Varsovie :
**IL FAUT CONCLURE
UN TRAITE DE PAIX
AVEC LES DEUX
ETATS ALLEMANDS**

PAQUES

A THIVIER

Photo by Mr Cup / Fabien Barral on Unsplash

Kangura newspaper

1990

The Kangura was an extremist propaganda newspaper which spread hate messages against the Tutsi population and the moderate Hutu. In December 1990, they published the widely circulated "Hutu Ten Commandments". It included such "rules" as entrusting all decision-making positions only to Hutu, showing no mercy to the Tutsi, forbidding marriage with Tutsi women (who were considered to be working for the Tutsi group), and calling for Hutu unity and solidarity against the Tutsi.



Photo by Rishi on Unsplash

The Interahamwe

1990

The Hutu-led army in Rwanda starts recruiting and training Hutu civilian militias. The Interahamwe ("those who attack together"), formed as the youth wings of the MRND, was the first of these groups. They were proponents of the Hutu Power ideology.



Photo by Jacob Hodgson on Unsplash

RTLM

1993

Radio Télévision Libres des Milles Collines (RTLM) started its broadcast as a youth radio station. Their program was marked with strong anti-Tutsi propaganda, including political slogans turned into songs and calls for mobilization of young people into youth movements following the Hutu Power ideology. During the events of the genocide in Rwanda, the radio would broadcast the lists of names and addresses of the Tutsi who were to be killed, as well as messages to "exterminate the cocroaches", referring to the dehumanizing term used for the Tutsi.



Photo by Cytonn Photography on Unsplash

The Arusha Accords

1993

The Arusha Accords were a series of peace agreements signed in Arusha, Tanzania between the Rwandan government and the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) which put a stop to the war that took place in Rwanda in the 1990s. They established the basis for the introduction of a new power-sharing transitional government and a unified army, as well as the return of the Rwandans in exile. Hutu extremists were strongly opposed to these plans.



Photo by Sam Mann on Unsplash

UN establishes peacekeeping force

1993

In order to oversee the implementation of the Arusha Accords, the UN Security Council established the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) on 5 October 1993, under the command of General Romeo Dallaire. Around 2500 UN military personnel were deployed to Kigali.



Photo by Leslie Cross on Unsplash

The plane crash

1994

On 6 April 1994, a plane with President Habyarimana and the President of Burundi was shot down with a missile as it was approaching the airport in Kigali. While it was never discovered who was responsible for the attack, the Rwandan government blamed the RPF. The Rwandan armed forces and the Hutu militia groups soon set up roadblocks in Kigali and started performing checks of the ID cards, and began killing the Tutsi and moderate Hutu.



Photo by Adedotun Adegborioye on Unsplash

Murder of Agathe Uwilingiyimana

1994

Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana was the next in line to take over the presidential function after the assassination of President Habyarimana. She was set to give a speech on the government-owned Radio Rwanda with calls for peace. Along with her husband and ten Belgian UN peacekeepers, the Prime Minister was assassinated in the morning of 7 April 1994. Killings and violence started spreading from the capital of Kigali throughout Rwanda with shocking speed, and the date marks the beginning of the genocide in Rwanda.



Photo by Eric Masur on Unsplash

UN reduces peacekeeping forces 1994

Soon after the murder of the 10 Belgian peacekeepers who were assigned to guard Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana, Belgium withdrew the rest of its force from UNAMIR. When other countries asked to withdraw troops, the UNAMIR force was reduced to 270 military personnel on 21 April 1994.



Photo by Soroush Alavi on Unsplash

The genocide in Rwanda

1994

Over the course of 100 days between April and July 1994, an estimated 800,000 to 1,000,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by extremist Hutus. An estimated 100,000 to 250,000 women were raped during the three months of genocide, many of whom were infected with HIV/AIDS. Among the perpetrators were soldiers, politicians, Interahamwe militia members, as well as ordinary citizens.



Photo by Clay Banks on Unsplash

RPF takes control of Rwanda

1994

In early July, the RPF, led by Paul Kagame, took over the capital of Kigali, and the Hutu government fled to Zaire, followed by around 2 million Hutu refugees. On July 18, the RPF controlled the entirety of Rwanda, except the humanitarian zone controlled by Operation Turquoise (a "safe zone" in the south-west of Rwanda established by the UN Security Council on 22 June 1994 and led by France). A unilateral cease-fire was declared by the RPF and a Government of National Unity was formed on July 19, putting an end to the horrifying events of the genocide in Rwanda.



Signature _____

For any item not budgeted for the purchase,
must approve for the purchase.

Signature 1: _____

Signature 2: _____

Signature 3: _____

Signature 4: _____

Date _____

Date _____

Photo by Cytonn Photography on Unsplash

Establishment of the ICTR

1994

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was established by the UN Security Council in 1994 and opened its offices in Arusha, Tanzania in 1995. 93 individuals were indicted, out of which 62 sentenced, including high-ranking military and government officials, politicians, businessmen, as well as religious, militia, and media leaders. It was the first international tribunal to deliver verdicts in relation to genocide and to hold members of the media responsible for broadcasts intended to inflame the public to commit acts of genocide, as well as the first institution to recognize rape as a means of perpetrating genocide. The ICTR delivered its last judgement in 2012 and closed in 2015.



Photo by Tingey Injury Law Firm on Unsplash

National trials

1996

National trials for the genocide in Rwanda started in December 1996. The long delay was due to the fact the country had lost most of its judicial personnel during the genocide, and the majority of the accompanying infrastructure, namely courts and jails, was destroyed. By 2000, over 100,000 genocide suspects were awaiting trial. By 2006, approximately 10,000 genocide suspects had been tried.



Photo by Mathias Reding on Unsplash

UN Independent Inquiry

1999

In May 1999, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan set up an Independent Inquiry into the actions of the UN during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. The Report on the inquiry, conducted by a commission chaired by former Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, concluded that "the failure of the United Nations to prevent, and subsequently, to stop the genocide was a failure by the UN system as a whole".



Photo by Jonathan Velasquez on Unsplash

Georges Ruggiu

2000

A Belgian national, Georges Ruggiu was a journalist and a radio host at the Radio Télévision Libres des Milles Collines (RTL). During 1994, he made broadcasts calling for violence against the Tutsi, including statements that the 1959 revolution was unfinished and calling for the population to eliminate the Tutsis. He pleaded guilty to charges of incitement to commit genocide and crime against humanity (persecution), and was sentenced to 12 years in prison in 2000 by the ICTR. He was granted early release in 2009.



Photo by Marc St on Unsplash

Gacaca trials

2002

In June 2002, the Rwandan Government began implementing a participatory justice system, known as Gacaca, (pronounced "ga-cha-cha") in order to address the extensive backlog of cases. The judges, many of whom did not have formal legal education or training, were elected within the community. The judges heard the trials of genocide suspects accused of all crimes, except planning of genocide or rape. On May 4, 2012, the Gacaca courts were closed. More than 12,000 courts tried more than 1.9 million genocide cases throughout the country. According to the Rwandan Government, about 65% of the nearly two million persons tried were found guilty.



Photo by Ilyass SEDDOUG on Unsplash

The UN Outreach Programme

2005

The Outreach Programme on the Rwanda Genocide and the United Nations was established by the UN General Assembly on December 23, 2005, as an information and educational outreach programme to mobilize civil society for Rwanda genocide victim remembrance and education in order to help prevent future acts of genocide. In 2020, the name of the programme was amended to "The Outreach Programme on the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and the United Nations".



Photo by Foad Roshan on Unsplash

Simon Bikindi

2008

Simon Bikindi was a popular singer-songwriter in Rwanda. He authored a series of songs with messages related to glorifying the end of the Tutsi monarchy during the Hutu revolution and portraying moderate Hutus as traitors. Charged on six counts related to genocide and crimes against humanity before the ICTR, Simon Bikindi was found guilty and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for direct and public incitement to commit genocide in 2008. While travelling as part of an Interahamwe convoy, Simon Bikindi was in a vehicle equipped with public address systems broadcasting his songs, and he used the public address system to state that the Hutu should arise and exterminate the Tutsi. In 2010, the Appeals Chamber affirmed the initial sentence for these actions.



Photo by Bernd Dittrich on Unsplash

UN IRMCT

2010

In December 2010, the UN Security Council set up the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals to take over and finish the remaining tasks of both the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) upon the expiration of their mandates.



Photo by Jean Claude Akarikumutima on Unsplash

Rwanda today

2022

The new constitution of Rwanda states that all Rwandans share equal rights. A series of laws was passed to fight discrimination and divisive genocide ideology. The reconciliation process in Rwanda focuses on reconstructing the Rwandan identity, as well as balancing justice, truth, peace and security in the country. The primary responsibility for reconciliation efforts in Rwanda rests with the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, established in 1999. In 2001, Rwanda's Government unveiled a new flag and national anthem as part of its drive to promote national unity and reconciliation after the 1994 genocide. The new national anthem refers to all Rwandans as one people: the national census no longer tracks ethnicity and discussion on ethnic identities has been made illegal.