

## Rwanda Case Study – Background Information

- Long history of conflict between the Hutus (~84% of the population) and Tutsi (~15% of the population)
- During colonial era, Tutsi held control under Belgian rule
- After independence in 1959, Hutu killed 10,000 Tutsi and seized power; ~120,000 Tutsis fled the country and formed a guerilla group called the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF)
- After years of internal fighting, in 1993 a peace treaty was signed between the two groups; UN peacekeepers were put in place
- April 6, 1994 Hutu president Habyarimana killed in a mysterious plane crash; Hutu extremists took over the government and started a genocide against the Tutsis
- Over a 14-week period, 800,000 to 1,000,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu were massacred
- The RPF (Tutsis) retaliated = civil war; UN troops pulled out
- By July 1994, the RPF was in control of most of Rwanda
- Two million HUTU civilians and militia fled the country primarily to Zaire and Tanzania = massive refugee crisis