



Discussion Questions

We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will be Killed with Our Families: Stories from Rwanda, by Philip Gourevitch

1. What role did **history & colonial motivations** play in feeding the conflict?
2. What does the **Genocide Convention** mean?
 - a. “The utopian premise of the Genocide Convention had been that a moral imperative to prevent efforts to exterminate whole peoples should be the overriding interest animating the action of an international community of autonomous states. ... States have never acted for purely disinterested humanitarian reasons; the novel idea was that the protection of humanity was in every state’s interest” Page 169.
 - b. Why didn’t the fax from General Dallaire about the informant’s information prompt action by the UN? (See page 104-106)
3. Gourevitch paraphrases Tito Ruteremara and says: “...a true genocide and true justice are incompatible.” (p. 249) How do you determine **individual culpability** for human rights violations when nearly an entire population is implicated?
 - a. How do we understand the case of Girumuhatshe? “When the authorities said kill, he killed, and when the authorities said confess, he confessed.” (p.311)
 - b. How do survivors find justice?
4. What is the **U.S. culpability** for the Rwandan genocide? As U.S. residents **what** are our individual obligations to understand foreign policy and advocate for involvement?
 - a. “...desertion of Rwanda by the UN force...can be credited almost single-handedly to the United States.” (p.150) “...ducking and pressuring others to duck, as the death toll leapt from thousands to tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands...” (p.151)
5. How do we hold **other countries accountable** for their direct involvement (e.g.: France – Zone Turquoise) or indirect involvement in the genocide?
6. How should **humanitarian agencies** deal with persecutors and fugitives who are in refugee camps? What prevented the UN and other aid agencies from acting to close the camps and continuing to support the Hutu Power and *génocidaires*?
7. What should the **role of the UN** be in preventing and addressing genocide? What should the role be of UN peacekeepers? Can people depend on the UN for protection?
8. What should be the **U.S. role in the UN**? How does the American public opinion of the UN influence U.S. involvement?
9. Discuss Edmond Mrugamba’s statement: “People come to Rwanda and talk of **reconciliation** ... It’s offensive. Imagine talking to Jews of reconciliation in 1946.” P. 240.