History

Internal Assessment

“To what extent did the local and international media play a pivotal role in encouraging the Rwandan genocide of 1994?”

# 

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6. **Identification and Analysis**

The inquiry would aim to answer the question "To what extent did the local and

international media play a pivotal role in encouraging the Rwandan genocide of 1994?" Media was indeed a "Lethal influence" in the genocide in Rwanda from the information that I obtained from most of the sources.

Two sources were taken for the ensuing inquiry following in-depth Analysis to assimilate

objective facts and facts about the role of the media throughout the case.

In their episode "The Ghosts of Rwanda" from December 2003, the first source, an interview "Reporting the Genocide1" was undertaken by the American investigative journalism TV programme "The Frontline." Because Mark

Doyle, a trained journalist who observed the genocide in Rwanda, addressed the questions throughout the interview, the source demonstrates the substantiality of the head. The talk attempts to deliver add

The second source, Charles Mironko's "The Effect of RTLM Rhetoric of Ethnic Hatred in Rural Rwanda" is a dissertation that was created by a non-governmental organisation named the "Aegis Trust Rwanda."

after Analysis through the "Genocide Archive." Bearing in mind that more information could not be gathered even after the in-depth information on the date of its publication or the writer himself.

Finally, through shreds of facts gathered from "comments and reflections" acknowledged by the criminal architects of the genocide, the dissertation offers a well-evaluated conclusion to its objective.

“Interviews - Mark Doyle | Ghosts Of Rwanda | FRONTLINE.” , PBS Public Broadcasting Service, 1 Apr. 2004, www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/ghosts/interviews/doyle.html.

Although the source lacks a well-confirmed origin on its date of publication or the history of the researcher, the source also refers to its credible external content such as the recorded confessions of

more than 100 witnesses and suspects along with previous studies by well-known historians such as Howard Adelman or Astri Suhrke as its outer material that can be taken as points of value for investigations

# 2. Investigation:

The most powerful force on earth is the media. They have the authority to make the accused guilty and to make the innocent guilty innocent, and that is the authority.

Since they dominate the minds of the people, says Malcolm X, former American minister and a prominent figure in the civil rights movement. In researching the degree to which the media impacted the catastrophic genocide of the Tutsi minorities in the African nation of Rwanda, this quote can be taken as the main leverage.

Taking into account the comments of a former lieutenant-general who headed the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda, Romeo Dellaire, who specifically argued for the existence of domestic media

(RTLM) spreading misinformation that would escalate the killings, and the indifference of the international media towards the whole event, four its can be said that both domestic and international media

Two years after the genocide in 1996, the US Congress, Senate 1994, reviewing the role of

“The Effect of RTLM's Rhetoric of Ethnic Hatred in Rural Rwanda.” Genocide Archive Rwanda Genocidearchiverwanda.org.rw/index.php/The\_Effect\_of\_RTLMs\_Rhetoric\_of\_Ethnic\_Hatred\_in\_Rural\_Rwanda.

domestic and local media in Rwanda before the genocide, argued that one of the first signs of an imminent genocide was the uplifting hate speeches on the radio along with the formation of army militias. We should take this point and gather an understanding of how the media was exclusively one of the first I Hutu-Tutsi unity's fundamental ideals were unable to penetrate the masses in Rwanda. Thus, as per American historian Des Forges, made

the RTLM "the sole source for news during the genocide" This, together with the information presented by the United States.

The RTLM's broadcast of over 4 hours per night, generating high appeal among the youth can be counted as the critical points for RTLM's effectiveness in promoting its ethnic hate speech by the States Information Department.

To build an impulse within the population to boycott global reports by the RTLM, regular broadcasts suggesting the irrelevance of the international media and their support for the Tutsi minority or the RPF have been carried out.

" s broadcasts that trumpeted "Tutsi are nomads and invaders who came to Rwanda in search of pasture.

The Tutsi, though, continued to remain and reign because they are so sly and evil.

They will not only rule you in Rwanda but will also expand their influence in the Great Lakes Region if you encourage the Tutsi- 'Hamites' to return.

(Translated from Kinyarwanda to English, RTLM, 2 Dec 1993)" We can make a significant point explaining the high prevalence of negativity spreading to the Tutsis as "invaders" taking a brief context from the history of Rwanda. Charles Mironko, author of the dissertation "RTLM" S S."

Hands With The Devil: the Failure of Humanity in Rwanda. Cornerstone Digital

“*A Quote by Malcolm X.”Goodreads, Goodreads,* [*www.goodreads.com/quotes/74430-the-media-s-the-most-powerful-entity-on-earth-they-have*](http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/74430-the-media-s-the-most-powerful-entity-on-earth-they-have)*.*

*Dallaire Rom o.Shake Hands With The Devil: the Failure of Humanity in Rwanda. Cornerstone Digital, 2008.   
Suhrke, Astri. The Path of a Genocide: the Rwanda Crisis from Uganda to Zaire. Routledge, 2017.*

After five years of genocide, more than 100 statements and thoughts are given by low-level perpetrators in an interview concluded

that the RTLM was highly influential in its propaganda, providing guidance on violence, offering information on hiding spots used Intimidating the Tutsi youth by the runaway Tutsis by further presenting lists of so-called "Ibyitso" (RPF accomplices) for their killing and distributing hate messages that urge listeners to get rid of the dirt" metaphorically.

Therefore, from the points listed above, we can judge and prove that Rwanda's national and local mass media have been a tool with significant prevalence in supporting the conflict that led to the 1994 genocide.

There is also a need to examine the historical relevance of the role played by international media in being unable to communicate the reality of Rwanda to global communities,

amid numerous evaluations by different historians on the stage held by domestic media in Rwanda as the direct paramount cause of genocide, contributing to a failure to deter genocide.

The international community needs to be actively active in stopping genocide if any signs are present, according to the Genocide Convention of 1948.

Samuel Totten has claimed similarly that genocide is not something that occurs unexpectedly; instead, it needs to be prepared, which offers a possibility for deterrence.

Nevertheless, the lack of response provided by these international communities may be an underlying factor.

*“Rwanda Radio Transcripts.”Rwanda Radio Transcripts,   
www.concordia.ca/research/migs/resources/rwanda-radio-transcripts.html.*

*Liebhafsky, Des Forges Alison. "Leave None to Tell the Story": Genocide in Rwanda. Human Rights Watch, 2014.*

*RwandanRadioTrascripts\_RTLM,*

*migs.concordia.ca/links/RwandanRadioTrascripts\_RTLM.htm.*

From the American perspective, Alan Kuperman claims in his book "the limits of humanitarian intervention: genocide in Rwanda" that international news media coverage was the only credible outlet for US authorities, with the amount of censorship and uninformed accounting. Little or no action was taken from such outlets. "Did it get some news, the requisite numbers, the CNN impact during the main weeks, the first month or so of Rwanda? Should it kick policy? NO, I don't think it did. 13" Was one of the final testimonies offered during an interview by Mark Doyle, a survivor of the genocide. From the points presented above, we can judge the fact that not many reliable sources of evidence, such as one provided by an interview, are not."

Overall, it seems clear that Rwanda's local media not only intended to preserve Hutu tyranny but also actively argued for the elimination of all Tutsis, making them a direct instigator of the genocide. While the indifference of the international media against this occurrence that created a delusion within the international community can be interpreted to make them uninterested and ill-participated

To conclude, we may assume that local and foreign media played a vital role in spreading the so-called.

The genocide of "ethnic cleansing" which took place

in Rwanda from Apr 7 to July 1994.

*“The Effect of RTLM's Rhetoric of Ethnic Hatred in Rural Rwanda.”Genocide Archive Rwanda, genocidearchiverwanda.org.rw/index.php/The\_Effect\_of\_RTLMs\_Rhetoric\_of\_Ethnic\_Hatred\_in\_Rural\_Rwanda.*

*“United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect.” United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/genocide-convention.shtml.*

*Totten, Samuel, et al. Century of Genocide: Critical Essays and Eyewitness Accounts. Routledge, 2004.*

*KUPERMAN, ALAN J. The Limits of Humanitarian Intervention: Genocide in Rwanda. Brookings Institution Press, 2001. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/10.7864/j.ctt127xzj. Accessed 17 Apr. 2020*

*“Interviews -Mark Doyle | Ghosts Of Rwanda | FRONTLINE.”PBS, Public Broadcasting Service, 1 Apr. 2004, www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/ghosts/interviews/doyle.html.*

# 3. Reflection

During my studies, I have come across many approaches used by historians to examine a specific topic. I have learned the challenges they have to resolve in the entire research process, more specifically,

when researching a vast subject such as the role of the media in supporting the genocide in Rwanda, in which there could be several other variables that may be involved in this ethnic case. This makes it very difficult for a historian to state with certainty the scope of the position of the media giving rise to the dispute. For example, the "reporting the Genocide" interview that I have selected as my primary source for this investigation is highly credible and essential to the Rwandan genocide issue.

However, the fact that it includes the general description of the case discussing numerous other variables such as the influence of the UN or red cross teams as asked by the interviewer makes it impossible for a historian to accurately observe the main fields that offer insight on the impacts of the media.

There have been many experiments that examine a related subject without a doubt;

thus there are substantial risks that much of the data have been replicated continuously.

As far as I am aware, Charles Mironov’s dissertation "The Effect of RTLM Rhetoric of Ethnic Hatred in Rural Rwanda" provides one of the most detailed investigations on the topic of media influence on genocide and yet one of the significant shortcomings of the source is that it ignores the field of researching the impact of the role of foreign media in the case and focuses only on Rwandan domestic media.

To recapitulate the whole, I would conclude that this study has given me useful recognition of the role and challenges faced by a historian when assessing a subject. This has also helped me to recognise the significance of multi-perceptivity and significant source evaluation when giving a personal opinion.

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# Appendix

Image 1: “The 1994 Rwandan Genocide.” *E*, [www.e-ir.info/2014/04/14/the-1994-rwandan-genocide/.](http://www.e-ir.info/2014/04/14/the-1994-rwandan-genocide/)