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OK
There have been numerous events that have occurred in Africa that are related to the global capitalist mode of production and violence; this essay will touch on only a few. Focusing upon events that occurred in the 1994 Rwandan genocide, the 1991 engagement in Sierra Leone, the on going violence in Sudan and events that are occurring in the Democratic Republic of Congo, this essay will show that there is a significant relationship between the capitalist mode of production and political violence in Africa. Examining each of the aforementioned case studies individually will enable this essay to examine if the political violence that has occurred has done so because of the global capitalist mode of production. The discussion of political violence in this essay will refer to genocide, civil war and internal aggression by militias and rebels – as seen in Rwanda, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The global capitalist mode of production that has led to the eventualities of political violence will be interpreted as the ways in which there is a demand for control leading to wishes of a forceful and violent collective exploiting and conducting humanitarian atrocities to the other. This has mainly been done through the harvesting and exploitation of natural resources, most notably diamonds. However, this is not to say that political violence has been caused by the production of the global capitalist economy. The case in Darfur represents an alternative view. While it can be observed that there are alternative reasons for political violence, from the four case studies this essay will conclude by highlighting that much political violence is based around exploitation and the global capitalist mode of production.

Excellent + promising intro.

other way around
The first case study that will be examined is that of Rwanda and the genocide that occurred there in 1994. While many see that the cause of the political unrest in the country was because of ethical issues between the Hutu's and the Tutsi's, Kamola (2007) highlights that we should take a wider look at the recent and not so recent history of the coffee economy in the country – a term that is referred to as structural causality. Kamola (2007) believes that the genocide is not just an ethical issue, but is one that has roots in the economy, class, and colonialism. However, for the purpose of this essay, the main focus will be the production of coffee and economy. During the period of German colonial rule in Rwanda, the colonists believed that the Hutu's were more superior to the Tutsi's and placed them as landowners over much of the country's coffee production, as a result this trait has been based down over time. With the failing economy in the late 1980s significant pressure was placed on the government – very much Hutu based – and political legitimacy was starting to be question, an occurrence that is common in economic hardship (Manzo, 2005). The falling coffee prices, an event that a single exporting country like Rwanda fears, due to the effects of global capitalism, can be seen to be the spark that ignited the subsequent fighting between the two tribes. While at first the events that unfolded in Rwanda were seen as a civil war (Fair, 2001), Kamola (2007) shows that the production of coffee for a global consumer base represented the fuse that started the political violence in Rwanda.

The second case study that will highlight how political violence is a symptom of the global capitalist mode of production is that of Sierra Leone and Blood Diamonds or conflict diamonds. By examining the political violence that occurred in Sierra Leone there can be two reasons for it unfolding. The first can be understood through the global mode of production and the global demand in the diamond industry; the other, because of the inadequacies of the state. Expanding of the first point of the global mode of production, the violence that occurred in the Sierra Leone can be understood in Samset's (2002) idea of a secular model of wealth and violence, where each is fuelled by other. Sierra Leone presented the opportunity of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), under the leadership of Taylor and Sankoh, to make great profits off the diamond fields that lay in Sierra Leone. The occupation of diamond rich territories in the south and east of the country represents Ferguson (2006) idea of usable Africa being controlled, and unusable Africa being left alone. The occupation of these territories allowed for the global exportation of large amounts of conflict diamonds, fuelling the efforts of the RUF and therefore also fuelling violence and making greater profits through the production of more diamonds. However, while the production of diamonds can be seen as a cause of the political violence in Africa, Reno (1999) also notes how the lack of government control and the lack of national containment allowed for the violence to start. Reno (1999) discusses that the ease of access of the RUF from Liberia to the Sierra Leone represents a significant issue in the start of the violence. Through tighter border controls, the influx of RUF personnel and violence could have been contained. This also highlights that wider issue of government authority and brings forward the Fergusons (2006) idea of the control of usable Africa. With little interest in the rural areas of Sierra Leone, the Momoh administration had little influence and therefore allowed for the spread of the RUF with greater ease, picking up numbers and committing humanitarian atrocities. The lack of control by the Momoh government therefore highlights that it is not just the global capitalist mode of production that creates political violence in Africa.

In similar respects to the ten year atrocities that occurred in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) shows signs of how the global capitalist mode of production is causing violence. Samset's (2002) work on the DRC highlights how conflict diamonds are once again the cause of political violence. However, contrasting to Sierra Leone, it is the government that is allowing for the humanitarian atrocities, slavery and violence to occur. By limiting the humanitarian agencies access to much of the country, the violence that is occurring in the DRC represents how the production of diamonds for the global market has led to widespread violence. However, it can be argued that lack of interference of forceful humanitarian agencies has allowed for the violence to continue; as De Waal (2007) notes, only intervention will stop the violence. The conclusion that can be taken from the case of the DRC is that although the violence has been caused by the global capitalist mode of production, it has been allowed to continue by the lack of effective measures taken by humanitarian organisations.

The previous three examples have shown how political violence is a result of the global capitalist mode of production, the case in Darfur is one that shows how the global capitalist economy, and not

Alexander Windett

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oil? / ethnic ✓
production, and racial links have fuelled the political violence. A conflict seen as the Arabic community fighting the Non-Arabic community, Darfur presents the opportunity to examine political violence away from the production in the global economy. In the wake of indecision over humanitarian intervention in Rwanda, the crisis in Darfur was quickly highlighted as a genocide (Ubondana, 2005), however, just as with Rwanda, the violence was not purely based around the ethnic affiliations of the combatants. Sparked off by the failures in the economy in 2001 the significant power of the Arabs over the non-Arabs highlights Manzo's (2005) idea of the questioning of political legitimacy at times of economy crisis. The uprising against the Arab government by many of the non-Arab tribes shows how political violence in Sudan was not caused by the global capitalist mode of production, but by the uneven distribution of power which was questioned at a time of hardship.

China - Sudan links ?

It is important not to homogenise Africa as a single entity (Ferguson, 2006; Mawdsley, 2008 and Campbell, 2006) and therefore to describe political violence in Africa's as a symptom of the global capitalist mode of production is wrong. As highlighted through the four case studies of Rwanda, Sierra Leone, the DRC and Darfur, there are many reasons for the political violence, whether it be the racial, lack of a strong government or the production of resources for the global market. However, it can be argued that there is a link between the production of resources for the global economy and violence in Africa. The cases in Rwanda, Sierra Leon and the DRC all present evidence linking violence to the global capitalist mode of production.

Outstanding answer, written like a take-home exam with detailed case studies and refs. Great work!