Unproject

Comprehensive History Guide

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Motivation

- This project aims to study the impact of genocide denial, especially post-1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, on younger generations and to develop educational strategies. This is important because genocide denial can perpetuate harmful ideologies and prevent healing and reconciliation. Looking at how much Rwanda has developed in the span of 29 years, I would never want the country back in the dark days of genocide.

29 Years of Progress

Main Focus

- It aims to understand how the denial narratives are spread
- So as to assess the impact of such narratives on the post-Genocide youth.

End Goal: Develop educational content that counteracts the denial narratives and promotes an accurate understanding of the country's history.

DATA

- **Social Media Posts:** Analyzing posts from platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and forums where Genocide is discussed.
  - ➔ Especially posts during the 100 days of commemoration
  - ➔ We will take posts from the past 29 years so as to study how the change in language of Genocide denial has evolved
    - ◆ Which groups are more likely to deny?
    - ◆ Does gender play a role? What about age group?
    - ◆ Relationship between identity and denial? Do the deniers use fake profiles?

Cont’

- ➔ Since social media only became popular a few years ago, we plan to also use newspaper articles so as to understand the dynamics before the rise of social media.
  - With newspaper articles, we can study the shift in the way that the media talks about genocide denial over time.
  - We will also look at the shift in terms of the radio programs within the country
    - The YouTube channels that have been up, the kind of information that is being shared there would be a great starting point to understand the existing narratives

Cont’

- **Interviews:** Transcripts of recordings from interviews with historians, survivors, deniers, and the younger generation.
    - ➔ These will give us perspectives of people who are involved in discussions surrounding genocide denial.
    - ➔ The information provided by the younger generation would be valuable in understanding how the narrative of Genocide denial is being passed down and perpetuated.
    - ➔ By including deniers in the interviews, we can gain a deeper understanding of their motivations and reasoning behind their denial.

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- ➔ **Historical Documents:** Utilizing credible documents for accurate historical reference.
  - The Gacaca court reports can provide valuable insights into the testimonies and evidence presented during the trials, shedding light on the crimes committed during the Genocide.
  - Furthermore, analyzing primary sources such as diaries, letters, and official government documents can offer a firsthand perspective on the events that happened

Techniques

Data Sourcing and Collection:

- ➔ Automated scraping tools for social media.
- ➔ Conducting and sourcing existing interviews.
- ➔ Collaborating with historical archives and research institutions.
- ➔ We will use text analysis tools so as to study the tone, content of the social media content of the Genocide deniers.

Digitization and Organization:

- ➔ Digitizing non-digital data such as historical documents.
- ➔ We plan to use database management systems to organize and categorize data.

Ethical implications

Privacy and Protection:

- ➔ This being a very sensitive topic, it is crucial to ensure the privacy and protection of individuals mentioned in the Gacaca court reports and other primary sources.
- ➔ Since we will be working with research institutions and archives, it is important to establish strict protocols for handling and storing these documents to prevent any unauthorized access or misuse of personal information.
- ➔ When working with Genocide survivors, it is important to prioritize their safety and well-being throughout the research process. This includes obtaining informed consent from survivors before using their testimonies or personal information in any publications or presentations.

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- **Sensitive Content Handling**
  - Approaching historical trauma with sensitivity and respect.

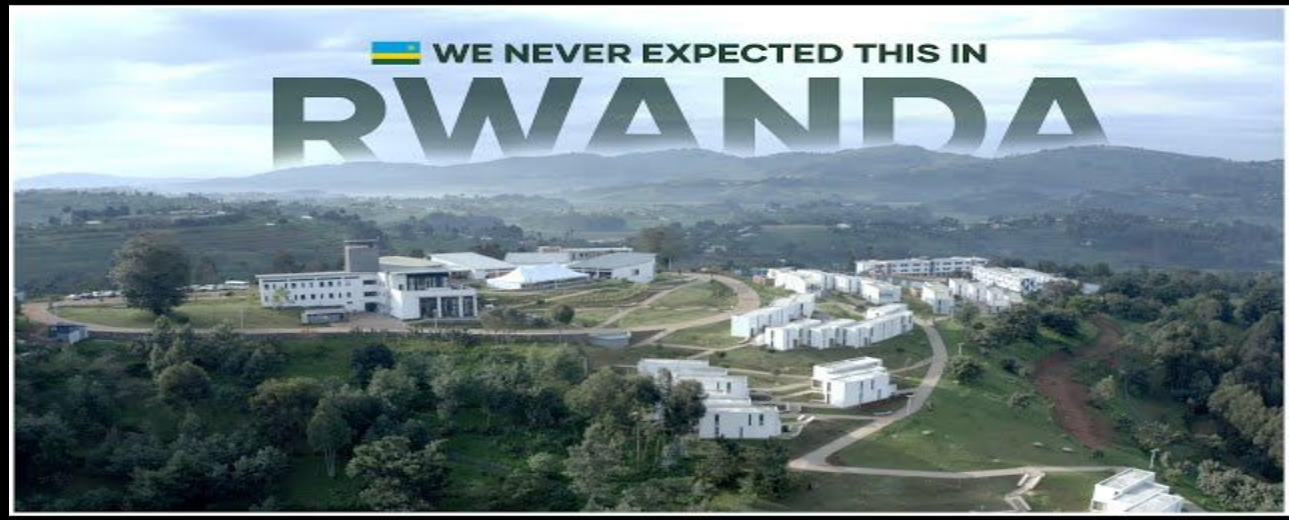
- **Balanced Representation**:
  - Ensuring a fair representation of diverse perspectives.

Publication

- Since we are creating a History Guide, are planning to use open educational resources to provide a comprehensive understanding of the country's history.
- This is a great choice because open educational resources are freely available to anyone with internet access, making them accessible to a wide range of learners.
- Also, in case people want to share their perspectives, they would reach out to us through social media platforms or email, allowing for a more interactive and inclusive learning experience.

Aspirations for the Future

- We hope to expand the project so that it is not just for the youth but also for the tourists so that they have some information before they come into the country



THANK
YOU!