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DANGEROUS MEMORY: CONTRASTING
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEMORIES OF THE
RWANDAN GENOCIDE USING HUTUS IN THE
UNITED STATES

Cliff Ubba Kodero
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Abstract

In Rwandan genocidal discourse, there is an overwhelming memory of Tutsi deaths in the public domain but less for the Hutu. In fact, Hutus are grouped together as genociders even though some of them were victims of the genocide. Privately, individualized accounts of Hutus possibly points to a potential disconnect between the public memory of the genocide and personalized accounts. Perhaps, a greater deal of focus on private memory is necessary to delve into the complexities. Individual narratives are useful in providing answers to questions regarding political, societal and economic contexts of mass atrocities such as genocides. Through memory scholarship, a diversification of public understanding courtesy of personal stories is perhaps possible. An acknowledgment of other stories does not minimize conventional stories but open up spaces for more inclusive discourses

**Dangerous Memory: Contrasting Public and Private Memories of the Rwandan Genocide using
Hutus in the United States**

By Cliff Ubba Kodero

A thesis submitted to the Global and Area Studies Program at the University of Wyoming in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

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May 2016

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I dedicate this work to my family, especially my parents who instilled the in me the love for scholarship. I dedicate this thesis to my siblings, and most importantly my significant partner Alice Nikuzwe. Above all, this work, as well as my other works is aimed for the betterment of the continent of Africa.

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Chapter One: Introduction

It is twenty-one years since the Rwandan genocide occurred. Approximately eight hundred thousand Tutsis, but also moderate Hutus, died within a span of ninety days at the hands of Hutu extremists.¹

Today, Rwanda is a country burdened with the horrors of the past but marching towards a hopeful future.² Indeed, some Rwandans have pursued this better future by immigrating to the United States as refugees, green card holders, students, and visitors. Among the Rwandans in the United States are Hutus, usually lumped together in genocidal discourse as perpetrators.³ However, more nuanced views remind us that not all Hutus participated in the genocide, and many moderate Hutus were even victims of the tragic event.⁴ With the idea of respecting all concerned voices, this study aims to explore the memories of Hutus in the United States about the genocide.

This study compares individual Hutu memories, gathered through one-on-one interviews and from previously published accounts,⁵ with memories in public places such as museums, media, books, and the internet. The point is to discover if, and to what extent, individual memories of Hutus in the United States are represented in official accounts of the genocide. Conceivably, private memories of Hutus are not complimentary with the public remembrance of the genocide since the official commemorations focus on a Tutsi inspired story. The practical significance of this research is an attempt at addressing the frictions caused by sanctioned memories in peace and reconciliation. It will also expose complexities of genocide memories using accounts of Hutus in the United States. Most importantly, though limited by the number of interviewees, these narratives can provide provisional answers to questions concerning the political,

¹ Gerard Prunier, *Africa's World War: Congo, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009) pg.xx1

² Peter Gwin, National Geographic Photographs and Video by David Guttenfelder, for National Geographic PUBLISHED April 08, 2014. "Rwanda Genocide: The Art of Remembering and Forgetting." National Geographic. Accessed April 17, 2015. <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/04/140407-rwanda-genocide-today-anniversary/>.

³ Robert Gribbin, *In the Aftermath of Genocide: The U.S. Role in Rwanda* (Lincoln, NE: IUniverse, 2005) pg. 83 & 156

⁴ Henry Steiner, Philip Alston and Ryan Goodman, *International Human Rights in Context: Law, Politics, Morals* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006) pg.1278

⁵ One-on-one interviews here may include skype sessions, phone interviews as well as other electronic communications such as emails.

societal, and economic context of memory of Rwandan genocide and other conflict in the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

Justification

The rationale for this study stems from the argument that all victims and survivors of the Rwandan genocide deserve respect and acknowledgment. The realization of an all-inclusive memory environment is necessary for the development of space that allows individuals to heal. Reconciling the public memory displayed in the media and the books about the genocide with the personal memories is one-step towards healing. Healing is possible to the individual and the societal level only in a healthy memory environment.⁶ The possibility of healing is limited if there are dissimilarities between public and private memories.⁷ Herbert Hirsch, an expert on genocide studies, argues that what is said in present about past events determines memorialization. The conventional understanding, if written, influences future actions.⁸ Elisabeth King has explored Memories of genocide survivors in a paper titled “Memory Controversies in Post-Genocide Rwanda: Implications for Peacebuilding,” and Jennie Burnet in her book *Genocide Lives in Us*, among others. Unfortunately, there is a gap in the literature on the memory of Hutu diaspora. The lack of scholarship on Hutu memories of the genocide has prompted this study. By exploring this aspect of the genocide, this thesis will enrich scholarship on the Rwandan genocide by providing this critical component of the tragic event.

Research Questions

⁶ Katherine Conway, "The Role of Memory in Post-genocide Rwanda." The Insight on Conflict. August 23, 2013. Accessed April 7, 2015. <http://www.insightonconflict.org/2013/08/the-role-of-memory-in-post-genocide-rwanda/>.

⁷ Gregoire Duruz, "Speaking History in Present Rwanda. Constrained History Enunciation and Management of Conflicting Narratives among Secondary School Students in Rwanda," Master's Degree Thesis for School of Global Studies: University of Gothenburg, Sweden. December 1, 2012. Accessed April 8, 2015.

http://www.academia.edu/2915483/Speaking_history_in_present_Rwanda._Constrained_history_enunciation_and_management_of_conflicting_narratives_among_Secondary_school_students_in_Rwanda.

⁸ Herbert Hirsch, *Genocide and the Politics of Memory Studying Death to Preserve Life* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995) Pg. 10

In the form of research questions, I ask the following: How is the Rwandan genocide remembered in public places? What are the chances that Hutus widely but simplistically viewed as perpetrators remember the genocide in a publicly sanctioned ways?

Historical Context

Rwanda is a country with a unique identity whose identity has been a combination of outside influence from explorers, colonizers, as well as the political and economic structure of the Rwanda society.⁹

Rwanda has three main communities within its boundaries. The majority are the Hutu, who accounts for 85 percent of the total population, Tutsis are about 14 percent, and the rest is the pygmy people otherwise called the Batwa.¹⁰ In recent times, the Kagame-led Rwandan government has attempted to eliminate ethnic identities.¹¹

Before Rwanda gained independence in 1962, the Tutsis controlled the monarchy and had access to the political power of the country. Tutsis were considered superior to the Hutus because they had “European features” such as long noses and fairer skins. However, this assertion was pseudo-scientific since Rwandan identity and the ability to become Tutsi or Hutu was socially constructed. A Hutu could become Tutsi if he had a certain number of cows and a poor Tutsi could become Hutu. Determining whether one was Hutu or Tutsi was also problematic in cases of intermarriages. Both Hutus and Tutsis speak the same language, share the same culture, and they have lived together for thousands of years. Sadly, during the genocide, the differences between the two groups were pronounced than their similarities.¹²

⁹ Alison, Des Forges, *Leave None to Tell the Story* (New York: Human Rights Watch, 1999) pg.29- 31

¹⁰ Ibid pg 31

¹¹ Thomas Streissguth, *Rwanda in Pictures* (New York: Twenty-first Century Books, 2007) pg.37

¹² Taylor, C.C, *Sacrifice as terror: The Rwandan genocide of 1994* (Oxford, UK: Berg Publishers, 2001)pg.61

Some scholars have argued that the Hutu and Tutsi identities are socio-economic rather than ethnic.¹³ Rwandan oral history and family ties reveal that the terms Hutu and Tutsi would be flexible and dynamic before the German and Belgian colonization. A substantial number of Rwandans were agriculturalists with a small number of cows. Over time, the pastoralists acquired more power and begun to see themselves as superior to the crop planters.¹⁴ The Tutsi identity was determined by how much wealth one had. The identification of whether one was Tutsi or Hutu was not fixed and would change depending on geography, marriage, or newly acquired wealth.¹⁵

The Batwa are the original inhabitants of Rwanda. The Hutu settled after the Batwa from the south, approximately two thousand years ago. The Hutu are members of the larger Bantu group that is prominent in the southern half of the African continent. Tutsi arrived last, and some historians argue that Tutsi were from the Horn of Africa and settled peacefully around the 15th century.¹⁶ When the colonists and explorers arrived in Rwanda, they met a sophisticated and well-organized political structure. Influenced by racism, the Europeans concluded that the Rwandan monarchy was not of Bantu origin.¹⁷ The explorers hypothesized that the Tutsi were runaway Caucasians and would rank under the Europeans but above the Hutus. The Batwa were the lowest class. The implication of this arrangement was the racial separateness of the Hutus and the Tutsi. In total disregard of the language and the shared culture, the Europeans subjugated the Hutus and redefined the monarchy according to racialized classifications.¹⁸

¹³ Alison Des Forges, *Leave None to Tell the Story* (New York: Human Rights Watch, 1999) pg. 33

¹⁴ Alison Des Forges, *Leave None to Tell the Story* (New York: Human Rights Watch, 1999) pg. 31

¹⁵ Taylor C.C, *Sacrifice as terror: The Rwandan genocide of 1994* (Oxford, UK: Berg Publishers, 2001)pg.58

¹⁶ Ibid, pg.64

¹⁷ Alison Des Forges, *Leave None to Tell the Story* (New York: Human Rights Watch, 1999) pg. 42

¹⁸ Ian Law, *"Racism and Ethnicity: Global Debates, Dilemmas, Directions"* (New York: Pearson Education Limited, 2010)pg. 84-86

John Speke, the European explorer who discovered the source of the Nile, developed a theory called the Hamitic Theory. Amongst other things, Speke's theory holds that the Hamites came from the Middle East, moved to Ethiopia as Galla Hamites, passed through Uganda as Hima and settled in Rwanda and Burundi as Tutsi. The subsequent anthropologists would use this theory with many agreeing "the Hamites were not Negroes, they were more intelligent than other African even as they were physically more attractive."¹⁹ Rwandans were taught these theories in school as they were taught how to read and write.

The Hamitic Theory was influential in setting the stage for the Rwandan genocide. Many Rwandans held the view that Tutsis were intelligent, cunning, and better looking and that Hutus were uncivilized, undereducated and emotional. According to Africanist Gerard Prunier, *Africa's World War, The Rwandan Genocide, and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe*, the Rwandan genocide was a function of "precolonial culture of Rwanda, and the manic cultural re-engineering of the Belgian colonial authorities."²⁰ It is undeniable that such strong feelings of bigotry exercised toward Hutus by the Belgians and Tutsis created a sense of discontent, xenophobia, and hate. The final post-colonial solution would be the overall extermination of the Tutsi populace in Rwanda.

Background on Rwandan Genocide

For this thesis, I examine what is remembered about the Rwandan civil war and genocide, a genocide that was later renamed the "Tutsi genocide" by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) led government.²¹ Before the genocide, Rwanda was already in the middle of a conflict; on one side was the Habyarimana government (Rwandan National Army) against the RPF.²² The Rwandan National Army fought for an extremist Hutu government. In 1973, a coup ousted the first post-colonial leader Gregoire Kayibanda

¹⁹ Taylor, C.C, *Sacrifice as terror: The Rwandan genocide of 1994* (Oxford, UK: Berg Publishers, 2001)pg. 60

²⁰Gerard Prunier, *Africa's World War: Congo, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009) pg.xx1

²¹ Alexander Laban, *Genocide: Truth, Memory, and Representation* (Durham [NC: Duke University Press, 2009) pg., 32

²² Scott Straus, *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006) pg.7

leading to the establishment of the second Republic under President Juvenal Habyarimana.²³ Kayibanda was a southern Hutu while Habyarimana was a northern Hutu. In 1975, President Habyarimana formed the National Republican Movement for Democracy and Development (MRMDD). President Habyarimana changed the party's name to National Revolutionary Movement for Development (NRMD) in 1991.²⁴ NRMD was a party that was mainly composed of northern Hutus. NRMD grew excessively radicalized in the early 1990s after the push for democratization had garnered roots in Rwanda. As the push for democratization intensified, President Habyarimana governed through a small and powerful group of Hutus from Northern Rwanda called the "Akazu" meaning "small house" in Kinyarwanda. Led by Madame Agathe, Habyarimana's wife, the Akazu made crucial decisions that affected the country. It is believed that the Akazu was responsible for the planning and the execution of the genocide as a means of persevering Hutu power, and specifically the Akazu's control of Rwanda.²⁵

The children of Tutsi refugees that had fled Uganda shortly after Rwanda's independence formed RPF, NRMD's rivals.²⁶ After independence in 1962, the Hutu majority government expelled Tutsis from Rwanda, and many Tutsis settled in Uganda.²⁷ Because of persecutions in Uganda, the children of the Tutsis in Uganda re-emerged as a rebel army supported by the Ugandan government under President Yoweri Museveni.²⁸ Museveni is from the Ankole tribe, which is a small ethnic group within the wider Banyarwaanda ethnic affiliation found in southwestern Uganda. The Banyankole have historical and cultural roots in pre-colonial Rwandan kingdom.²⁹ The Tutsis had fought for Museveni as frontline

²³ Kyrsten Sinema, *Who Must Die in Rwanda's Genocide? The State of Exception Realized* (New York: Lexington Books, 2015) pg.83

²⁴ Alexander Laban, *Genocide: Truth, Memory, and Representation* (Durham [NC: Duke University Press, 2009) pg, 92

²⁵ Kyrsten Sinema, *Who Must Die in Rwanda's Genocide? The State of Exception Realized* (New York: Lexington Books, 2015)

²⁶ Howard Adelman and Govind Rao, *War and Peace in Zaire-Congo: Analyzing and Evaluating Intervention, 1996-1997* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2004)pg. 37

²⁷ Howard Adelman and Govind Rao, *War and Peace in Zaire-Congo: Analyzing and Evaluating Intervention, 1996-1997* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2004)pg. 38

²⁸ Sadananda Sahoo and Pattanaik, *Global Diasporas and Development: Socioeconomic, Cultural, and Policy Perspectives*. pg,294

²⁹ Johan Pottier, *Re-imagining Rwanda Conflict, Survival and Disinformation in the Late Twentieth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002) pg.23

members of Museveni's National Resistance Army (NRA) that captured Kampala in the mid-eighties. Paul Kagame, who was to emerge as the leader of RPF, was a leading member of the Ugandan army by the time he joined the RPF.³⁰

For three and half years, Rwanda was consumed by a war that started with the invasion of Ugandan troops at the northeastern border of Rwanda and Uganda in October 1990.³¹ International pressure on the leadership of the Rwandan president of Hutu origin, President Habyarimana, led to a ceasefire in 1993 with a road map to implement the Arusha Accords that were negotiation agreements signed in the Tanzanian city of Arusha.³² The Arusha Accords created a power-sharing agreement with RPF. The agreement did not please any of the parties, and the ceasefire never materialized.³³

On April 6, 1994, a plane carrying President Habyarimana and Burundian President Cyprian Ntaryamira was shot down in Kigali. Genocidal killings targeting Tutsis and moderate Hutus began the next day. The RPF, under the leadership of Paul Kagame, put an end to the genocide when the rebel forces marched from Northern Rwanda into Kigali on July 4, 1994. The RPF took power on July 19, 1994.³⁴ Two million Hutus crossed over to Congo to escape the violence in Rwanda, some of the fleeing Hutus were extremists that feared capture by the RPF.³⁵ After taking power, the RPF invaded the Democratic Republic of the Congo to oust President Mobutu, who was sympathetic to Hutu hardliners. The war sparked a

³⁰ Hazel Cameron, *Britain's Hidden Role in the Rwandan Genocide: The Cat's Paw* (Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2013) pg.34

³¹ Deepak Kumar, *Conflict Mapping Report: A Case Study of Rwanda*. Report. CTPB Papers. <https://ctpbsaur.wordpress.com/2013/05/04/conflict-mapping-report-a-case-study-of-rwanda/>.

³² Deepak Kumar, *Conflict Mapping Report: A Case Study of Rwanda*. Report. CTPB Papers. <https://ctpbsaur.wordpress.com/2013/05/04/conflict-mapping-report-a-case-study-of-rwanda/>.

³³ Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014) pg. 167

³⁴ Robin Philpot, *Rwanda and the New Scramble for Africa: From Tragedy to Useful Imperial Fiction* (Montreal, Baraka Books, 2013) pg.14.

³⁵ "The Refugee Crisis." UNHCR Described It as the Largest Dislocation of a Population They Had Ever Seen. Accessed April 09, 2016. http://www.rwandanstories.org/genocide/refugee_crisis.html.

refugee crisis that led to the death of over 4 million civilians. The war caused instability in Eastern Congo that is ongoing to this day.³⁶

The RPF's invasion of Rwanda in the early 1990s was a critical aspect of the genocide in 1994. First, it militarized the Rwandan society in readiness for an external attack. While the rebels were of Rwandan origin, the fact that they were mainly Tutsis allowed the extremists in NRMD to exploit Rwandan history to their advantage. Being collaborators with the colonial regimes, the Tutsi's had been widely viewed as beneficiaries of the colonial project. In addition, the idea of Tutsi supremacy had generated Hutu nationalism based on Hutu power. According to Hutu nationalists, since Rwanda was a black majority country, then it had to be ruled by the majority Hutu.³⁷ Secondly, whereas Hutus were killed as individuals, Tutsis were killed as a group.³⁸ The RPF invasion defined the enemy making the Rwandan genocide a genocide by "those who saw themselves as natives and their mission as one of purifying and clearing their land from the invasive aliens."³⁹

Scope of the Research

It is conceivable to question the memory of the genocide as well as of the Rwandan civil war. According to Alexandre Dauge-Roth, a memory media expert, documentation of horrors that people commit against one another is ill advised if that particular documentation or memorialization either does not address the ethical dimension of remembering or does not influence the society in a way that generates awareness and respect in present actions.⁴⁰ Symbolic acts of remembering have social and political implications. While the act of remembering is "uneasy and disturbing quest for justice,"⁴¹ collective and political mediation of

³⁶Robin Philpot, *Rwanda and the New Scramble for Africa: From Tragedy to Useful Imperial Fiction* (Montreal, Baraka Books, 2013) p.212

³⁷ Elizabeth Obadina, "Hutus and Tutsis: Genocide in Rwanda." In *Ethnic Groups in Africa* (Broomall, PA: Mason Crest, 2014) chapter 5

³⁸Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims become Killers* (Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, 2014) pg.5

³⁹ Ibid, pg. 5

⁴⁰ Alexandre Roth, *Writing and Filming the Genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda: Dismembering and Remembering Traumatic History* (Lanham, Md.: Lexington, 2010) pg. 5

⁴¹ Ibid, pg. 5

the past constitutes a selective revision of what is worth remembering.⁴² Even as memory document realize a re-examination of the past within the present, it does so at the expense of other memories, therefore silencing dissenting voices and institutionalizing forgetting of some aspects of memory.⁴³

Consequently, instead of reducing violence into distinct categories such as civil war, genocide, and RPF surge to eliminate reorganizing Hutu rebels, an understanding of Rwanda's political dynamics requires coming to terms with the culture of violence from the early 1990s to the turn of the century. Rwanda was a "continuum of violence" and the genocide was the utmost peak of that Rwandan genocide cycle.⁴⁴ After the genocide, RPF continued with an excess of violence by pursuing returning Hutu refugees in Northwestern Rwanda.⁴⁵ From this vantage point, the study examines memory within the "continuum of violence" about Rwanda.

What Is to Follow

This study argues that private memories of the Hutu possibly do not compliment the public memory of the Rwandan genocide. Evidence from the public memory suggests a possible misalignment with personal accounts of Hutus based in the United States. Therefore, the conventional memory of the Rwandan genocide maintains, at least implicitly, the ethnic divisionism and significance of Tutsi memories over Hutus who died or were affected by the genocide. This memory study suggests that true reconciliation in Rwanda is perhaps impractical unless there is a shared understanding of what happened. Currently, the RPF monopolizes public memory for purposes of power preservation.

⁴² Ibid, pg. 6

⁴³ Alexandre Roth, *Writing and Filming the Genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda: Dismembering and Remembering Traumatic History* (Lanham, Md.: Lexington, 2010) pg. 6

⁴⁴ Susan Thomson, *Whispering Truth to Power: Everyday Resistance to Reconciliation in Post genocide Rwanda* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2013) pg.79

⁴⁵ Scott Straus, *Remaking Rwanda State Building and Human Rights after Mass Violence* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2011) pg. 67

The second chapter is an exploration of literature on memory. While the first section of the literature review lays the groundwork for a study of both public and private memories, the second part of the uses the research on memory to explore the Rwandan genocide. The third chapter examines public memory which includes aspects of memory that are in public domain. An important part of public memory is the media. This thesis' definition of media memory borrows from the work of Motti Neigar, an Israeli communications and memory scholar who reasons that media memory is the "the systematic exploration of collective pasts that are narrated by the media, through the use of the press and about the media."⁴⁶ Media memory solicits from the work of Maurice Halbwach, who argues that collective memories stand for "tools through which several groups establish centrality in individual lives."⁴⁷ In this thesis, media memory exclusively discusses multimedia that includes television, film, and cinema. This thesis classifies newspapers and magazines as the press. As such, when I discuss media houses such as the *New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor* or *The Guardian*, I classify them as the press.

The fourth chapter discusses individual memories that focuses on personal recollections about the genocide. The first part is individuals whose memories are in public domain. This category includes analysis of individual books and private accounts generated from media interviews. Nevertheless, the second part is wholly private memories of self-identified Rwandan Hutus in the United States. The second section of the fourth chapter utilizes memories of ten Rwandans. In cases where testimonies overlap, individual quotes are not used. I argue that genocide memorials, although exercised as means of expressing shared griefs, construct the meaning of the past atrocities. At the same time, because of the power of the discourse exhibited by the existence of the government's conventional narratives, many Rwandans, primarily Hutus, are denied the opportunities to mourn their dead.

⁴⁶ Motti Neiger, Oren Meyers, and Eyal Zandberg. "On Media Memory: Collective Memory in a New Media Age." Academia.2014. Accessed October 24, 2015.

⁴⁷ Motti Neiger, Oren Meyers, and Eyal Zandberg. "On Media Memory: Collective Memory in a New Media Age." Academia. 2014. Accessed October 24, 2015.

The final chapter reiterates the arguments already laid out on the theory and literature as well as the finding sections. Based on the lukewarm reception of the reconciliation process in Rwanda as stated by my respondents, I ask if the conventional public memory of the Rwandan genocide is a half-accepted, top-down, emotionless, untrustworthy spread of half of the truths? Is the public memory an agent of repression and lack of connection with individual accounts? I consider the voices of Rwandan Hutus in the United States as a great place to start this conversation. Also, the more these voices are raised, the more the complexities of the Rwandan genocide emerge. Currently, courtesy of this study, Rwanda's supposed reconciliation is perchance only a façade.

Chapter Two: Literature Review and Methodology

As scholars analyze acts of public memories of tragic events such as the Rwandan genocide, scholars combat the effects of politics in the process of remembrance. In the Rwandan case, about the genocide of 1994, there must be an acknowledgment that all victims and survivors deserve respect. An inclusive memory of the tragic events is paramount for reconciliation and the abatement of future conflicts. This literature review examines the complexities in public memory vis-à-vis the Rwandan genocide in contrast with individual/private memory. Is there a possibility of a misalignment between the public and personal memory of Rwandans, particularly the Hutus about the genocide of 1994? This review highlights the complexity of genocide memory in Rwanda even as it adds Hutu memories in genocidal literature.

Firstly, this literature review analyzes the concepts of memory from various fields of study with the aim of finding what is out there regarding private and public memory. The second section of the literature review examines theories of memory while the third segment explores literature on the public memory of Rwandan genocide in contrast with the individual accounts. An assessment of how the reconciliation process has affected remembering the genocide comes in the fourth section. Fifth part explores the memories of Hutus in the diaspora. In the final part, this chapter briefly analyzes the literature and documents limitations of the study.

Background to Memory Theory

The literature on memory is vast, with different articulations from one aspect of memory to another and from one discipline to another. Each aspect of memory has salient characteristics.⁴⁸ Memory is understood in many ways, and so finding a working definition for memory is a daunting task. Still, an exploration of how different scholars document memory is helpful towards the realization of an accepted

⁴⁸ Astrid Erll, *A Companion to Cultural Memory Studies* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2010)pg.1

conceptualization of memory. Perhaps conventional knowledge about memory stems from human psychology. Memory defines *personhood* highlighting the *uniqueness of one person from another*. When people hear the word memory, they associate it with an event they attended or people they met in past. However, in addition to defining individual existence, memory has a social role that shapes a sense of group identity acquired from shared experiences.⁴⁹ Possibly, memory's importance explains why it is widely researched. The individual aspect of memory is, in the words of Barbara Craig, "a place where information and knowledge (is) stored or from which ideas, concepts, and knowledge are recalled."⁵⁰

The study of memory is not new. Western scholarship argues that the Greeks were the first recorded people to document investigations on remembering, in many respects this is false. The Egyptians, as well as other civilizations in the Nile Valley of Africa, were perhaps the first recognized civilizations to undertake public memory of the dead by erecting massive pyramids. These ancient memories of the dead are still present and are one of the "seven wonders of the ancient world."⁵¹ Equally, in West Africa, the griots of Malinke Empire, which stretched from modern-day Senegal to Mali, preserved the memory of the empire by memorizing laws, traditions, and decrees and names of kings. They have passed these memories for seven centuries with little distortions.⁵² African classical scholar Cheikh Diop has pointed out that these West African empires acquired the practices of historical preservation from ancient Egyptians.⁵³

In classical Europe, Aristotle, one of the most famous Greek philosophers, published an article in which he attempted to describe the functionality of human memory. Aristotle argued that memory "existence

⁴⁹ Barbara Craig, "Selected Themes in the Literature on Memory and Their Pertinence to Archives." REVIEW ESSAY.pg. 285. <https://www.archivists.org/conference/neworleans2005/readings/609-craig.pdf>.

⁵⁰ Barbara Craig, "Selected Themes in the Literature on Memory and Their Pertinence to Archives." REVIEW ESSAY.pg. 285. <https://www.archivists.org/conference/neworleans2005/readings/609-craig.pdf>.

⁵¹ Cheikh Anta Diop, Harold J. Salemson, and Marjolijn De Jager, *Civilization or Barbarism: An Authentic Anthropology* (Brooklyn, NY: Lawrence Hill Books, 1991) pg. 102

⁵² Barbara Hoffman, *Power, Structure and Mande Jeliw* (Indianapolis, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1995) pg. 14.

⁵³ Cheikh Anta Diop, Harold J. Salemson, and Marjolijn De Jager, *Civilization or Barbarism: An Authentic Anthropology* (Brooklyn, NY: Lawrence Hill Books, 1991) pg. 102

and perception” shapes memory.⁵⁴ Plato also wrote about memory arguing, “We hold to wax to perceptions and thoughts, and in that receive the impressions of them.”⁵⁵ While Plato’s ideas of mental impressions are still widely useful in the discourse of memory, scholars today reckon that human memory is dynamic and not static.⁵⁶ As the study of memory progressed, many other scholars diversified the study from being purely a scientific research area, to being more inclusive of other academic disciplines. Today, scholars agree that while definitions are useful, they can never fully capture the complexities of remembering. Within various disciplines, definitions of memory vary. Memory is interchangeably defined depending on the adjective preceding it. Such adjectives come from the community, individuals, or public amongst others. The adjectives set the limits on the kind of memory under discussion. For the remainder of this discussion, I will restrict the analysis of memory to public memory and private memory because of the spectrum of the research.

In 1932, Fredrick Bartlett published a groundbreaking article titled “Remembering.” Unlike other previous memory scholars, Bartlett suggests that memory is not just the revival of events from some storage space, but it is an entirely new process in its right. Bartlett argues that memory employs existing “structures of knowledge” to help in the course of reforming the original recollections.⁵⁷ Consequently, our attitudes, expectations, beliefs and levels of motivation will influence the way we remember. Bartlett’s ideas regarding memory had far-reaching consequences in the distinction between what the public remembers about specific events, versus what an individual can remember the same event. Bartlett’s assessment of memory compliments Paul Ricœur’s work. In the book *Memory, History and Forgetting*, Ricœur observes that in everyday discourse, memory attributes to one person; for example,

⁵⁴ David Bloch, *Aristotle on Memory and Recollection Text, Translation, Interpretation, and Reception in Western Scholasticism*, (Leiden: Brill, 2007).pg.xii

⁵⁵ David Moxon, *Memory* (Oxford: Heinemann, 2000) pg.3

⁵⁶ David Huron, *Sweet Anticipation Music and the Psychology of Expectation*, (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2006).pg. 13

⁵⁷ Frederic Bartlett, *Remembering; a Study in Experimental and Social Psychology*, (New York: Macmillan; 1932) pg11.

one can say “my memory of a given event,” which implies a personal account. Personal memory is a private memory attributed to a single person.⁵⁸

Private Memory vs. Public Memory

Private memory, if not included in the public account, is subject to passing irrevocably with the death of the individual for whom that memory constituted a lived experience. Compared to public memory, private or personal memory is not permanent, and thus subject to diminishing value, caused by the death of an individual.⁵⁹ A community often shares public memory, and this elevates public memory to a commanding position since it exceeds and transcends the life of an individual. The contrasting relationship between public and private memory works in a complex relationship that is a subject of context and public perception. Pierre Naquet’s *Assassins of Memory: Essays in the Denial of the Holocaust*⁶⁰ and Deborah Lipstadt’s *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*⁶¹ document the palpable tension between public and private memory. These books illustrate prejudices embodied in genocide denial that refuse to come to terms with the lived experience of Holocaust survivors. In doing so, the authors testify to the often adversarial relationship between personal experience and public memory.

Edward Casey, in *Public Memory in Place and Time*, claims that public memory is distinct from other forms of memory, thereby offering perhaps one of the clearest differences between public memory and private memory. Public memory refers to the act of viewing or reading by the public, but mostly it means

⁵⁸ Nicolas Russell, “Collective Memory before and after Halbwachs” *The French Review* Vol. 79, no. No. 4 (2006): Pp. 792-804. Accessed April 29, 2015. http://www.jstor.org/stable/25480359?seq=2#page_scan_tab_contents.

⁵⁹ Barbara Craig, “Selected Themes in the Literature on Memory and Their Pertinence to Archives.” REVIEW ESSAY. <https://www.archivists.org/conference/neworleans2005/readings/609-craig.pdf>.

⁶⁰ Pierre Naquet and Jeffrey Mehlman, *Assassins of Memory: Essays on the Denial of the Holocaust* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1992).

⁶¹ Deborah Lipstadt, *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*. (New York, 2006).

to be “understood right away, without hesitation or interpretation, in its basic significance.”⁶² While individual memories are usually from the past, public memory is often a combination of the past and the present. Public memory remembers the past but ensures that the history is unforgotten in the future. Monuments are examples of manifestations of public memories. Monuments are massive, which means that they embody a futuristic element while at the same time recognize the history of the event with written inscriptions, dates, and statements, such as “we shall never forget” acting as a connection between the past and the future. By nature of its design, public memory lasts longer than private memory. In reverse, individual memory refers to the personalization of remembrance. Individual memory promotes a great deal of lived experience, often remembered in particular ways and distinct from the recollection of the public or the community. The individual recollection is rich in details and complexities and often juxtaposes public memory if there is a clash of interest with public memory.⁶³

Paul Ricœur’s theory of memory provides a connection between public and private memory. Ricœur demonstrates that the process of remembering is critical to the perception of historical experience and the production of a historical narrative by the state. A historical narrative is possible because memory accrues from a gathering of previous events recalled repeatedly, the bygones continue in the present because information regarding these older events passes on in books, museums, commemorations amongst other repositories and outlets. However, the presence of one public memory does not imply the existence of only one memory. Individuals within a group do not necessarily share the same memory. Younger generations do not have the firsthand account of past events that took place before they were born. By controlling a historical narrative, a state can socially construct its memory based on its agenda for the future generations.

⁶² Edward, Casey "Public Memory in Place and Time." In *Framing Public Memory* (Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2004)pg.17

⁶³ Edward, Casey "Public Memory in Place and Time." In *Framing Public Memory* (Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2004)pg. 21

Yves Charles Zarka, in the article, “The Construction of Historical Consciousness,” argues that individual memory loses its substance after a lifetime unless that memory becomes documented in a memoir or stored electronically. Also, there is a possibility that distance and time from a historical event may affect how an individual remembers a particular event. If the memory is not “lived,” then the memory of the subsequent generations get distortions since the individuals, lack reliable sources of information. In this case, memory will emanate from emotions instead of facts and influenced by personal biases and perceptions.⁶⁴ In such situations, it will not be uncommon for individuals and groups modify past events to help in the formation of a new understanding of the history in connection to the present reality.

Theory of Memory in the Rwandan Genocide

In the above literature, I have explored how the study of memory has developed over time. I have also focused on the distinctions between public memory and private memory. Also, I have written about memory as influenced by distance and time. The following paragraphs will explore the memory literature concerning the Rwandan genocide in particular. I focus on the memory of the Rwandan genocide because it is important to examine what and how scholars have written about the memory and the genocide. By surveying literature, I seek to see what is missing in the literature.

In *Public Memory, Public Media and Politics of Justice*, modern language scholar and communication expert Philip Lee, argues that post-genocidal Rwanda has strict limits on who and what qualifies for public remembrance.⁶⁵ The Rwandan genocide is a case of “deconstructed discourse,”⁶⁶ with accepted

⁶⁴ Yves Charles Zarka, “The Construction of Historical Consciousness” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*. 2004, Vol. 12, No. 3, pp. 413-428.

⁶⁵ Philip Lee, *Public Memory, Public Media, and the Politics of Justice* (Houndmills, Basingstoke: Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012) pg.116

⁶⁶ Philip Lee, *Public Memory, Public Media, and the Politics of Justice* (Houndmills, Basingstoke: Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012) pg.100

ways in which people talk, think, and memorize the genocide. Some events are valued or devalued, and ones that are excluded in commemorative speeches and testimonies.⁶⁷ After the genocide, the conventional “perpetrators”, mostly Hutus, prefer to avoid remembering the genocide partly because of denial of guilt or, because of regret. On the other hand, “*survivors cannot forget.*” The genocide became a definitive phenomenon for their existence. In private spaces, individual memories dialogue with the past and the representation of history in the public sphere, therefore making memory a socially dynamic experience.⁶⁸ In the words of Johan Pottier, writer of the book *Re-imagining Rwanda*, “the horror of 1994 Rwandan genocide must never be forgotten, but if reconciliation is to take place in Rwanda, then a broader, more detailed and historically informed contextualization of the drama is required.”⁶⁹

The Rwandan genocide provides a case where the government has used public memory, such as national mourning in April, officially known as “Kwibuka” in Kinyarwanda, for remembering.⁷⁰ However, the public commemoration initiated by the government has garnered criticism for its one-sidedness. Numerous Tutsi survivors remain discontented with the space granted for their memories.⁷¹ Hutu survivors’ experiences, suffering, traumatic legacies, and personal details, are still influential memories nonetheless absent from public spaces such as the Genocide Museum in Kigali.⁷² Memory in public, demonstrated by the genocide flame, symbolizes only the genocide that is only one aspect of the Rwandan conflict. The genocide flame is a torch of fire used to commemorate the genocide. The skeletons of genocide victims and the commemorations in April are a function of discourse that marks

⁶⁷Ibid, Pg. 100

⁶⁸ Ibid, Pg. 100- 102

⁶⁹ Johan Pottier, *Re-imagining Rwanda Conflict, Survival and Disinformation in the Late Twentieth Century.* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002)

⁷⁰ Rachel Ibreck, "The Politics of Mourning: Survivor Contributions to Memorials in Post-genocide Rwanda." *Memory Studies*, 2010, 330-43.

⁷¹ Elisabeth King, "Memory Controversies in Post-Genocide Rwanda: Implications for Peacebuilding." *Genocide Studies and Prevention* Vol 5, no. Issue 3 (2010): 293-309.

⁷² Rachel Ibreck, "A Time of Mourning: The Politics of Commemorating the Tutsi Genocide in Rwanda." In *Public Memory, Public Media and the Politics of Justice.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

political boundary lines between survivors and perceived perpetrators. Public memory redefines lines of exclusion and inclusion on what it means to be a victim or a perpetrator of the genocide of 1994 as well as acknowledging of an existence of only one narrative of the tragedy while undermining some victims.⁷³

While there is space recognizing the active role of some Rwandans, particularly Hutus, in stopping the genocide, this space is not exhaustive. The treatment of Paul Rusesabagina, hero of the movie *Hotel Rwanda* exemplifies this shrinking space. Rusesabagina has a “self-promotion agenda while distorting Rwanda’s history and spreading negative propaganda” charge leveled on him by Rwandan authorities.⁷⁴ The reasons for Rusesabagina’s charges are political rather than criminal. I discuss these issues in the in the chapter of individual memories. The way Rwandan history is taught in civics classrooms also demonstrates the limited remembrance of the Hutu side of the story. Elizabeth King, a Rwandan genocide scholar, notes that history and civics textbooks only focus on the genocide, especially the attempt to exterminate Tutsi minority by extremists Hutus. Nonetheless, the textbooks are silent on the violent experiences of the Hutus before the genocide. The texts also do not mention revenge killings of unarmed Hutus by the Tutsi soldiers after the genocide.⁷⁵

In addition to limiting the memorial spaces in classrooms, the government led by President Paul Kagame has officially eliminated social discourse on the use of ethnic identities – Hutu, Tutsi or Twa. While the removal of social identities has been an attempt at silencing the discord arising from historical injustices and shaping a new Rwandan identity, the commemorations that usually occur in the month of April are important in the formation of a one-sided -Tutsi influenced- narrative about the Rwandan genocide. The public remembrance of the victims of the genocide is considered a national duty of every citizen as well

⁷³ Gerard Prunier. *Africa's World War: Congo, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009) pg. 3

⁷⁴ Elisabeth King, “Memory Controversies in Post-Genocide Rwanda: Implications for Peacebuilding.” *Genocide Studies and Prevention* Vol 5, no. Issue 3 (2010):pg. 299

⁷⁵ Elisabeth King, “Memory Controversies in Post-Genocide Rwanda: Implications for Peacebuilding.” *Genocide Studies and Prevention* Vol 5, no. Issue 3 (2010): 293-309.pg 300

as an important direction towards the formation of a “one Rwanda” identity.⁷⁶ In 2014 commemorations, the country marked the twentieth anniversary of the genocide. In his address to the nation, President Kagame thanked his compatriots and women for their contributions to nation building and emphasized “historical truth” as a memory requirement. President Kagame said, “Historical clarity is a duty of memory that we cannot escape... there is a story whose truth must be told in full, no matter how uncomfortable.”⁷⁷

President Kagame’s words hint at a shared understanding of the Rwandan genocide as a genocide against the Tutsi. However, as Urzula Rog asked in her article *Commemorating Genocide- An Important Element of the Politics of Memory in Rwanda*, “In light of President Kagame’s words, a question of whether the memory of genocide is shared by all Rwandans arise?”⁷⁸ It is reasonable to think that the memory of the Hutu and Tutsi is conflicting. Still, Kagame’s take is selective in the memory of the genocide and sweeps the differences under the carpet.

Philip Gourevitch is one of the most acclaimed writers about the genocide. In his book, *We Wish to Inform you that Tomorrow We Will be Killed with our Families*, wrote, “Rwandan history is dangerous...it is a record of successive struggles for power, and to an enormous extent, power consists in the ability to make others inhabit your story.”⁷⁹ The memory of genocide among Hutus is necessary, highlighted by a leading Rwandan scholar Gerrard Prunier, who described the current public memory of

⁷⁶ Philip Lee, *Public Memory, Public Media, and the Politics of Justice* (Houndmills, Basingstoke: Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012) pg.100

⁷⁷ Rwandan Information Portal. Speech by President Paul Kagame at the 20th Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi, April 7th, 2014. <http://rwandinfo.com/eng/speech-by-president-paul-kagame-at-the-20th-commemoration-of-the-genocide-against-the-tutsi/> Accessed 12/1

⁷⁸ Urzula Rog, “Commemorating Genocide- an Important Element of the Politics of Memory in Rwanda,” *TransConflict*, October 6th, 2014. <http://www.transconflict.com/2014/10/commemorating-genocide-important-element-politics-memory-rwanda-610/> Accessed 12/13/14

⁷⁹ Philip Gourevitch, *We wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We will be killed with our Families: Stories from Rwanda* (New York: Macmillan Publishers, 1999), pg. 48

the genocide as “Tutsification of the genocide.”⁸⁰ One key challenge is that the narrative of the genocide depends on group identity, in particular on the question “who are you?” If Hutu, the judgment would be the perpetrator, and Tutsi is synonymous with the victim while Twa with a bystander.⁸¹ Of concern is that the teaching of history is missing in many schools, and the memory of the genocide is increasingly becoming political. In 2008, the Rwandan government renamed the genocide “The Genocide against the Tutsi.”⁸² The renaming of the genocide as a Tutsi genocide locks out the experiences of many Hutu survivors and victims.

Gerrard Prunier admits that the Rwandan genocide was “complex” because it occurred in a “tightly knit community.”⁸³ Hutus who went out of their way to help the victims could be arrested for not helping. President Kagame’s RPF gets credits for stopping the genocide, but Prunier writes that they also committed mass murder of Hutus.⁸⁴ However, Hutu cabinet ministers in RPF did not cry foul for these actions.⁸⁵ Jennie Burnet, the author of *Genocide Lives in Us*, argues that the summer of 1994 was a time of extreme violence that targeted the Tutsi segment of the Rwandan populace. Violence was the order of the day for almost the entire decade of the 1990s in the country of Rwanda. While it is recognized that not all Rwandans are genocide survivors, almost all Rwandans lost loved ones in the genocide of 1994, the Civil War of (1990-1994). Rwandans also lost lives in the refugee camps of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (1994-1997), and in the insurgency against Hutu extremists in North Western Rwanda (1997-2001). All Rwandan people, from all Rwandan ethnicities- Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa- have violent pasts that

⁸⁰ Prunier, Gerard Prunier. *Africa's World War: Congo, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009) pg.3

⁸¹ Jennie Burnet, *Genocide Lives in Us: Women, Memory, and Silence in Rwanda* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012), pg. 8

⁸² Philip Gourevitch. "Remembering in Rwanda" (The New Yorker, April 21, 2014).

⁸³ Gerard Prunier, *Africa's World War: Congo, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009) pg. 1

⁸⁴ Robin Philpot, *Rwanda and the New Scramble for Africa: From Tragedy to Useful Imperial Fiction* (Baraka Books, 2013)pg. 76

⁸⁵ Jennie Burnet, *Genocide Lives in Us: Women, Memory, and Silence in Rwanda* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012) pg. 9, 10

they have to remember.⁸⁶ Still, the memory of the genocide is politically one-sided and does not factor in the sufferings of many non-Tutsi victims.

By acknowledging and remembering only a select case of memories of violence, the government fails to address the tensions arising from ethnic identities that are present in the discourse about genocide.⁸⁷

According to Burnet, “the politics of memory in Rwanda today are intimately connected to questions of identity.”⁸⁸ The Rwandan population observes remembering the genocide as an assertion of an individual’s being. In microsocial settings, remembrance of the genocide becomes less problematic because there are a possibility and freedom of being distant from the larger historical, cultural and political narratives. Individual memories do not necessarily lead to a production of categories or a group narrative except in unique circumstances. Memories, in such cases, contradict the experience, therefore questioning the notions of identity. However, for most Rwandans in public or semi-public settings, remembering is a political act.”⁸⁹

Because remembering is a political act in Rwanda, it influences the success of the reconciliation process. Urzula Rog, a peace and conflict resolution expert, reasons that the position taken by President Kagame impedes reconciliation. Kagame’s approach focuses on a public memory that sanctions some individual experiences. Rog writes that it is important that the memory of the Rwandan genocide come from the official version of the genocide and the memories of both perpetrators and victims. Finding a balance between what should be remembered and what should be forgotten is a crucial requirement for the process of reconciliation to surge ahead.⁹⁰

⁸⁶ Jennie Burnet, *Genocide Lives in Us: Women, Memory, and Silence in Rwanda* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012), pg. 42

⁸⁷ Robin Philpot, *Rwanda and the New Scramble for Africa: From Tragedy to Useful Imperial Fiction* (Baraka Books, 2013)pg.233

⁸⁸Jennie Burnet, *Genocide Lives in Us: Women, Memory, and Silence in Rwanda* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012) pg.8

⁸⁹ Ibid, pg. 8

⁹⁰ Urzula Rog, “Commemorating Genocide- an Important Element of the Politics of Memory in Rwanda,”*TransConflict*, October 6th, 2014. <http://www.transconflict.com/2014/10/commemorating-genocide-important-element-politics-memory-rwanda-610/> Accessed 12/13/14

Other writers, such as Rebecka Tact, share such an account. Tact's essay argues that the silencing of the atrocities committed against Hutus by the Rwanda Patriotic Front in the Democratic Republic of Congo be indicative of what others have defined as "*collective instruction*."⁹¹ Collective instruction is a state-centered approach on memory supported by legal mechanisms and includes the establishment of a particular narrative about events while sanctioning memories that might generate dissent.⁹² The instructive memory imposes official memory that "rules out a recognition of the ambivalence of the notion of guilt."⁹³

Susan Thomson, writing in *Whispering Truth to Power*, exposes how President Kagame's attempt at national reconciliation controls the state but does not forge genuine reconciliation. Thomson's work demonstrates the inadequate support of the government's attempt at reconciliation from rural Rwandans. According to Thomson, reconciliation as practiced today shapes Rwandan history in a manner that the state sees fit. Individuals who undertake reconciliation often misuse that power to advance particular interests, usually directing the genocide stories. Second, the reconciliation process in Rwanda has class undertones whereby the peasants exhibit a high sense of alienation from the English speaking elites.⁹⁴ The official position of the government on reconciliation is distinct from the realities on the ground. Also, the government's policy approaches "post-genocide justice on the presumption of a criminal (adult male Hutu) population is a useful mechanism that the Rwandan Patriotic Front strategically deploys to control

⁹¹ Rebecka Tact, "Collective Memory: The Holocaust and Genocide in Rwanda," International Relations Students, July 2011. <http://www.e-ir.info/2011/07/27/collective-memory-the-holocaust-and-the-genocide-in-rwanda/> accessed 12/13/14

⁹² Rene, Lemarchand, "Genocide, Memory and Ethnic Reconciliation in Rwanda (*)." Accessed April 30, 2015. <http://www.ua.ac.be/objs/00178894.pdf>.

⁹³ R. Lemarchand, and M. Niwese, Mass Murder, the Politics of Memory and Post-Genocide Reconstruction: the Cases of Rwanda and Burundi', in B. Pouligny et al. (eds), *After mass crime: rebuilding states and communities*. (New York: United Nations University Press, 2007).pg.167

⁹⁴ Susan Thomson, *Whispering Truth to Power: Everyday Resistance to Reconciliation in Post genocide Rwanda* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2013) pg. 105

political opponents, deflect criticism of its actions during the genocide, and justify its military presence in D.R. Congo.”⁹⁵

About Rwanda’s future, Mahmood Mamdani, a Ugandan political scientist and author of the book *When Victims become Killers* questions the possibility of building a society that can embrace all the survivors while consoling the aggrieved and a fearful minority. Even though the Tutsi in Rwanda today will hope for “never again,” the Hutus will be better off with a political solution that recognizes democratic ideals and human rights. “If the postcolonial pursuit of justice turned into revenge and built on the colonial legacy, one needs to be aware lest post-genocidal reconciliation also turns into an embrace of the colonial legacy.”⁹⁶ For the sake of Rwanda, and for the Tutsi minority to leave in peace, Rwanda will have to reconcile.

Rather than think that power is the precondition for survival, the Tutsi will sooner or later have to consider the opposite possibility: that the prerequisite to cohabitation, to reconciliation, and a common political future may indeed be to give up the monopoly of power. So long as Hutu and Tutsi remain alive as political identities, giving up political power may be a surer guarantee of survival than holding on to it.⁹⁷

Mamdani hints at the apex of the Rwandan paradox where the pursuit of democracy for the Hutu majority infers a Trojan horse for another genocide against the Tutsis. On the other hand, the search for blind justice by a Tutsi regime is a vessel of the tyranny of the minority. A careful balancing act is required.

Ricœur offers a theory to the Rwandan government’s insistence on particular methods of memorializing the genocide. The intentional “public rewriting” of memory is a wider government plan to unite the country but has created a new narrative that provides legitimacy for the government since it is a Tutsi minority government that generates resentment from many Hutus. The narrative of “one Rwanda” helps

⁹⁵Susan Thomson, *Whispering Truth to Power: Everyday Resistance to Reconciliation in Post genocide Rwanda* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2013) pg. 83.

⁹⁶Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims become Killers* (Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, 2014) pg 18

⁹⁷ Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims become Killers* (Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, 2014) pg. 279

the government with legitimacy⁹⁸ because memory plays a central role in the formation of identity at the individual (private memory) and the group level (memory in public spaces).⁹⁹ This identity is not limited to the Rwandan territories, as it has influenced the Rwanda diasporic perception of their homeland.

Hutu Memory and the Diaspora

The above section discussed memory and politics of Rwanda genocide highlighting the ongoing sanctioning memories of some victims in public. The following section will explore the literature of memories of Hutus in the diaspora as documented by other scholars. The genocide was not limited to Rwanda. Scholars have observed that that tragic event was the genesis of conflicts in the great lakes regions of Africa.¹⁰⁰ The tragic events of 1994 in Rwanda had a “deterritorialization” consequence in the area.¹⁰¹ The effect was a migration of people that scattered Rwandan nationals and Banyarwaanda (ethnic Rwandans but of different nationalities) throughout the world. The concept of ‘deterritorialization’ refers to the lessening of a nation-state’s control over its territory due to globalization, as well as conflict becoming ‘less localized’ as a consequence of it spilling across ways not previously possible. Crucially, other dynamics are also involved, influencing diaspora attitudes and actions toward their respective home countries. Deterritorialization provides reasons why migrant groups are increasingly becoming key players in the new patterns of political mobilization at home.¹⁰² Outside Rwanda, the genocide continues to define the identity of Rwandan’s in diaspora.

⁹⁸ Tamara Hinan, "To Remember, or To Forget? Collective Memory and Reconciliation in Guatemala and Rwanda" The University of Western Ontario Journal of Anthropology Vol 18, no. 1. Accessed June 23, 2011. <http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1195&context=totem>.

⁹⁹ Paul Ricoeur, *Memory, History and Forgetting* (Chicago, U.S: University of Chicago Press, 2009), p.g 82

¹⁰⁰ Gerad Prunier, *The Rwandan Crisis: History of a Genocide* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), p.xxiv

¹⁰¹ Michelle Martin, "The Political Power of Diaspora as External Actors in Armed Conflict." University of Bradford. January 1, 2013. Accessed April 30, 2015. [https://bradscholars.brad.ac.uk/bitstream/handle/10454/6417/Michelle Martin - Dissertation Department of Peace Studies - Post-Viva Final.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=](https://bradscholars.brad.ac.uk/bitstream/handle/10454/6417/Michelle%20Martin%20-%20Dissertation%20Department%20of%20Peace%20Studies%20-%20Post-Viva%20Final.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=1)

¹⁰² Catherine Boone, *Property and Political Order in Africa: Land Rights and the Structure of Politics* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014).pg. 168

Claudine Kuradusenge, a Rwandan, writing in a blog post titled “Hutu Diaspora Narrative: Identity in Conflict, Conflict Identity,” argues that Hutus in the diaspora are negatively identified as perpetrators of the genocide. Kuradusenge contends that the classification of Hutus as perpetrators has instigated a nationalistic struggle among the Hutu community abroad to fight for freedom of the Hutus at home, and to distance the Hutu populace from the negative legacy of the genocide. This movement is also concerned about the rights of victimhood for many Hutus who not classified as survivors of the genocide.¹⁰³

Hutu identity abroad, according to Kuradusenge, forms from not only what had been lost, but also socially constructed labels that continue to view the Hutus in the diaspora as perpetrators. Indeed, many Hutus see themselves as “stateless, unwanted, and damaged.”¹⁰⁴ As a way of describing their condition, Hutus abroad use the word “surviving” as a depiction of their state.¹⁰⁵ The resignation of Hutus has been a function of silenced voices at home and the global stage. While many Hutus agree that mass killings happened in Rwanda, they are not pleased with categorizing Hutus as sole perpetrators. Instead, according to Kuradusenge, Rwandans must reconcile that the country “experienced a double genocide in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.”¹⁰⁶ The concept of double genocide sprang up after the Rwandan genocide started, leading to the premature conclusion that the Rwandan fiasco was an ethnic war. Fundamentally, the theory holds that Rwandan genocide of April 1994 targeted mainly Tutsis. However, before the genocide of 1994, the RPF had also killed approximately one million Hutus between 1990 and 1994.¹⁰⁷ Still, the competing narratives about the genocide have shaped perceptions of the actual events and victimized the new generations of Rwandans that grew up in the aftermath.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰³ Claudine Kuradusenge, "Peace, Democracy and Development Blog." Peace Democracy and Development Blog. January 16, 2015. Accessed April 30, 2015. <http://blogs.umb.edu/paxblog/2015/01/16/hutu-diaspora-narrative-identity-in-conflict-conflict-of-identity/>.

¹⁰⁴ Claudine Kuradusenge, "Peace, Democracy and Development Blog."

¹⁰⁵ Ibid

¹⁰⁶ Claudine Kuradusenge, "Peace, Democracy and Development Blog."

¹⁰⁷ Gerard Prunier, *Africa's World War: Congo, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009) pg. 356

¹⁰⁸ Claudine Kuradusenge, "Peace, Democracy and Development Blog."

While the allegations about the mass killings of Hutus are provable, I argue that they do not qualify as genocide because of two reasons. First, in the genocide of 1994, Tutsis died because of their ethnic identity. For this reason, Tutsi killings of 1994 qualify as genocidal. Second, Hutus died in large numbers both by RPF soldiers and by fellow Hutu extremists. Because of this complexity, it becomes difficult to qualify Hutu massacres as genocidal. However, many scholars acknowledge that a substantial number of Hutus lost their lives extra-judicially.¹⁰⁹

Hutus in the diaspora, including the United States, have been politically active with the intention of challenging the dominance of RPF. These political entities include IntwariPartnership, ADRN- Igihango, and Umubano among others. IntwariPartnership is a Hutu group formed in 2004 in Brussels by Emmanuel Habyarimana, a Hutu, who was a part of the RPF government before going into exile in 2003. The co-founder was Déogratias Mushayidi, a Tutsi, who served as Secretary General and Spokesperson. The organization acts as a Hutu umbrella group that includes several other small foreign-based organizations that have formed an alliance called the ADRN-Igihango.¹¹⁰ The increasing political agitation from Rwandans in the diaspora is a consequence of the RPF policy of silencing dissent of narratives that challenge its moral position as the genocide stopper. Some accounts, on the other hand, view the RPF a genocide instigator or, in some cases, the perpetrator of the violence of the 1990s.

In the year 2001, a Pan-African online magazine, *Rising Continent*, published a story titled, “Paul Kagame: 17 Years of Flawed Policy of Reconciliation between Hutus and Tutsis.” The article documented the accounts of Rwandans in the diaspora who disappeared, extradited, or charged in absentia for opposing the RPF’s policy on reconciliation or its account of the genocide. The magazine documents

¹⁰⁹ "Rwanda: Justice After Genocide-20 Years On." Human Rights Watch. 2014. Accessed March 24, 2016. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/03/28/rwanda-justice-after-genocide-20-years>.

¹¹⁰ Michelle Martin, “The Political Power of Diaspora as External Actors in Armed Conflict.” University of Bradford. January 1, 2013. Accessed April 30, 2015. [https://bradscholars.brad.ac.uk/bitstream/handle/10454/6417/Michelle Martin - Dissertation Department of Peace Studies - Post-Viva Final.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://bradscholars.brad.ac.uk/bitstream/handle/10454/6417/Michelle%20Martin%20-%20Dissertation%20Department%20of%20Peace%20Studies%20-%20Post-Viva%20Final.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y).

the story of Prudentienne, a woman of mixed Hutu and Tutsi parentage. Prudentienne was a member of a community group called Umubano that was publicly remembering Hutu friends and relatives that lost their lives during the genocide and the civil war. The group organized a commemoration in the United Kingdom in the year 2006. Kigali accused them of being genocidaires.¹¹¹

Four months later, officials in the United Kingdom willingly extradited many of the genocidaires back to Rwanda of which four of the Umubano group were imprisoned. The article also writes the story of Victoria Ingabire Umuhoza, who was a leader of the FDU-Inkingi, an opposition party. Based in the Netherlands, Ingabire Umuhoza traveled from Amsterdam to Kigali to campaign for the presidential elections in Rwanda. During the campaign of 2011, Ingabire-Umuhoza publicly questioned the reason why Hutus who died during the genocide had no commemorations. In 2012, Mrs. Ingabire-Umuhoza was arrested and charged with genocide revisionism and inciting the public using “genocide ideology.”¹¹² The genocide ideology law is an ambiguous legislation that is subject to open-ended interpretation by the Rwandan government for purposes of clamping down on dissent. Article two of Law No: 18/2009 states that:

The genocide ideology is an aggregate of thoughts characterized by conduct, speeches, documents and other acts aiming at exterminating or inciting others to exterminate people basing (sic) on ethnic group, origin, nationality, region, color, physical appearance, sex, language, religion or political opinion, committed in normal periods or during war.¹¹³

While the intent of the law is right, it is subject to misuse by RPF to send opposing politicians to jail for speaking out on RPF’s policies on genocidal memories.

¹¹¹ "Paul Kagame: 17 Years of Flawed Policy of Reconciliation between Hutus and Tutsis." Rising Continent. May 30, 2011. Accessed April 30, 2015. <https://therisingcontinent.wordpress.com/2011/05/30/paul-kagame-17-years-of-flawed-policy-of-reconciliation-between-hutus-and-tutsis/>.

¹¹² "Paul Kagame: 17 Years of Flawed Policy of Reconciliation between Hutus and Tutsis." Rising Continent. May 30, 2011. Accessed April 30, 2015. <https://therisingcontinent.wordpress.com/2011/05/30/paul-kagame-17-years-of-flawed-policy-of-reconciliation-between-hutus-and-tutsis/>.

¹¹³ "Rwanda: Controversial "genocide Ideology" Law to Send More Rwandans behind Bars." Jambonews EN Rwanda Controversial Genocide Ideology Law to Send More Rwandans behind Bars Comments. Accessed March 24, 2016. <http://www.jambonews.net/en/news/20130425-rwanda-controversial-genocide-ideology-law-to-send-more-rwandans-behind-bars/>.

Rwandan politics today necessarily deprives people of their memory.¹¹⁴ In his book, *We Wish to Inform you that Tomorrow We shall be Killed by Our Families*, Philip Gourevitch, quotes President Kagame as grouping all the Hutus as killers. “Well, these Hutus killed, so they must be killed, and these Tutsis were the victims, so they must now get the better of what there is in this situation.”¹¹⁵ Kagame’s quote is, at best, vindictive of the entire Hutu population and it contrasts the accounts of many Hutu genocide survivors. Hutu diaspora survivors’ accounts point to the incompleteness of the state’s explanation of the genocide that has a consequence of shaping public memory.

Hutu genocide survivor, Marie-Beatrice Umutesi’s *Surviving the Slaughter: The Ordeal of a Rwandan Refugee in Zaire*, documents the torture, massacre and starvation of the Hutus found in areas captured by RPF as they marched into Kigali in the year 1993.¹¹⁶ The RPF conquest of Kigali in July 1994 led to Hutus flight westwards towards the Democratic Republic of Congo. Likewise, when the genocide broke out, many moderate Hutus had fled from Rwandan to Congo to escape the violence or not to be influenced by the Hutu extremists. After the RPF had captured Kigali, many more Hutus walked, ran or marched in the jungles heading towards Congo. RPF soldiers consistently pursued the refugees, and when found would be killed, raped or dismembered without regard to whether they were extremists or not.¹¹⁷ The works of Hutu diaspora about the genocide support the sentiments expressed by Hutus about sanctioned memories in Rwanda. The influence of this literature is that it contradicts the assumption that there were no good Hutus. For example, Paul Rusasebagina’s role in *Hotel Rwanda* demonstrates that public memory of the genocide is incomplete.

As observed in this literature review, a plethora of scholars has researched the Rwandan genocide. While numerous books have dealt with different facets of memories of that tragedy, few have examined the

¹¹⁴ Judi Rever, “Rwanda’s Memory Hole | Foreign Policy Journal.” Foreign Policy Journal. April 14, 2015. Accessed April 23, 2015. <http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/2015/04/14/rwandas-memory-hole/>.

¹¹⁵ Philip Gourevitch, *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families: Stories from Rwanda* (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1998) pg. 316

¹¹⁶ Robin Philpot, *Rwanda and the New Scramble for Africa: From Tragedy to Useful Imperial Fiction* (Baraka Books, 2013)pg.57

¹¹⁷ Marie Beatrice Umutesi. *Surviving the Slaughter: The Ordeal of a Rwandan Refugee in Zaire*. Translated by Julia Emerson. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004 [2000].pg. 138 Women in Africa and the Diaspora Series.

memory of diaspora Rwanda, precisely the Hutu subgroup. The lack of studies on the memories of the Hutu diaspora creates an impetus to research that aspect of the genocide. The aim of this project is to start filling the gap between public memories and private memories of Hutus in the United States.

Research Methodology

My methodology intended to retrieve two things critical for this study: first, the memories of individual Hutus in the United States and their accounts about the Rwandan genocide. The second task was researching the memorialization of the genocide in public places that include, but are not limited to the media, scholarly books, press, the Internet and Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C, for reasons of generating the patterns of genocide memory. The major part of this research focuses on public memory, relying on memory as depicted in public places aforementioned.

The research focuses on public memory due to the sensitivity of the subject matter. Many Rwandans avoid talking about the genocide for reasons that are both personal and political.¹¹⁸ In the Rwandan community, there is an overwhelming fear of the RPF government.¹¹⁹ My interviewees revealed that talking about the government could endanger the lives of loved ones who are still in Rwanda. However, I complimented public memories with individual stories of ten Hutu refugees in the United States who willingly shared their stories.

I relied on qualitative methods of data, specifically semi-structured questions to get the individual Hutu memories of the genocide. Semi-structured questions are open questions that give directions while allowing participants to divert from the question set if they wish to do so.¹²⁰ This strategy was helpful

¹¹⁸ "Amnesty Accuses Rwanda Spies of Torture - BBC News." BBC News. Accessed April 05, 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-19868558>.

¹¹⁹ Jeffrey Gettleman, "The Global Elite's Favorite Strongman." The New York Times. 2013. Accessed April 05, 2016. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/08/magazine/paul-kagame-rwanda.html?_r=0.

¹²⁰ Example of a semi-structured question: What do you think about healing and reconciliation in Rwanda?

since it allowed individuals to focus on things that they felt were most important to them. There were individual interviews conducted with participants in their locations of choice to collect data using semi-structured interviews. Participants took part in one-on-one interviews lasting between 20-40 minutes. 20-40 minutes is an approximate time length necessary for an in-depth conversation.¹²¹ One-on-one interviews gave the participants opportunities to distance themselves from the public and feel free to open up about their experiences during the genocide.¹²² I asked each participant general questions in conversations about his or her memories of the genocide. I also asked respondents to answer a set of open-ended questions that guided the conversation. The general questions catered to building rapport with each participant while the open-ended questions were specific to the research intention. I also took notes during the interview. I kept the privacy of the individuals by the use of pseudonyms and locking up interview notes in a safe place after interviews. The interviews took place in restaurants, parks, and other public locations such as the Holocaust Museum and stadiums.

The study took place in Washington D.C. due to the proximity of the Holocaust Museum in the city that has critical documents about the Rwandan genocide. However, the study was not limited to one location as I did other interviews using the internet tools such as Skype, phone calls and emails to reach Rwandans in cities such as St. Louis, Dallas, New Jersey, and Denver. The documents from the Holocaust Museum were helpful for finding information on the public memories of the genocide. Critical to this research is the memory of the genocide as published by Rwandan government historians. I visited the Rwandan embassy to have access to their publications on the genocide. Washington D.C. has a substantial amount of Rwandans who live there. The criteria that I used to select participants were as follows: roughly an equal number of females and males of diverse ages during the genocide: varieties in incomes, levels of

¹²¹ Susan Weller, "Structured Interviewing and Questionnaire Construction" In *Handbook of Methods in Cultural Anthropology*. (New York: Rowman & Little-field Publishers, 2000).

¹²² Bates, Cristin, Claire Droste, Lee Cuba, and Joseph Swingle. "One-On-One Interviews: A Qualitative Assessment Approach." Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College. [http://web.wellesley.edu/NECASL/Pdf/11.10.08Mixed Methods Presentation for Web.pdf](http://web.wellesley.edu/NECASL/Pdf/11.10.08Mixed%20Methods%20Presentation%20for%20Web.pdf).

education, political involvements and durations of stay in the United States. Having diverse participants was critical for research validity because I was able to see if there were emerging patterns regarding the individual memory of the Rwandan genocide. I interviewed ten participants who witnessed, survived or were victims of the genocide. The diversity of participants was a top priority. I did not provide compensation for this research since I expected the participants to share their memories.

Analysis of Data

The analysis of the data draws from information gathered in the summer of 2015 from interviewees, as well as from observations and research done on the public memory of the Rwandan genocide available in the internet, genocide museum in Washington D.C, Rwandan textbooks, the genocide memorial days, and events in Rwanda. This study is based in the United States because, first, I live in the country, and second, because of the relatively freer political space for many Rwandans to speak their minds. In the analysis, I examine if there is a similarity between individual narratives of Hutus in the United States about the genocide as compared to the publicly visible memory of that tragic event. If there are consistencies, then the analysis concludes that both the public memory and the individual memory are complimentary. However, if generalized memories of Hutus in the United States is not complimentary with public memory, then I will conclude that there is the minimization of individual memories.

Further analysis will explore the consequences of the outcome of the healing and reconciliation process in Rwanda. Although the study utilized account of only ten Hutus, it showed that Rwandan public memories do not complement individual narratives, in particular among some Hutus in the United States. This study suggests a possible disconnect between public and private memory. A much more expansive study would be necessary for a more definitive conclusion. Similarly, the Rwandan government is attempting to create what Memory Scholar Edward Casey calls “a futuristic narrative” that defies the nuanced, lived experience of genocide survivors. This futuristic narrative is, according to Ricœur, a “perception of historical experience.”

Limitations of the Study

The boundaries of this study include the unreliability of generalizing a whole Hutu population using a sample of ten Rwandan Hutus in the United States. There could be a chance that Hutus in Rwanda have a different memory based on their position in the societal class. However, based on the literature review and data from public spaces, the research's finding is consistent with other scholars' findings on Rwanda. There is an overwhelming consensus that the memorialization of the Rwandan genocide skews for the advantage of Rwandan Tutsis.

Chapter Three: Public Memory of Rwandan Genocide

The Rwandan media regularly get disgraced for its critical role in causing the genocide of 1994. For example, the Hutu power used radio to broadcast hate speeches encouraging Rwandans to raise up in arms and participate in the duty of killing Tutsis. One radio station, in particular, Radio Television Libre des Milles Collines, also known as RTLM had predicted that “a little something” was going to happen in April in Rwanda.¹²³ During the genocide, many radio personalities encouraged youths to undertake their “civic duties” by participating in the killings.¹²⁴ The international media garnered criticism for presenting the genocide as another case of ethnic conflict in Africa not worthy of airtime. The “lethargic” media engagement about the Rwandan genocide enraged many people internationally. In post-genocide Rwanda, the media has been on the forefront of rectifying their reputation by engaging in commemorations, reporting on genocide survivors, and promoting healing and reconciliation. Nevertheless, based on reports emanating from Hutus and opposition figures critical to the RPF, it is essential to examine how the media remembers the Rwandan genocide. Is there a possibility that public remembrances occur in a way that undermines individual Hutu stories?

In this thesis, media refers to television, film, and cinema. This thesis classifies print media in the form of newspapers and magazines as press. As such, when I discuss media houses such as the *New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor* or *The Guardian*, I categorize them as the press. Based on research from cinema, newspaper articles and media in Rwanda, I found that one side of the conflict- the Tutsi- side of the story disproportionately gets coverage at the expense of the Hutu stories. The Hutu story often surfaces as perpetrators and not as victims of that tragic event. Whereas this is true for the most part,

¹²³ "Examining the Media's Role in the Rwanda Genocide." SMU Adventures. July 20, 2009. Accessed November 13, 2015. <http://blog.smu.edu/studentadventures/2009/laura-in-rwanda/examining-the-medias-role-in-the-rwanda-genocide/>.

¹²⁴ Kofi Anan. and Allan Thompson, *The Media and the Rwanda Genocide* (Ottawa: International Development Research Centre, 2007) pg. ix

individual accounts and scholarly research demonstrate that a minority of Hutus were also victims or survivors.

My findings stem from the work of Paul Ricœur, a leading memory theorist and a combination of the work of other theorists already covered in the literature review. Ricœur's theory of memory provides a grounding for the possibility of an incomplete memory of the genocide. According to Ricœur, an authority can control a historical narrative about an individual event. By doing so, that authority can then socially construct memory based on its agenda for the future generations. However, the existence of such socially constructed memory does not eliminate the possibility of having different memories of the same event, and there could be an "adversarial relationship"¹²⁵ between personal experience and public memory. Therefore, the commemoration of the Rwandan genocide in the media could perhaps be misrepresenting the private memories of Hutu people. The possibility of sanctioned Hutu memory is conceivable because of the political context of post-genocide Rwanda, the desire of the international media to cleanse itself from the guilt of inactivity during the genocide, and the sheer influence of the post-genocide image of Rwanda internationally.

The media, by its photographic nature, ubiquitously creates a memory. The media is pervasive; it is also documented and captivating. While other means of public memory may be significant, the media is the most influential because it reaches a broad range of people. Edward Casey, a memory scholar and writer of *Public Memory in Place and Time*, argues that one characteristic of public memory, represented by the media is that it is "understood right away, without hesitation or interpretation, in its basic significance."¹²⁶ Historian Gary Edgerton in the book *Television as Historian* also highlights such an acknowledgment of media's strength. Edgerton contends that television is modern historian and shaper of public memory.

¹²⁵ Deborah Lipstadt, *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*. (New York, 2006).

¹²⁶ Edward, Casey, "Public Memory in Place and Time." In *Framing Public Memory* (Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2004)pg.17

“Television is the principal means by which most people learn about history today... the media’s non-fictional and fictional portrayals have similarly transformed the way viewers think about historical figures.”¹²⁷ Multimedia provides an excellent opportunity for those who may wish to write or re-write history.

Silent Dissent: Rwandan Media and Genocide Memory

Rather than start from international media, it may be prudent to examine the Rwandan media to see if there is objectivity on stories about the Rwandan genocide. I suggest that a good starting point would be examining the “shrinking space of media freedom” within President Kagame’s desire for “historical clarity” of the events of 1994.¹²⁸ Reporters without Borders ranks Rwanda 161 out of 180 countries regarding press freedom index.¹²⁹ Even though Rwanda recently changed the law to guarantee media freedom by amending the countries media laws, article (234) of the state’s law warns journalists of prison sentences of up to one year for words deemed insulting. “Insults” to the president are punishable by five-year prison terms. Rwandan government censors the press, and the restriction works in two ways. Either journalist voluntarily keeps off controversial stories or the states enforces censorship by closing down renegade media houses. In the recent past, journalists questioning the government’s policies on genocide memorials have been harassed and imprisoned with charges ranging from conspiracy to overthrow the government, genocide ideologies, and terrorism. Under this circumstance, it is almost impossible for stories that focus on Hutu heroism, suffering or victimhood during the genocide to gain coverage.¹³⁰

¹²⁷ Gary Edgerton, “Television as Historian: A Different Kind of History Altogether” in *Television Histories Shaping Collective Memory in the Median Age*, ed. Gary Edgerton and Peter Collins (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2001) pg. 6-7.

¹²⁸ Urzula Rog, “Commemorating Genocide- an Important Element of the Politics of Memory in Rwanda,” *TransConflict*, October 6th, 2014. <http://www.transconflict.com/2014/10/commemorating-genocide-important-element-politics-memory-rwanda-610/> Accessed 12/13/14

¹²⁹ “Press Freedom Index 2013 - Reporters Without Borders.” 2013. Accessed February 01, 2016. <http://en.rsf.org/press-freedom-index-2013,1054.html>.

¹³⁰ Anton Harber, “Legacy of Rwanda Genocide Includes Media Restrictions, Self-censorship.” - Committee to Protect Journalists. December 8, 2014. Accessed February 01, 2016. <https://cpj.org/reports/2014/12/legacy-of-rwanda-genocide-includes-media-restricti.php>.

In 2010, Agnes Uwimana and Saidati Mukakibibi, two editors of nationally acclaimed Kinyarwanda newspaper *Umurabyo*, were sentenced to seventeen years and seven years respectively. The charges leveled against them included “publishing falsehood” and “threatening state security” by defaming the president and causing ethnic division.¹³¹ In 2012, Epaphrodite Habarugira, a radio presenter from the city of Gitarama, was detained for more than two months on accusations connected to minimizing the Rwandan genocide. Haburugira apparently mixed up the terms “victims” and “survivors” about Hutu and not Tutsis during a genocide commemoration event.¹³² Today, Rwandan state media is still controlled and highly regulated in content about the genocide and the political affairs of the country. With a tight cap on what happens in Rwandan media, stories coming out of Rwanda regarding the genocide support the state’s account.

Stories relating to Rwandan military activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo are also not reportable in Rwanda. The United Nations has accused Rwanda of supporting Tutsi rebel groups such as M23 in the Congo. The same case applies to President Kagame whose activities are similarly off-limits. It is not advisable for any journalist in Rwanda to report a story that portrays the head of state negatively. Such portrayals could be about the President’s activities as a rebel leader when many Hutus were massacred in Eastern Rwanda. Equally, the activities of RPF soldiers after the Rwandan genocide are not subject of media’s discussion. Anton Harber, a professor of journalism at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, quoted a Rwandan journalist who requested anonymity. “Our president is not a just a president, our president is like a god, stories against the president are sacred.”¹³³

¹³¹ Owen Bowcott, "Rwanda Journalists Jailed for Genocide Denial Launch Supreme Court Appeal." *The Guardian Newspaper*. January 29, 2012. Accessed February 2, 2016. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/jan/29/rwanda-journalists-genocide-denial-appeal>.

¹³² "Rwanda: Eight-Year Sentence for Opposition Leader." *Human Rights Watch*. November 30, 2012. Accessed February 01, 2016. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2012/10/30/rwanda-eight-year-sentence-opposition-leader>.

¹³³ Anton Harber, "Legacy of Rwanda Genocide Includes Media Restrictions, Self-censorship." - *Committee to Protect Journalists*. December 8, 2014. Accessed February 01, 2016. <https://cpj.org/reports/2014/12/legacy-of-rwanda-genocide-includes-media-restricti.php>.

Ricœur stated that private memory defines an individual's account; for example, one can say “my memory of a given event,” which implies a personal account. Personal memory is private memory attributed to a single person.¹³⁴ Given the limited access to information in the Rwandan case, it is perhaps realistic to say that the Rwandan memory of the genocide is, for the most part, memory as desired by RPF. There is a chance that individual memories backed up by lived experience of Hutus might be detached from the public memory of those events. This possibility reinforces the government of Rwanda’s insistence on a carefully streamlined narrative of the 1994 genocide-the Hutus in power killed Tutsis-any other reporting that question this assertion, or a view that acknowledges that many other Hutus also died is subject to an accusation of “minimizing the genocide.”

The Rwandan government leveled charges of “minimizing the genocide” to Rwandan media practitioners, but they charged the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) with producing media materials that were “controversial stories portraying genocide denial or revisionism.” In 2014, The BBC produced a documentary titled “Rwanda’s Untold Story” that questioned the official version of the genocide. Following the airing of this documentary, Rwandan government suspended BBC broadcasts in Rwanda in Kinyarwanda, English and Kiswahili. The cancellation of BBC’s broadcasts showed how Rwandan authorities react to criticism. Amidst these acts of repressing the media, the government has banned discussion of ethnicity, accusing people that use the word “Tutsi or Hutu” as propagating ethnic divisionism. The Rwandan government justifies its actions using promoting national unity and forging a future of a united Rwanda. However, it is also one way in which the Rwandan government is using to silence dissenting stories about the Rwandan genocide. The memory of genocide projected internationally is one that the Rwandan state sees fit. Kagame’s desire for historical clarity goes against Ricœur’s theory

¹³⁴ Nicolas Russell, “Collective Memory before and after Halbwachs” *The French Review* Vol. 79, no. No. 4 (2006): Pp. 792-804. Accessed April 29, 2015. http://www.jstor.org/stable/25480359?seq=2#page_scan_tab_contents.

that argues that individual formulates memories by forces of collective memory. The absence of an accepted Hutu memory of the genocide in public leaves space for the creation of a manufactured memory.

Post-Genocide Cinematic Memory

Other than the Jewish Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide is perhaps the most recreated genocide in the media. The BBC was the first to produce a film about the genocide titled *Journey into Darkness* (1994). *Journey into Darkness* was followed by other productions, the latest being *Rwanda's Untold Truth* (2014). Hollywood has also produced movies about the Rwandan genocide including *Sometimes in April* (2005), *Shooting Dogs* (2005), *A Sunday in Kigali*, (2006), *Shake Hands with the Devil* (2007) and the academy award winning *Hotel Rwanda* (2004). Post-genocide films fall into many categories. There are films made for the victims, films made by people that witnessed the genocide, and the documentaries that examine the justice and reconciliation process. Further, some films attempt to explain the circumstances of the 1994 genocide. While raising awareness, cinema has also omitted some stories that would have nuanced the public's understanding of the events of 1994. In my study, I found that: Firstly, most of the films about the Rwandan genocide tell a Tutsi inspired a story. Secondly, except for rare critical films, most of the movies report about the genocide without the necessary context. Thirdly, the Rwandan government has banned, castigated or charged producers of films that question the official narratives of the genocide with "genocide denial and revisionism of history."

Even as film inscribes and realizes a certain visibility of the past, at the same time, they silence unrepresented voices and consequently institutionalizing some aspects of the remembered event. Cinematic memory scholar Alexandre Dauge-Roth argued that cinematic memories are symbolic acts of remembering that should be seen as "uneasy and disturbing quest for justice so that the dead are not erased from the memory of the living."¹³⁵ Dauge-Roth goes on to argue that when a cinematic

¹³⁵ Alexandre Roth, *Writing and Filming the Genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda: Dismembering and Remembering Traumatic History* (Lanham, MD.: Lexington Books, 2010) pg.5

representation positions itself as the “true remembrance,” it “commits symbolic violence” since it determines what is worthy of memory.¹³⁶ Thomas Leitch, a film scholar, also states that although cinema is a useful recording of history, “they can be no more accurate records of historical events than they purport to represent.”¹³⁷ In the end, the consequence of film memory is that it shortchanges history at the expense of the pursuit of political correctness, economic reason, time, and scope.

Rwandan genocide films are not immune from the shortcomings mentioned above. The films on the Rwandan genocide are often simplistic and devoid of nuances. Although raising awareness, cinema has also omitted some stories that would have nuanced the public’s understanding of the events of 1994. The RPF’s invasion of Rwanda in the early 1990s was a critical aspect of the genocide in 1994. First, it militarized the Rwandan society in readiness for an external attack. While the rebels were of Rwandan origin, the fact that they were mainly Tutsis allowed the extremists in the NRMD to exploit Rwandan history to their advantage. Tutsis are historical aristocrats who had collaborated with and benefited from the Germans and later Belgians in the colonial period.¹³⁸

Second, the RPF rebel activities defined the enemy. Whereas Hutus were killed as individuals, Tutsis were killed as a group.”¹³⁹ The Rwandan genocide was a genocide by “those who saw themselves as sons and daughters of the soil, and their mission as one of clearing the ground of a threatening *alien* presence.”¹⁴⁰ Rather than reduce violence in Rwanda into distinct categories, such as civil war, genocide, and RPF surge to eliminate reorganizing Hutu rebels, an understanding of Rwanda’s political dynamics requires coming to terms with the culture of violence from the early 1990s to the turn of the

¹³⁶ Alexandre Roth, *Writing and Filming the Genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda: Dismembering and Remembering Traumatic History* (Lanham, Md.: Lexington, 2010) pg. 6

¹³⁷ Thomas Leitch, *Film Adaptation and Its Discontents: From "Gone with the Wind" to "The Passion of the Christ"* (Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2009) pg. 282

¹³⁸ Elizabeth Obadina, “Hutus and Tutsis: Genocide in Rwanda.” In *Ethnic Groups in Africa* (Broomall, PA: Mason Crest, 2014) chapter 5

¹³⁹ Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims become Killers* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2014) pg.5

¹⁴⁰ Ibid pg 6

century. Rwanda was in a “continuum of violence” and the genocide was the utmost peak of that Rwandan genocide cycle.¹⁴¹ After the genocide, RPF continued with an excess of violence by pursuing returning Hutu refugees in northwestern Rwanda.¹⁴² From that vantage point, this study asks the question, what is worth memory within the “continuum of violence” about Rwanda?

In the study, I found that scholars place a greater level of emphasis on the events that occurred between the months of April and July of 1994. For many people, this would make sense because it is when the genocide took place. Nevertheless, a critical examination of Rwandan history and a phenomenological account of many Hutus requires that a holistic consideration of the events before and after that block of time. In short, the film accounts of the genocide minimize Hutu stories by reducing the violence to one block of time. Instead of focusing on Rwandan conflict as a “continuum of violence,” the cinematography misses the subsequent events in colonial Rwanda, the RPF’s activities in the Uganda-Rwanda border and the revenge killings conducted in Zaire by Rwandan Tutsi-led soldiers (now Democratic Republic of Congo). While RPF will diminish such stories as “minimizing the genocide”, they gradate our understanding of the conflict in Rwanda and bring the much-needed closure for many victims.

In *Film and Genocide*, genocide scholars Kristin Wilson and Tomas Taraborrelli write, “theoretically, cinema has an advantage over literature in the quest for realism.”¹⁴³ The photograph is a better means of objective representation and a stronger immediate and severe impact on the viewer.¹⁴⁴ If the Rwandan genocide happened in a “continuum of violence,” then it is possible that the deaths of many Hutus will gain acknowledgment hence diminishing the conventional Tutsi narrative. Within a context of a civil war, the distinction of who is wrong and who is right is often murky. Therefore, it is possible that a cinematic

¹⁴¹ Susan Thomson, *Whispering Truth to Power: Everyday Resistance to Reconciliation in Post genocide Rwanda* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2013) pg.79

¹⁴² Scott Straus, *Remaking Rwanda State Building and Human Rights after Mass Violence* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2011) pg. 67

¹⁴³ Kristi Wilson and Tomas Taraborrelli, *Film and Genocide* (Madison, Wis.: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012) pg ix.

¹⁴⁴ Kristi Wilson and Tomas Taraborrelli, *Film and Genocide* (Madison, Wis.: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012) pg ix.

expression of this context would give Hutus a fair historical depiction. The memory of the Rwandan Hutu people is accusatorial with public memory of the same events.

A related feature of the cinematic representation of the Rwandan genocide is the omission of historical context. Few of the cinemas made on the Rwandan genocide delve into the historical and political underpinnings of the pre-genocide and the post-genocide Rwanda. Terry George's *Hotel Rwanda* depicts one of the most famous accounts. In the movie, there is a scene between a Western journalist and a Rwandan bartender. This scene creates the understanding that there were barely any social distinctions between Hutus and Tutsis. Rwandan history reveals that Rwandan society has always been divided between classes, not decidedly racial and ethnic, but socio-economic. Minimizing the history of Rwanda in *Hotel Rwanda* reduces the context and lays the ground for sanctioned memory. As viewers watch, they ask: why would people so similar in ways and language kill their counterparts? The answers to these questions lead to the argument of the "Rwandan oddity" or by extension "African oddity." In Rwanda, the underlying assumption would be an "odd and criminal adult population." However, if stories of Hutus would be told, Hutus would likely escape the accusation of being "odd" and "criminal."

Hotel Rwanda misses the context by minimizing the number of Hutu deaths during the genocide. In the movie, there are Tutsis sympathizers killed, but there is no single picture showing the deaths of Rwandan Hutus' during the genocide. While such mishaps appear as little editing flaws, they create a visual overview of the Rwandan genocide as only Tutsi genocide. The public understanding of the genocide comes from mainstream media's depiction of the Rwandan genocide as an act committed against the Tutsis by the Hutus. Public memory, synonymous with collective memory, constructs images of the world by continually forming and reforming past versions establishing boundaries between one group of people

and others. Consequently, public memory relies on public articulation, depiction, and thought. Public memory is, therefore, subject to mediation.¹⁴⁵

Subsequently, while *Hotel Rwanda* creates an open space for a moral account of a Hutu voice, it limits its scope by focusing right within the Rwandan genocide. *Hotel Rwanda* does not show the RPF's invasion of Rwanda neither does it depict the underlying class issues that might have led to the genocide. Within the context of the massacre of minority Tutsi, the protagonist whose wife is Tutsi is challenged, first to protect his family, and second, his friends and co-workers. The movie depicts Paul Rusasebeginina's evolving moral conviction and his struggle to keep off his Hutu men from killing Tutsis that were close to him. In contrast, the viewer misses Rusasebeginina's feelings about Hutu deaths. Because of this limited context, the story told about Rwandan genocide is devoid of critical circumstances that might have nuanced the public understanding and memory. Even though *Hotel Rwanda* is an enactment of the Rwandan genocide that presents the often-untold stories of Hutu heroes and a critical documentation of Rwandan genocide in public memories, it does so by limiting essential context of the pre-and post-genocide that could have shifted public memory of the Rwandan genocide. In so doing, *Hotel Rwanda* joins the club of films made about Rwanda that perpetuated a Tutsi inspired story of the events. The hero, Paul Rusesabagina (Hutu) is in exile in Belgium and is under accusations by the Rwandan regime as an enemy of the state.¹⁴⁶

Sometimes in April (2005) qualifies as one of the most provocative movies made about the Rwandan genocide. *Sometimes in April* is provoking because indicts the western nations of neglecting Rwanda. Secondly, the movie places to Hutu brothers on two opposite sides of the conflict. *Sometimes in April* focuses on the stories of two Hutu brothers caught on opposite sides during the Rwandan genocide.

¹⁴⁵ Motti Neiger, Oren Meyers, and Eyal Zandberg. "On Media Memory: Collective Memory in a New Media Age." Academia. 2014. Accessed October 24, 2015.

¹⁴⁶ Arthur Asiimwe "Hotel Rwanda Hero in Bitter Controversy." Reuters. April 4, 2007. Accessed November 14, 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2007/04/04/us-rwanda-genocide-film-idUSL0420968620070404#y4EjDbzXg4KhDxKO.97>.

Augustin is a Hutu soldier (Idris Elba) married to a Tutsi wife Jeanne (Carole Karemera). Augustin's brother Honore (Oris Erhuero) is a radio journalist working with the hate radio station infamous for inciting Hutus to kill the "cockroaches" Tutsi. Because of his position as a government soldier, Augustin is late to realize that genocide is underway. In the meantime, the international community is aware that genocide is going on in Rwanda but fails to act because of political considerations. The U.S., for example, decided to ignore the genocide because of previous failures after the intervention in Somalia. Unlike *Hotel Rwanda*, *Sometimes in April* permeates itself with a review of Rwanda's colonial history with Germany and Belgium. Filmed in Rwanda, the movie is credible because it harnesses on the perception of originality. In the film, Augustin's brother Honore is going through trials at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in Tanzania for his role in inciting the masses to kill Tutsis using the public radio. Honore's participation in the genocide and his wife's death in the hand of extremists traumatizes Augustin.

Sometimes in April does well to depict Western hypocrisy and to present a realistic picture of the killings. The movie shows more detailed and grotesque scenes of violence than *Hotel Rwanda*. Still, *Sometimes in April* does not escape the accusation of being simplistic. Haitian-born director Raoul Peck does an excellent job making Westerners guilty of inaction by focusing on Washington's indolent response but is shallow on the politics of Rwanda. By zooming on the contrasting sides of two Hutu brothers, the movie continues the trajectories of one Hutu "good man" in the sea of evil Hutus. The film does not show the Hutu deaths even as it attempts to share Hutu suffering through Augustin's grieving for his wife. Similarly, like *Hotel Rwanda*, Peck's film is a bit naïve on its depiction of the decimation of post-genocide justice since it does not examine the type of justice offered. Second, the movie fails to consider the political situation in Rwanda before the genocide. Clearly, *Sometimes in April* is a great film, but it also lacks a comprehensive analysis of the murky events in Rwanda. *Sometimes in April's* contribution in public memory is as narrow and simplistic as *Hotel Rwanda's*.

Shooting Dogs (2005) is a British film that attempts to simplify the complexity of Rwanda's 1994 genocide so that Western audiences understand it. Made in two different styles, documentary, and fiction, the film assumes an unusual tone on the director's view on the genocide. Michael Caton-Jones who reduced the 100 days bloodletting into six days, April 6-11, 1994 at Ecole Technique Officielle directs the movie. Tutsis escape from Hutu extremists because they assume that the presence of Belgian United Nations Peace Keepers would offer security at the college. However, this glimpse of hope is thwarted by the helplessness of the Belgian soldiers because of orders from foreign-based superiors.¹⁴⁷ These events are reported through eyes of two westerners; one Catholic priest called Christopher (John Hurt), and BBC journalist called Joe (Hugh Dancy).

Shooting Dogs was subject to substantial criticism for its manipulation of real events, telling stories from the perspectives of Westerners instead of locals and for their clear depiction of RPF as the good people in the movie. Linda Melvern, author of the book *A People Betrayed: The Role of The West in Rwanda's Genocide* is one of the film's most vocal critics. She wrote that the "film was shocking in regards to historical clarity"¹⁴⁸ particularly for stating that BBC reporters challenged the Belgian soldiers on their way out. She also disputed the fact that the BBC was the first media house to declare the killings a genocide. Linda Melvern sees the film as an attempt by the BBC to elevate its role during the genocide and distance itself from other Western media houses.¹⁴⁹

Like Melvern, I view the film's fault as depicting Rwandans as either victims or perpetrators. Historical accounts have shown that such classifications are open to review. In the context of the Rwandan genocide, it was difficult to distinguish victims or perpetrators. Also, the highly racialized view of the

¹⁴⁷ Stephen Holden, "From a Schoolhouse in Rwanda, Wrenching Lessons About Genocide." *The New York Times*. 2007. Accessed March 25, 2016. http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/09/movies/09gate.html?_r=0.

¹⁴⁸ "Linda Melvern: History? This Film Is Fiction." *The Guardian*. 2006. Accessed March 25, 2016. <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2006/mar/19/comment.media>.

¹⁴⁹ *Ibid*

world that assumes that the Rwandan genocide was an “African oddity” influences the film. The film suggests that acts as heinous as the genocide can only happen in Africa. Moreover, because of that, it was the West’s responsibility to stop the killings.

It is credible to question the rationale for remembering mass atrocities such as the Rwandan genocide. Documentation of horrors that people commit against one another is ill advised if that particular documentation or memorialization does not address either the ethical dimension of remembering and does not affect the society in a way that generates awareness and respect in present actions. Significantly, as observed in the films discussed, films seek to intervene in memory in a manner that depicts Hutus in a negative light while aware that the addition of some mundane details may very well change that perception.

The Guilty Press and Renewed Agency

The Rwandan genocide has become ubiquitous in the international press in the last decade. Mostly published in American and European print media, the genocide publications document not only the memory of the genocide but also the success story of Rwanda’s national building experiment. While the press’s role in the genocide is documented, the new obsession with Rwanda is perhaps an attempt of the press to exonerate itself from blame for not doing enough during the genocide.¹⁵⁰ Still, there is a possibility that the press, especially the press representation of Rwanda’s post-genocide reality, lacks accuracy. For that matter, it is significant to analyze the news coverage of Rwanda’s memorialization of the genocide.

In the attempt at examining the press’ coverage of Rwanda, I will consider if there is a visible distinction between how the international media and the Rwandan media cover memory of the genocide. Is there a

¹⁵⁰ In both, Melvern, Linda. *A People Betrayed: The role of the West in Rwanda’s genocide*. London: Zed Books, 2000. And Melvern, Linda. *Conspiracy to Murder: Planning the Rwandan Genocide*. London: Verso, 2004

possibility that some voices in Rwanda are silent? I will also examine how time and recent political developments in Rwanda have changed reporting of the genocide. The reason for analyzing international press separately from Rwandan press is the concerns over freedom of speech. In Rwanda, as has been discussed before, there are challenges to freedom of expression. Knowing this, one would reason that perhaps the international media might have a more independent reporting of the Rwandan genocide. Time is a critical aspect of memory since it allows various information to come forth that possibly change the analysis of events.

First, it is important to understand why the press continues to cover the genocide. According to Alexandre Dauge-Roth, the Rwandan genocide has an immense focus on the media because the literature attempts “to forge social recognition for the personal and collective trauma that continues to haunt the victims of the genocide so that their loss and suffering can no longer be ignored.”¹⁵¹ As Joane Hansen has asserted in *Media and Memory*, media in visual, print and audio engages in dialogue with both history and memory. Memory becomes an aggregate of personal and public recollection. The past relives through media discourses, technologies, and practices. Nevertheless, our understanding of the past links to our life histories. Consequently, mediated accounts of events such as genocides intermingle in our minds with what is available in multimedia, museums, heritage sites and books.¹⁵² Therefore, for those uninformed about certain events, the media is their primary source of information. Individuals with a lived experience have a continuous debate of memory between the actual lived experience and mediated memory. Personal pain is distinguishable from public memory created by literary work in the press, media and other available documents in public spaces.¹⁵³

¹⁵¹ Alexandre Roth, *Writing and Filming the Genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda: Dismembering and Remembering Traumatic History* (Lanham, MD.: Lexington Books, 2010) pg.26

¹⁵² Joanne Hansen, *Media and Memory* (Edinburgh, United Kingdom: Edinburgh University Press, 2011) pg.6

¹⁵³ Alexandre Roth, *Writing and Filming the Genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda: Dismembering and Remembering Traumatic History* (Lanham, MD.: Lexington Books, 2010) pg.26

Press reports on the Rwandan genocide have published individual stories within the context of reconciliation and post-genocidal national building. The methodology of letting individuals tell their stories is one way of handling the complexities that surround tragic events such as the Rwandan genocide. While such a method is understandable and squarely in line with journalistic professionalism, a particular pattern develops that inherently renders one side of the story voiceless.¹⁵⁴ The Hutus in the diaspora and Rwanda have not gotten a chance to tell their story. The absence of Hutu stories allows as a one-sided memory of the genocide as a contest between the all criminal Hutu versus the innocent Tutsis. For the most part, this is how the press has reported about the Rwandan genocide. Recently, there has been a slight shift thanks to the international restlessness with Kagame's desire to extend his presidential term limit. As a result, there is an appeal for considering more factors in regards to reporting about the Rwandan genocide. In my attempt to examine if the memory of the genocide reported in the press is less comprehensive than individual accounts, I will consider memorialization of the Rwandan genocide in *The New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and England's *Guardian*. I chose these newspapers because of their extensive international affairs coverage and their reputable credentials.

In this analysis, I utilize Ricœur's memory theory, particularly his emphasis on phenomenology. Therefore, one has to ask the question, what are these memories? Whose memories are these? Borrowing from Alfred Schultz's "Fifth Meditation," Ricœur argues that the experience of others be as valuable as the experience of self. Hence, the phenomenology of the social world permeates into the order of life, which in its essence is the shared experience of living together. In this context, acting and sufferings translate into memory. Hence, memory becomes a threefold affair, "memory to oneself, to one's close relations, and to others."¹⁵⁵ Even though memory connects to specific events such as the Rwandan

¹⁵⁴ Hayden White and Michael S. Roth, *Metahistory: The Historical Imagination in Nineteenth-century Europe* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014)pg 280- 281

¹⁵⁵ Paul Ricœur, *Memory, History, Forgetting*. Translated by Kathleen Blamey and David Pellaur. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006) pg. 132

genocide, newspapers representing memory literature heighten aspects or sides of memory while silencing others.

I argue that the publications mentioned above offer a post-memory experience that anchors in the reliance of highly structured and accepted standards of what happened in Rwanda. With limited exceptions and with the difficulty of accessing information in Rwanda, most newspapers have resorted to “playing safe.” For many years, these publications have been silent on the operations of RPF in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the atrocities committed on Rwandan refugees in the Congo, and the nature of the invasion of RPF into Rwanda as well as the deaths of many Hutus during the genocide.

The Guardian, for example, on January 17, 2012, published a story titled “Paul Kagame cleared of a part in 1994 downing of the Rwandan president’s plane.”¹⁵⁶ The article reported that ballistic experts conducted research to locate where the plane went down. Their findings exonerated Paul Kagame. These findings had huge implications on what was, until then, and still is one of the most controversial issues regarding the Rwandan genocide. The *Guardian* also published a story written on January 10, 2012, titled “Rwanda: At Last We Know the Truth.”¹⁵⁷ The article argues that the ballistic expert’s findings on who shot the plane in Rwanda absolve the RPF’s regime from blame. The article goes further to claim that the findings are embarrassing to France since they had taken the position that RPF had shot down the plane to cause instability and subsequently capture power in Kigali.

The *Guardian’s* report on this does not include the findings of other reports. Right after the downing of the plane and subsequent genocide, it was highly suspected that Hutu extremist who wanted to start a genocide downed the plane.¹⁵⁸ However, there have been reports that the aircraft’s shooting was on orders

¹⁵⁶ “Paul Kagame ‘cleared’ of Part in 1994 Downing of Rwandan President’s Plane.” *Guardian News*. January 7, 2012. Accessed November 9, 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/jan/17/new-evidence-rwanda-inquiry-kagame>.

¹⁵⁷ Linda Melvin, “Rwanda: At Last We Know the Truth.” *The Guardian*, January 10, 2012, Opinion sec. Accessed November 9, 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/jan/10/rwanda-at-last-we-know-truth>.

¹⁵⁸ Linda Melvin, “Rwanda: At Last We Know the Truth.” *The Guardian*, January 10, 2012, Opinion sec. Accessed November 9, 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/jan/10/rwanda-at-last-we-know-truth>

of Paul Kagame. The RPF have openly supported the accusation that Hutu extremists downed the plane in April of 1994.¹⁵⁹ The United Nations and Belgium have refused to support either position.¹⁶⁰ In 2004, a French anti-terrorist magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere asserted that Paul Kagame, through proxies, carried out the presidential assassinations. Paul Rusesabagina, the hero in *Hotel Rwanda*, who alleged that Paul Kagame and RPF were behind the downing of the presidential plane, expressed similar sentiments.¹⁶¹ In November 2006, Rusesabagina wrote that it was against logic that the United Nations Security Council had never investigated or established findings in the downing of the plane, an incident that sparked the Rwandan genocide in 1994.¹⁶² In 2014, the BBC aired a documentary titled *Rwanda's Untold Truth* that had leading ex-members of RPF, who confessed on camera that RPF had downed the plane.¹⁶³ The *Guardians* only reported about one finding further heightening the controversy surrounding the issue.

In this case, *The Guardian's* report further illustrates the lack of certainty on what caused the genocide. Regardless, the article sympathizes with the RPF by reporting in a manner that alludes to the conventional understanding of the genocide. This traditional understanding holds the view that Hutu extremists committed the genocide. The downing of the plane, although a critical juncture of the genocidal killings remains a contentious issue open for interpretation. By reporting this story in this manner, the *Guardian's* memorialization of the Rwandan genocide diminishes a chance for an opposite theory of the cause of the genocide. The newspaper report thus compliments given accounts while sanctioning others. For example, French position in this matter qualifies as a "source of embarrassment" according to the *Guardians*.¹⁶⁴

¹⁵⁹Philip Gourevitch "The Mutsinzi Report on the Rwandan Genocide - The New Yorker." The New Yorker. 2010. Accessed March 25, 2016. <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-mutsinzi-report-on-the-rwandan-genocide>.

¹⁶⁰ Edward and David Peterson, *The Politics of Genocide* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2010) pg. 61

¹⁶¹ Daniel Kovalik, "Hotel Rwanda Revisited: An Interview with Paul Rusesabagina." *Www.counterpunch.org*. 2013. Accessed February 27, 2016. <http://www.counterpunch.org/2013/01/11/hotel-rwanda-revisited-an-interview-with-paul-rusesabagina/>.

¹⁶² "Keith Harmon Snow Interview with Paul Rusesabagina." Accessed February 01, 2016.

[http://www.allthingspass.com/uploads/html-191The Grinding Machine interview with Paul Rusesabagina FINAL.htm](http://www.allthingspass.com/uploads/html-191The%20Grinding%20Machine%20interview%20with%20Paul%20Rusesabagina%20FINAL.htm).

¹⁶³ Yaa-Lengi Ngemi, "Controversy Over BBC's 'Rwanda: The Untold Story'" *The Huffington Post*. Accessed February 01, 2016. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/yaa-lengi-ngemi/controversy-over-bbcs-rwa_b_6063322.html.

¹⁶⁴ Communicating Awe, (164).

Reconciliation and unity are misleading and devoid of accuracy in Rwanda. Threats of violence have tended to increase during the commemorations from the government, extremists and activists in the recent past especially during the reign of RPF (1995-2016).¹⁶⁵

The *New York Times* reporting of the Rwandan genocide reports the difficulty of reconciliation many years after the genocide. Its report does little reporting on the grievances of the Hutu majority. Between 1994 and 2010, The *New York Times* reported on Rwanda favorably to the RPF and the Kagame's regime. These reports were often reconciliatory and based on guilt of inaction and indifference during the massacres of 1994. Just like the United States government, The *New York Times* had a moral obligation to be sympathetic to the Rwandan state. Perhaps this sympathy arises from the Western press' inaction during the genocide. Possibly, the fascination with Rwanda's progress was because of the obvious strides that the country has made after the genocide. Either way, the *New York Times* reporting on Rwanda was favorable to the RPF. Headlines such as "Rwanda Rebel's Victory Attributed to Discipline" (July 19, 1994), "Rwanda Rebels: Army exiles fights for a home" (June 9, 1994), "French Guns, Rwandan Blood" (April 4, 1994), among other titles. Such claims indicate not the only fascination with the Tutsi rebels as heroes but also showed that a trend of a victors' story was emerging.

Since 2010, as Kagame's insistence on staying on power endangers his reputation as a reformer. The *New York Times* has reported on Rwanda in a balanced manner. Regardless, stories of Hutus come out as political dissents instead of narratives of the genocide. Titles such as "Rwanda Leader Heads to new term under shadow of repression" (August 10th, 2010), "The Darling Dictator of the Day" (May 27, 2012), "The Global Elite's Favorite Strongman" (September 8, 2013), and "Why are Rwandans Disappearing" (June 18, 2014) frequent the paper's reports on Rwanda. Staff writer for the *New York Times*, Stephen Smith, in

¹⁶⁵ Alexandre Roth, *Writing and Filming the Genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda: Dismembering and Remembering Traumatic History* (Lanham, Md.: Lexington, 2010) pg. 5

the article titled “War Crimes and Rwandan Realities”, summarized this love/hate relationship between the *New York Times* and Rwandan government writing:

The post-genocide regime in Rwanda has many friends around the world for understandable — and in most cases, honorable — reasons. Horrified as we were by the bloodbath in 1994, and ashamed by our inability to prevent or stop it, who would want to believe that the good face Mr. Kagame has put on Rwanda — creating an image as a prospering and healing nation — is, in fact, a lie? Today, opposition voices in Rwanda have been completely silenced.¹⁶⁶

Like many other newspapers, *The New York Times* reports more on Rwandan genocide focusing on reconciliation and forging ahead instead of the intricacies of the memory of the genocide. However, the fascination with RPF as the “virtuous rebels” is changing, as the *New York Times* gets fatigued with Kagame’s prolonged stay in power.

The Christian Science Monitor, on the other hand, chronicles the Rwandan genocide in a more comprehensive light. On May 7, 2015, *The Christian Science Monitor* reported a story about a marriage between the son of a Hutu genocide perpetrator and Tutsi survivor. The story documents the reality of the Rwandan quagmire and defeats ethnic hatred by focusing on love.¹⁶⁷ On April 14, 2014, *The Christian Science Monitor* reported a story of Rwanda genocide orphans regaining their history by use of photographs taken twenty years ago.¹⁶⁸ Many of the children had never seen the pictures taken by an unnamed non-governmental organization. On August 7, 2008, the newspaper reported the story of 9-year-old Rwandan refugee that had found a home in suburban Atlanta.¹⁶⁹ Considering that media plays a critical role in memory, these pictures dialogue with public and personal memories often negotiating the

¹⁶⁶ Stephen Smith, “War Crimes and Rwandan Realities.” *The New York Times*. 2015. Accessed February 01, 2016. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/20/opinion/war-crimes-and-rwandan-realities.html?_r=0.

¹⁶⁷ Kristoff Kohlhaugen, “A Couple in Rwanda Defeats Ethnic Hatred with Love.” *The Christian Science Monitor*. May 7, 2015. Accessed November 9, 2015. <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Making-a-difference/Change-Agent/2015/0507/A-couple-in-Rwanda-defeats-ethnic-hatred-with-love>.

¹⁶⁸ Jason Patinkin, “From a Forgotten Photo Archive, Rwanda’s Orphans Reclaim Their History.” *The Christian Science Monitor*. April 14, 2014. Accessed November 9, 2015.

¹⁶⁹ Mary Wiltenburg, “A 9-year-old Finds Refuge in Suburban Atlanta.” *The Christian Science Monitor*. August 7, 2008. Accessed November 9, 2015.

need to relate to the wider history. Within the broader histories, visual documentation embeds the individual human experiences.

Through the above stories, the magazine highlights the resilience of the Rwandan people, especially how they have managed to forge a life after the genocide. *The Christian Science Monitor* has also published critical reports on Rwanda. On June 8, 2009, *The Christian Science Monitor* wrote the story of Neema. Neema was a Rwandan refugee who was at the time living in Dares Salaam. Neema's father was Hutu, who was killed by Tutsi soldiers who burst in their house in Rwanda and shot his dad to death while his entire family watched. In this report, the writer asks, "What is Neema Really? A victim and a survivor? A mother? A child? A stateless migrant, buffeted by the political, social violence that has swept central Africa since she was a child."¹⁷⁰ Neema's mother relocated to the United States as a refugee, but Neema did not get a visa because she was already eighteen when her mother came to the United States. Despite her experiences, Neema has to prove to the United States government that living in Tanzania endangers her life since she lives with people (Tutsis) that killed her family members. Neema's story is one of many Rwandans caught in the mix of the blanket distinction of either victim or perpetrator. They are neither Hutus nor Tutsis; they lost one or two parents during the genocide. Sadly, stories such as Neema's are missing in the usual memory of the Rwandan genocide.¹⁷¹

The Christian Science Monitor reports the concerns of the always forgotten minority of the Twa community. April 14, 2015, the issue of the publication documented Rwandan genocide memory in the context of the Twa people. The Twa, a small minority population of Rwanda composing less than one percent of the total population, were neither victims nor perpetrators during the genocide. According to

¹⁷⁰ Mary Wiltenburg, "A Genocide Survivor Races the Clock to Get to the U.S." *The Christian Science Monitor*. June 8, 2009. Accessed November 9, 2015. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Specials/Little-Bill-Clinton/Print-Stories/2009/0608/A-genocide-survivor-races-the-clock-to-get-to-the-U.S.>

¹⁷¹ Mary Wiltenburg, "Caught in the Refugee Cycle â for Life?" *The Christian Science Monitor*. November 4, 2008. Accessed November 9, 2015.

The Christian Science Monitor, some Twa people found themselves submerged in the conflict forcing them to be victims and perpetrators of individual cases. The Twa's grievances have a limited voice in the reconciliation process. The Twa's stories are rarely mentioned during commemorations. The community is also losing their identity because of the encroachment of neoliberal development projects in the forests.¹⁷²

In the article published on April 7th, 2014, the *Christian Science Monitor* documented the success story of the Rwandan regimes alongside its failures twenty years after the genocide. Perhaps one of the most balanced assessments of the memory of genocide in Rwanda, the article argues that the RPF markets its development success, achievements in reconciliation and its role in ending the genocide. But, RPF story is "drastically wide from the truth" since it overlooks minor details that are critical to the understanding of Rwandan post-genocide society. First, the story does not mention that RPF regime killed thousands of people, both innocent and guilty, to end the genocide. After the genocide, RPF continued the killings in the Congo under the pretext of capturing runaway genociders.¹⁷³ The publication remarked, "Everyone is encouraged to absorb a nationally sanctioned memory that critics say is turning into an ideology."¹⁷⁴

The findings in the press, using the cases of *The Guardian* from the United Kingdom, *The New York Times*, and *The Christian Science Monitor* show that reporting on Rwanda goes in line with the rest of the media that focus on Tutsi inspired stories. With respect to time, the press' memory of the Rwandan genocide has changed to reflect variances that accrue from individual accounts. Of the three newspapers, *The Christian Science Monitor* is the most critical of the RPF regime. *The New York Times* acclaimed as the United States' leading paper, was vocal about its support of Kagame's regime but has changed its tune

¹⁷² Ryan Brown, "In Rwanda, Progress and Development Scrub Away an Ethnic Identity." *The Christian Science Monitor*. April 14, 2015. Accessed November 9, 2015.

¹⁷³ Mike Pflanz, "Amid Growing Prosperity, Rwanda's Post-genocide Generation Comes of Age." *The Christian Science Monitor*. April 13, 2014. Accessed November 9, 2015. <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2014/0413/Amid-growing-prosperity-Rwanda-s-post-genocide-generation-comes-of-age>.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid

and has become critical of the RPF. The *New York Time*'s change of tune has nothing to do with their perception of the Rwandan genocide but by Kagame's increasingly authoritarian government. In general, the consensus in the two U.S. based newspapers is that there is more to the genocide than what the world knows.

Conclusion

Regardless of the context, the plight of Hutus who died during the genocide is glaringly underreported. During my research, I counted thirty films that focus on the Rwandan genocide. Of all the thirty films, none of them focuses on the plight of Hutus during the genocide. Rightly, Rwandan scholar Gerrard Prunier has described the current public memory of the genocide as "Tustification of the genocide."¹⁷⁵ The underpinnings of the "Tutsification of the genocide" is degrading for many Hutus who lost their lives while saving the lives of fellow Tutsi Rwandans. In cinema, they are mentioned in passing as "moderate Hutus," but only in passing.

Rarely does an in-depth analysis of a Hutu survivor captures the attention of the media. If a Hutu is mentioned, as in the case of *Sometimes in April* (Augustine played by Idris Elba), the story is often of their act of defiance against the majority Hutu. Stories of Hutu victims are rare and unsought. Even though the absence of Hutu survivors and victims' makes sense because the genocide was against Tutsis, it sanctions the stories of many Hutu families who also lost their families. The missing narrative of these Hutu survivors would immensely enrich our understanding of the Rwandan genocide.

The memorialization of the Rwandan is sanctioned what is remembered is orchestrated by the government that utilizes the RPF's moral authority as the stoppers of the genocide to gain international mileage.¹⁷⁶ Similarly, the business community, especially Hollywood film industry would more often profit from a

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¹⁷⁶ Rachel Ibreck, "A Time of Mourning: The Politics of Commemorating Tutsi-Genocide in Rwanda". In *Public Memory, Public Media and the Politics of Justice*, edited by Philip Lee and Pradip Thomas (Brisbane: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012) pg. 100.

simplistic dramatization of the genocide than bombard the public with complicated nuances. The Rwandan government is Tutsi-dominated, so by default, the memory of the genocide is a Tutsi inspired version of events. Regardless of the attempts to sanction contrasting memories, there is a failure to produce a singularly accepted account about the genocide.¹⁷⁷ Individual accounts, primarily Hutu survivors, grapple with the sufferings of the past. Rwandan media also thwarts this discord in memory. The Rwandan state using the apparatus at its disposal (media) and discourages the existence of divergent memories regarding the violence. While the public unequivocally agrees that the genocide did occur, many Rwandans, based on the public sources utilized above, believe that many people across the divide lost their loved ones and deserved commemorations. If the memory of the genocide is accepted, why is the Rwandan state restrictive on events worth of memory during the Rwandan conflict?

In a similar fashion, extremist Hutus have also used the “commemoration season” to express ideologies that dehumanize Tutsi survivors. *The New York Times* issue 11 of April 2007 reported a man who dressed his dog in purple mufflers. The man was reported as telling his friends that he was mourning for all the dogs that died during the genocide. In another issue, *The New York Times* of 19 April 2006, reported that a caller to a local Rwandan radio station dedicated to remembering the genocide called and warned, “We shall kill you again.” These responses, while clearly out of line, could be minimized if the Rwandan authority can allow all voices to be included in the formation of the new post-genocide Rwanda.

¹⁷⁷ Alexander Laban, *Genocide: Truth, Memory, and Representation* (Durham [NC: Duke University Press, 2009) pg 123

Chapter Four: Individual Accounts of Hutus in the USA.

When the Rwandan civil war and genocide ended on July 18th, 1994, the whole country had been devastated. It is rare to find places in the world that have undergone what Rwanda went through. Rwanda had a population of seven million before the genocide, and the population shrank to slightly less than 5 million by 1995.¹⁷⁸ After the war and the genocide, an estimated fifteen percent of the population had died, two million Rwandans had been internally displaced, and over two million were refugees in neighboring countries.¹⁷⁹ Many Rwandan women had been raped during the genocide and a substantial number of people infected with HIV/AIDS. Almost everyone in the country was traumatized; ninety percent of children who survived the genocide were either victims or witnesses of extreme violence.¹⁸⁰ Everyone was a victim except the extremist Hutus who willingly and self-consciously carried the genocide. Rwandans had no other place to stay. Rwandans had to live side by side in the Rwandan hills. In Rwanda, there is no Tutsiland or Hutuland; Rwandans had to interact with the perpetrators and protectors alike in their residences in the hills and valleys that overlap their landscape.¹⁸¹

Understandably, both and after the genocide, Rwanda lost a substantial amount of its population to neighboring countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Kenya among others. Courtesy of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), some of the Rwandan victims and survivors eventually settled in various European countries and the United States.¹⁸² Others have immigrated to the United States as asylum seekers, permanent residents, and students.¹⁸³ This

¹⁷⁸ Jared Diamond, *Collapse: How societies choose to fail or succeed* (New York: Viking Pres, 2005) pg.313

¹⁷⁹ Robert Gribbin, *In the Aftermath of Genocide: The U.S. Role in Rwanda* (Lincoln, NE: IUniverse, 2005) pg. 93

¹⁸⁰ Kofi Anan and Allan Thompson, *The Media and the Rwanda Genocide* (Ottawa: International Development Research Centre, 2007) pg.29

¹⁸¹ Jeffrey Ross, *Religion and Violence: An Encyclopedia of Faith and Conflict* (New York: Routledge, 2015) pg. 338

¹⁸² John Frank Clark, *The African Stakes of the Congo War* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002)pg. 226

¹⁸³ Douglas Besharov and Mark Hugo López, *Adjusting to a World in Motion: Trends in Global Migration and Migration Policy* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016) pg. 373

chapter explores how the Rwandan Hutus based in the United States remember the genocide in private and how this differs with how that tragic event is recognized in public. Based on findings, I propose that the memories of Hutus in the United States possibly conflict with public memory as depicted in both visual and print media. However, within the diaspora Hutu communities, the memory of those events change depending on an individual's relationship with the Rwandan state led by Paul Kagame and the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF). Consequently, the memory of the genocide is politicized.

Using stories of Hutus both from personal interviews and from publicly available individualized accounts based in the United States. I start by asking the question, is it possible that Hutus, widely viewed as perpetrators, are also victims of the genocide? The desire for using the individual stories of the Hutus is that there is a notable lack of closure regarding the Rwandan genocide.¹⁸⁴ I contend, like Susan Thomson, who is a writer and researcher on Rwanda, that Rwandan people are the “knowers” and “recorders” of their life stories.¹⁸⁵ Therefore, stories of Hutus in the United States nuances our view of the Rwandan genocide and complicates our understanding of what is the conventional and accepted narrative of the genocide that extremists Hutus killed Tutsis. This thesis' contribution, in part, is that it brings previously published accounts of Hutus together under “one roof” for analysis even as I document accounts of Hutus that I interviewed.

The initial research design was to interview twenty Hutus living in the United States. Although I knew this would be a challenging project, I based my hope on the belief that every individual would desire for his or her story to be told. As an African, I felt that we could have some shared experiences that I could utilize to build relationships with them. During the research, it was hard to find respondents that were willing to talk to me. I wanted to get Rwandans in the D.C area through Ms. Antoinette Kanyabutembo, who is a high-ranking Rwandan officer at the embassy in Washington D.C. When I arrived in D.C,

¹⁸⁴ Michael Keren and Holger H. Herwig, *War Memory and Popular Culture: Essays on Modes of Remembrance and Commemoration* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2009) pg. 186

¹⁸⁵ Susan Thompson, *Whispering Truth to Power: Everyday Resistance to Reconciliation in Post genocide Rwanda* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2013) pg.17

Kanyabutembo had flown to Rwanda for a family issue. I had no immediate connection to other Rwandans in D.C. Consequently, I had to rely on the snowballing sampling research method. Snowballing sampling is a chain referral way of getting respondents. After interviewing one person, the researcher asks for assistance from the subgroup to identify other people.¹⁸⁶ After several visits at the embassy and numerous calls to my Rwandan friend, I was able to make contact with a Rwandan in D.C. Despite being reluctant to partake in the research, he was willing to introduce me to another Rwandan, who also introduced me to another Rwandan and so forth.

The other problem I ran into during the research was the unwillingness of Rwandans to state their ethnicity openly. I understood their reason based on previous research that ethnic identity was often a source of the stigma associated with the genocide if one was Hutu.¹⁸⁷ To avoid the possibility of being linked to the genocide, it is common for Rwandans to refuse revealing ethnic identity, more so if one is not Tutsi. While the “stigma” argument was a reason for many Rwandans, others were uncomfortable because of the new policy in Rwanda that nullified ethnic identities. As of 2003, the Rwandan state only recognizes “Banyarwanda”¹⁸⁸ as an identity. Instead of stating reasons for not revealing their ethnicity, many would just say, “it is against our law to state my ethnicity.”

Lastly, as observed by Chandra Sriram, *Surviving Field Research: Working in Violent and Difficult Situations*, “individuals who have lived through violence can exhibit strong reactions to seemingly compassionate acts in unexpected ways.”¹⁸⁹ I was not prepared for rejections of my attempt at interviewing them as I felt that my research was going to be helpful for Hutus, whose stories’ deserved to

¹⁸⁶ Earl Babbie, and Earl R. Babbie, *The Basics of Social Research* (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Pub., 1999) pg.208

¹⁸⁷ Philp Clark, *The Gacaca Courts, Post-genocide Justice and Reconciliation in Rwanda: Justice without Lawyers* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), pg. 5

¹⁸⁸ Eugenia Zorbas, "Reconciliation in Post-genocide Rwanda." *African Journal of Legal Studies* Vol 1, no. No.1 (2004): 29-52. Accessed February 2, 2016.

¹⁸⁹ Chandra Lekha Sriram, *Surviving Field Research: Working in Violent and Difficult Situations*. (London: Routledge, 2009) pg. 120

be acknowledged. I realized that their fears were not only fathomable but also genuine. Usually, intense and emotional interviews on issues as sensitive as the genocide are a grueling task. While they are challenging for the researcher, there could be health reasons and other personal considerations for the respondent. Thus, while it is necessary to get information, it is also important to be concerned about the respondent's well-being.¹⁹⁰

I learned that the Rwandan government interference and surveillance were usually intense on political research such as the post-genocide and reconciliation work.¹⁹¹ One might think that such surveillance is only for researchers conducting research in Rwanda, but I learned that for many Rwandans that territorial boundaries do not limit the reach of their government. This revelation re-educated me on a previously unnoticed nature of the Rwandan state. Rwandans believe that the Rwandan government uses spy networks that are spread across the globe.¹⁹² The task assigned to these "spies" is to harness information on political activism and to track runaway perpetrators of the genocide.¹⁹³ These informants operate by intimidating Rwandans in the diaspora by threatening their families back in Rwanda if they engage on a spectrum of things perceived as "critical or damaging to the state."¹⁹⁴ Assassinations of political opponents are widely practiced in Rwanda.¹⁹⁵ For many Rwandans, this is a good reason to keep away from political activism.

Regardless, the inability to get enough respondents did not mean the end of the research; it opened other avenues. Through snowballing, a type of sampling explained above; I was able to get ten respondents that

¹⁹⁰ Ibid, 121

¹⁹¹ Chandra Lekha Sriram, *Surviving Field Research: Working in Violent and Difficult Situations*. (London: Routledge, 2009) pg. 121

¹⁹² Jeffrey Gettleman, "The Global Elite's Favorite Strongman." *The New York Times*. 2013. Accessed April 05, 2016. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/08/magazine/paul-kagame-rwanda.html?_r=0.

¹⁹³ David Smith, "Rwanda's Former Spy Chief 'murdered' in South Africa." *The Guardian*, January 2, 2014. Accessed May 4, 2016. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/02/rwanda-former-spy-chief-karegeya-murdered-kagame>.

¹⁹⁴ Clarinda Solberg, *Genocide in Rwanda: Recurrence Risk Model Using Two Early Warning Models* (2012) pg. 131

¹⁹⁵ "Amnesty Accuses Rwanda Spies of Torture - BBC News." BBC News. Accessed April 05, 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-19868558>.

shared their accounts. To supplement the ten interviews, I have used publicly available individualized accounts to support the limited number of interviews. Crucially, while the small number of interviews naturally reduces the ability to offer sweeping claims, along with the individualized public Hutu accounts, nevertheless provide a solid basis for hypothesizing an answer to my central question, which is: How is the Rwandan genocide remembered in public places? What are the chances that Hutus widely but simplistically viewed as perpetrators remember the genocide in a publicly sanctioned ways?

The primary takeaway is that research in highly controversial and emotive issues must be based on open-mindedness and flexibility based on the context and individuals interviewed.

Guilt and Innocence

Today, twenty years down the line, many contributors to the analysis and discussion of the Rwandan genocide have appeared. Many books have been published on the memories of the Rwandan genocide but few, if any, focus on individual Hutu accounts. Even the books that explore Hutu accounts approach their study with an approach of “why did you do commit genocide?” instead of “what happened”? Such books focusing on the Rwandan genocide presuppose that Hutus are innately guilty and undeserving of telling their stories. Hutu stories carry the constraints of their pre-established guilt position. Such arguments may be difficult to disprove based on the empirical studies available regarding the Rwandan genocide.

According to some statistics, approximately 800,000 Hutus were accused of committing genocidal crimes during the post-genocide hearings.¹⁹⁶ Out of this number, only five percent admitted guilt.¹⁹⁷

Remarkably, Scott Straus, a political science researcher of the Rwandan genocide, argues that the Rwandan genocide was not a popular movement amongst the Hutu population as often indicated by many scholars. Only around fourteen to seventeen percent of the adult male, Hutu population were

¹⁹⁶ Rosilyne Borland, “The *Gacaca* Tribunals and Rwanda after Genocide: Effective Restorative Community Justice or Further Abuse of Human Rights?” *A Journal of International Affairs* 13.2 (2002). 19 May 2009 <http://www1.sis.american.edu/students/sword/Current_Issue/essay1.pdf>.

¹⁹⁷ Ibid

perpetrators.¹⁹⁸ Furthermore, during the genocide hearings, suspects often minimized their responsibility, often laying blame on other people. In Rwanda, the entire adult Hutu population is often assumed “guilty” of the genocidal crimes. On June 30th, 2013, President Paul Kagame, while meeting young people belonging to an organization called Youth Connect Dialogue, called for every child, adolescent and young adult of Hutu descent and blood to “apologize” for the crimes committed “in their name” by their parents and relatives during the genocide.¹⁹⁹ Kagame’s call humiliates and degrades the Hutu population by declaring that all Hutus are genocidaires. This assumption is flawed since the young adults were either unborn or infants when the genocide happened. Since their social group is widely viewed as perpetrators, they were victims of the events. Besides, various sources remind us that not all Hutus participated in the genocide, and many moderate Hutus were even victims of the tragedy.

Hutu diaspora and shared understanding

In the diaspora, Hutu communities have undergone a transformation intensified by trauma, the stigma of the legacy of the genocide and the silence on Hutu stories about the genocide. The silence connected to the Hutu stories has risen because of the limited spaces for sharing of the Hutu accounts of the genocide.²⁰⁰ Consequently, many Hutus have emotionally struggled to find peace of mind in host countries. In some cases, Hutu refugees have rendered themselves stateless to refute the Rwandan identity associated with the genocide.²⁰¹ The desire of many Hutus in the diaspora to dissociate themselves with the events in Rwanda arise from the fact that competing narratives of the Rwandan genocide have shaped an understanding of the genocide that has victimized the new generation of Hutus that have grown in the aftermath both at home and abroad. It is important to question how the new generation of Hutus in the

¹⁹⁸ Judi Rever, “Rwanda's Memory Hole | Foreign Policy Journal.” *Foreign Policy Journal*. Foreign Policy Journal, 2015. Web. 13 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/2015/04/14/rwandas-memory-hole/>>.

¹⁹⁹ Callixte Kavuro, “Rwanda: President Kagame’s Medieval Ideology of Visiting the Iniquity of the Hutu Fathers upon Children Divides Rwandan Society.” *la tribune franco-rwandaise*. Jean-Marie Ndagijimana, 18 July 2013. Web. 2 Feb. 2016.

²⁰⁰ Andreas Wimmer, *Facing Ethnic Conflicts: Toward a New Realism* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004) pg.71

²⁰¹ Claudine Kuradusenge, “Peace, Democracy and Development Blog.” Peace Democracy and Development Blog. January 16, 2015. Accessed April 30, 2015. <http://blogs.umb.edu/paxblog/2015/01/16/hutu-diaspora-narrative-identity-in-conflict-conflict-of-identity/>.

diaspora will be incorporated in the quest for reconciliation in Rwanda and within the Rwandan community abroad.²⁰²

Public Individual Hutu Memories

Personal stories, as previously mentioned, were hard to come by so I have used two publicly available Hutu accounts as supplemental information. By using these individuals' publicly available stories, I make the argument that, although limited in size compared to the large Hutu population, the memory of people who identify as Hutu are perhaps not complimentary with the public memory of the Rwandan genocide. I utilize the stories of Paul Rusesabagina and Marie Beatrice Umutesi as representatives of publicly available individualized accounts. Individual accounts create a personalized way in which the past is represented in the present to people and ultimately to the society. Personal accounts allow Hutus to recollect the past thereby forcing personalized accounts into public domain. The "power of telling" is often imbued with dynamics that go deeper than just telling. It also liberates individuals whose stories are silenced.²⁰³ Hence, Hutu diaspora stories develop a new framework for the discussions on Rwandan genocide even as they liberate Hutus from their self-internalized guilt.

Paul Rusesabagina

Perhaps one of the most popular publicly available individual accounts of Hutus is the book *An Ordinary Man* by Paul Rusesabagina. Rusesabagina's story diversifies available reports about the genocide.

Rusesabagina's father is Hutu, but his mother is a Tutsi. He is classified as Hutu because of the patriarchal family lineage in Rwandan society. Rusesabagina is also married to a Tutsi woman and has children of mixed ethnicity. The subject of Rusesabagina's ethnicity is crucial to the analysis of individualized memories of the Rwandan genocide. Ethnicity in Rwanda, before the genocide, was

²⁰² Felicien Kayamibwa, "Is There Any Oppression That Is Not Deliberate and by Design? ." Is There Any Oppression That Is Not Deliberate and by Design? . Accessed March 05, 2016. http://www.afroamerica.net/Africa/AfroAmerica_Discourses/Entries/2013/12/5_Is_There_Any_Oppression_that_is_not_Deliberate_and_by_Design.html.

²⁰³ Jennie Burnet, *Genocide Lives in Us: Women, Memory, and Silence in Rwanda* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012), pg. 42

important because it determined whether one lived or survived. However, ethnicity was often difficult to tell just by physical appearances as Rusesabagina notes, “the usual stereotype is that Tutsis are tall and thin with delicate noses, and Hutus are short, stocky with wider noses, but most people in Rwanda fit neither description.”²⁰⁴ Based on this statement, one can argue that many Hutus were mistakenly killed based on their looks. Similarly, some Tutsi might have survived because of their looks. Philip Gourevitch’s article “After the Genocide” published in the *New Yorker* reports the story of Laurent Nkongoli.

Nature presents countless exceptions. (“You can’t tell us apart,” Laurent Nkongoli, the Vice-President of the National Assembly, told me. “We can’t tell us apart. I was on a bus in the north once, and because I was in the north, where they”—Hutus—“were, and because I ate corn, which they eat, they said, ‘He’s one of us.’ But I’m a Tutsi from Butare.”)²⁰⁵

Rusasebina’s statement about ethnicity and Nkongoli’s exceptional escape illustrates that ethnicity was just one among many factors that were at play in the genocide. Perhaps even, as observed by Davenport and Stam, the “majority of the victims (of the genocide) were likely Hutu and not Tutsis.”²⁰⁶ While I disagree with Davenport and Stem’s conclusion on this position, I contend that because of barred ethnic lines, there is a possibility that many Hutus were killed whose lives were not acknowledged and less likely to be remembered except by their families.

Secondly, Rusasebina’s account shows that while ethnicity was presented as the dominant socio-political grouping model, other silent ways of societal groupings also mattered. In particular, there were sharp political divisions based on economic class, the level of education, political leanings, family histories and the likes.²⁰⁷ Today, Rusasebina’s story has been deemed incorrect and far from actual

²⁰⁴ Paul Rusesabagina and Tom Zoellner. *An Ordinary Man: An Autobiography* (Books on Tape, 2006) Introduction chapter

²⁰⁵ Philip Gourevitch, “After the Genocide When a People Murders up to a Million Fellow-countrymen, What Does It Mean to Survive?” *The New Yorker*, December 18, 1995. Accessed April 2, 2016. <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1995/12/18/after-the-genocide>.

²⁰⁶ Edward Herman and David Peterson, *The Politics of Genocide* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2010). Pg. 58

²⁰⁷ Hellen Hintjens, “Post-genocide Identity Politics in Rwanda.” *Ethnicities* 8, no. 1 (2008): 5-41. http://www.tara.tcd.ie/bitstream/handle/2262/52619/PEER_stage2_10.1177%2F1468796807087017.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

events that happened at the Hotel Mille Collines. Edouard Kayihura's *Inside the Hotel Rwanda: The Surprising True Story... and why it Matters Today* is perhaps the officially accepted rejoinder by alleged survivors who were allegedly protected by Rusesabagina. During the book launch in Kigali, Kayihura said: "Rusesabagina has always been a war profiteer and a friend of those who committed the genocide."²⁰⁸ The very people he saved have thus branded Rusesabagina as "friends of the genocidaires." Significantly ignored is the fact that Rusesabagina himself was also a target of the genocide. In the introduction of his book, Rusesabagina writes:

But it was not only Tutsis who were slaughtered in the genocide; it was also the thousands of moderate Hutus who were suspected of sympathizing with or even helping the Tutsi "cockroaches." I was certainly one of these cockroach-lovers. Under the standards of mad extremism at work then I was a prime candidate for a beheading.²⁰⁹

Paul Rusesabagina's *An Ordinary Man* is commonly read as a story about courage, diplomacy, heroism, survival, and calm amidst violence. Nevertheless, memory is also a central element in the book.

Rusesabagina imbues his text with components that require a differentiation between public memory and personal experiences that arise from conventional narratives about the genocide, particularly the aspect of moral courage about the genocide often monopolized by the Kagame regime. Underlying this perception of moral courage is a self-centered and ignorant attitude toward other voices that challenge their view as the stoppers of the Rwandan genocide. *An Ordinary Man* presents the complexities of public memory vis-à-vis individualized accounts. Similarly, it reveals the banality of good in the face of moral decadence.²¹⁰

Paul Rusesabagina argues that the genocide happened because the Hutu extremist party, Habiryamana's National Revolutionary Movement for Development (NRMD), and Paul Kagame's RPF all wanted power without having to share it. All parties are culpable for the genocide. In fact, while many people believe that the RPF stopped the genocide, the events after the genocide reveal that RPF was also violent and

²⁰⁸ Eugene Kwibuka, "New Book Exposes Lies in 'Hotel Rwanda' - Experts." *The New Times*, June 23, 2015. Accessed April 4, 2016. <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/article/2015-06-23/189984/>.

²⁰⁹ Paul Rusesabagina and Tom Zoellner. *An Ordinary Man: An Autobiography* (Books on Tape, 2006) Introduction chapter

²¹⁰ Stefan Lovgren, "Hotel Rwanda" Portrays Hero Who Fought Genocide." *National Geographic*. Accessed March 09, 2016. http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/12/1209_041209_hotel_rwanda_2.html.

committed mass killings.²¹¹ While limited mass murders are understandable after a genocide to restore calm, an excess of human rights violations is unwarranted. Human rights scholars such as Herman and Peterson have argued that the West has “swallowed a propaganda line on Rwanda that has turned the perpetrator and victim upside-down.”²¹² Herman and Peterson go further to argue that contrary to what is popularly believed, RPF not only killed Hutus but also committed “large-scale killing and ethnic cleansing of Hutus.”²¹³ The following is an excerpt from an interview with Rusesabagina by Daniel Kovalik of the independent media outlet *CounterPunch*.

From January 1 through December 31 of that year [1995], I saw myself with my own eyes, this [RPF] army tying people with their hands behind their backs and beating their chests, breaking it, throwing them into containers, burning their bodies, and spraying their ashes into the national game preserve. I am a witness to this. But, because the Hutus lost the war, they are the only ones being tried and convicted. Therefore, the international tribunal, the international criminal court for Rwanda, is a court for the losers. But, both have been killing civilians. They say that the Hutus committed the genocide, but the Tutsis also committed war crimes, crimes against humanity.²¹⁴

On reconciliation, Rusesabagina argues that RPF regime is not in a position to champion for reconciliation. Rusesabagina's account informs of two things: First, the Hutu extremists organized and planned the genocide to keep power. Second, it places the genocide in a context of a war between two power elites, one from Hutu and the other from the Tutsi. However, the memory and the examination of the conflict is one that is based on the victors' story thus silencing voices of many Hutus that were equal victims of the genocide.²¹⁵

After gaining popularity from the movie and the book, Paul Rusesabagina has since become one of the leading faces of moral courage, the human rights campaign and a leading critic of Kagame's presidency.

²¹¹Daniel Kovalik "Hotel Rwanda Revisited: An Interview with Paul Rusesabagina." *Www.counterpunch.org*. 2013. Accessed March 09, 2016. <http://www.counterpunch.org/2013/01/11/hotel-rwanda-revisited-an-interview-with-paul-rusesabagina/>.

²¹² Edward Herman and David Peterson, *The Politics of Genocide* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2010). Pg 51

²¹³ , Edward Herman and David Peterson, *The Politics of Genocide* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2010). Pg. 53-54

²¹⁴ Daniel Kovalik, "Hotel Rwanda Revisited: An Interview with Paul Rusesabagina." *Www.counterpunch.org*. 2013. Accessed February 27, 2016. <http://www.counterpunch.org/2013/01/11/hotel-rwanda-revisited-an-interview-with-paul-rusesabagina/>.

²¹⁵ Jennie Burnet, *Genocide Lives in Us: Women, Memory, and Silence in Rwanda* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012) pg. 95-100

On his talks at universities, conferences, and several television shows, Rusesabagina has reminded the world that he is a Hutu but has advocated against the genocide and had sought help to stop it using all the available means he had in his capacity as a hotel manager. Rusesabagina also stated that his story is not an exception as there many Hutus who helped friends, relatives, and acquaintances. Their stories deserve to be heard.²¹⁶

Marie Beatrice Umutesi

Marie Beatrice Umutesi is a Rwandan writer who writes in French. According to *Surviving the Slaughter: The Ordeal of Rwandan Refugees in Zaire*, Ms. Umutesi writes that she was born in the northern town of Byumba. Umutesi self-identifies as a moderate Hutu. She studied sociology and rural development in Rwanda. At the height of the Rwandan genocide, Umutesi was forced to flee into neighboring Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) because she was an enemy of both the Hutu extremists and RPF army.²¹⁷ Umutesi's story illustrates the hardship experienced by Rwandan refugees of both ethnicities during the genocide and the subsequent refugee crisis in the neighboring countries.

Umutesi gives two reasons for writing her book. First, she wanted to tell her personal account of what happened to her. She would like the world to hear her story as a Hutu refugee and a victim of violence in the great lakes region of Africa. She also wrote her story because of her adopted son, Muhawe. Muhawe's mother died during the trek from Rwanda into Zaire. Her second reason is collective. Umutesi would like for the memories of Rwandan refugees in Zaire to be remembered even as the world remembers the lives of Tutsis who died during the genocide of 1994.²¹⁸

Umutesi's story contrasts with conventional knowledge about the Rwandan genocide. Upon reading the title of the book, one can wrongly conclude that it is a story of a Tutsi survivor in Zaire. However,

²¹⁶ Paul Rusesabagina and Tom Zoellner, *An Ordinary Man: An Autobiography* (New York: Viking, 2006) pg. chapter 1

²¹⁷ Marie Umutesi, *Surviving the Slaughter the Ordeal of a Rwandan Refugee in Zaire* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004) pg.122

²¹⁸ Marie Umutesi, *Surviving the Slaughter: The Ordeal of a Rwandan Refugee in Zaire*. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004) pg xi

Umutesi's story reminds us that war has always captured the essence of life in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, and Tutsis are not the only victims of such wars.²¹⁹ According to Umutesi, divisionism in Rwandan was not only ethnic, but it was also based on class. She argues that each ethnicity – Hutu and Tutsi- treated the less fortunate members of their communities unfairly.²²⁰

Similarly, Umutesi's account tells the story of a Rwandan Hutu refugee caught in the mix of what Gerard Prunier has described as the "African World War."²²¹ The war is multifaceted since it happens amidst several layers of conflicts. On one side is the Hutu and Tutsi rivalry extended in the Congo.²²² However, underneath is the conflict between different factions of Tutsis and Hutus. These factions fight for the control of mineral deposits in the Congo.²²³ There are the rebel groups within the Congo with aspirations of taking power in Kinshasa. Also, there are armies of different countries including Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Angola among others. Similarly, some mercenaries are operating to protect the interests of European and American corporations.²²⁴

Remarkably, this is only a fraction of her account. Her story is a continuation of the Rwandan conflict that turned into a genocide and then spread across the border to Zaire engulfing almost a third of the African land mass.²²⁵ Umutesi argues that RPF orchestrated the Rwandan involvement in Zaire after capturing Kigali. The RPF's pretext was that Hutu perpetrators were hiding in Zaire while making plans to come back to Rwanda and commit another genocide.²²⁶ During this war, RPF soldiers systematically murdered thousands of Hutu refugees. The Zairean territory became the battleground for settling scores that were unfinished in Rwanda of 1994. These atrocities were not only committed by RPF soldiers but were also

²¹⁹ Ibid xii

²²⁰ Aili Mari, "Project MUSE - Commentaries on Marie Beatrice Umutesi's Surviving the Slaughter: Introduction to ASR Focus."

²²¹ Gérard Prunier, *Africa's World War: Congo, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009)

²²² John Frank Clark, *The African Stakes of the Congo War* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002) Chapter I

²²³ Ibid pg. 109

²²⁴ John Frank Clark, *The African Stakes of the Congo War* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002) pg.185

²²⁵ Gérard Prunier, *Africa's World War: Congo, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009)

²²⁶ Eric Stover, Victor Pekin, and Alexa Koenig, *Hiding in Plain Sight: The Pursuit of War Criminals from Nuremberg to the War on Terror* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2016) pg. 217

delegated to rebel, groups, often financed by illegally acquired mineral mines and the governments of Rwanda and Uganda.²²⁷

Although a personal account, Umutesi's book records the forced, chaotic, and exceedingly traumatizing journey of Rwandan refugees for thousands of miles in search of peace. After two years of wandering in the jungles of Zaire, the author, and her company found peace even though thousands of Hutu refugees had died. Umutesi starts the journey when the country was called Zaire and under the leadership of Mobutu Sesseseko but arrives in Kinshasa when the state had changed its name to the Democratic Republic of Congo, under the leadership of RPF-backed leader Joseph Kabila. Umutesi's book is a "lived account" of Hutu refugee and documents not only death but also an excess of human rights violations committed by both Hutu extremists and RPF in the name of defending the Tutsi minority.²²⁸

Faced with many ordeals, including deaths of children under her care from starvation and exhaustion, Umutesi resorts to spiritualism as a coping mechanism. She also describes the situation of other Hutu refugees. In one instance, she describes the case of an emaciated young Hutu girl who preferred to die instead of continually running from attackers.²²⁹ In another example, a teenage adolescent Hutu opts to run faster than the rest of her group only to be slaughtered at a bridge by a rival group.²³⁰ The level of human suffering in the book is sometimes unbearable, but she writes honest and captivating stories so the reader can empathize with the Hutu refugees in Zaire.

In an interview with Swedish journalist Felix Holmgren of *Eurozine magazine*, Umutesi argued that both Hutus and Tutsis committed crimes against humanity. She went further to elaborate that the international

²²⁷ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2014: Events of 2013* (2014) Chapter on Rwanda

²²⁸ Marie Umutesi, *Surviving the Slaughter: The Ordeal of a Rwandan Refugee in Zaire*. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004) pg. xi

²²⁹ Marie Umutesi, *Surviving the Slaughter: The Ordeal of a Rwandan Refugee in Zaire*. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004) pg. 82

²³⁰ Marie Umutesi, *Surviving the Slaughter: The Ordeal of a Rwandan Refugee in Zaire*. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004) pg.80-87

community first betrayed the Tutsi and then did the same against the Hutu after the genocide was over.

Below is an excerpt from the interview:

I visited Belgium in 1995, lectured about the refugee camps, and voiced my opinion about the situation in Rwanda, and I was also interviewed on the radio. My views were the same as they are today. Not all Hutus participated in the genocide, and not all Tutsis are victims. Hutus, as well as Tutsis, committed crimes against humanity. For me, the only way to proceed would be to arrest everyone who is guilty and prosecute him or her so that all Rwandans can feel that justice has been done. The interview reached ears in Rwanda, and I was informed through friends that I could not return home. At best, I would have been imprisoned and at worst killed.

Life in the camps was so arduous that I think people would have returned home if they hadn't feared for their lives, but the security situation in Rwanda was disastrous. One report concluded that the RPF was responsible for massacres of more than thirteen thousand people. An article in the French paper *Liberation* said that the RPF had killed more than a hundred thousand people. We were flooded with such information.²³¹

Umutesi's account confirms that even though the RPF was accredited for ending the Rwandan civil war and stopping the genocide of 1994, they have also faced accusations of reprisal killings attributed to the victors. In late 1994 and early 1995, the RPF executed a large number of suspects and carried out attacks on Hutu civilians. These revenge attacks happened in places such as Kibeho refugee camp in Western Rwanda. It is reported that on April 22, 1995, RPF soldiers killed between 2000-8000 Hutu civilians.²³² Additionally, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said that RPF killed thousands of civilians per month in the aftermath of the genocide. While these attacks were not genocidal, they mostly targeted Hutus, as their intention was revenge. However, in the remembrance of the genocide, these accusations are seldom reported.²³³

²³¹ Felix Holmgren, "The Forgotten Slaughter." Eurozine -. 2016. Accessed March 09, 2016. <http://www.eurozine.com/articles/2010-01-15-interview-sv.html>.

²³² Marie Umutesi, *Surviving the Slaughter: The Ordeal of a Rwandan Refugee in Zaire*. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004) pg.69

²³³ Marie Umutesi, *Surviving the Slaughter: The Ordeal of a Rwandan Refugee in Zaire*. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004) pg. xv

This atmosphere of violence without recourse to legal proceedings cause unease among many Hutus as exemplified by the personal accounts of Rusesabagina and Umutesi.²³⁴ Whereas the Rwandan government does not deny that some members of RPF did commit human rights violations, the Rwandan state stresses that rogue officers committed these Hutu massacres, and the government did not orchestrate the killings. For this position, the government of Rwanda had made a claim for the lack of moral equivalence as to the nature of the crimes committed by the RPF and those perpetrated by Hutu extremists. Consequently, they argue that trials do not belong in the same judicial avenues as those that committed the genocide.²³⁵ This position contradicts the position of RPF as the guardians of morality and immune from the accusation of violence. Underlying in Umutesi's account is the question: Is there a possibility that the RPF-led Rwandan state violated human rights? Are these infringements ignorable because of the complexity of genocide? If that is the case, then is it fair to demand a human rights record similar to the one expected of countries that have not experienced a genocide?

Examined from the perspective of "individual's rights," the RPF did not have the option of vengeance. As noted by transitional justice scholar Paul Burnham, in *Rwanda's Gacaca Courts: Between Retribution and Reparation*, Rwanda is a nation-state, a member of the United Nations, and a signatory to the Geneva Convention. As such, Rwanda may be culturally collective, but it is bounded by human rights principles that expect nation-states to respect individual rights.²³⁶ About human rights, Rwanda's determination for justice necessitated trials or other models of justice but not revenge. In a speech in 1995, Kagame said, "You must be careful not to wreak vengeance," he said. "I promise we will bring to justice those responsible for the massacres."²³⁷

²³⁴ Philp Clark, *The Gacaca Courts, Post-genocide Justice and Reconciliation in Rwanda: Justice without Lawyers* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010)pg.20

²³⁵ Nicholas Jones, *The Courts of Genocide: Politics and the Rule of Law in Rwanda and Arusha* (Abingdon, Oxon [England: Routledge, 2010) pg.24

²³⁶ Paul Christoph Bornkamm, *Rwanda's Gacaca Courts: Between Retribution and Reparation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012) pg 51, 53, 54.

²³⁷ Lorch, Donatella. "Rwandan Rulers Warn Against Violence." October 02, 1994. Accessed April 02, 2016. <http://www.nytimes.com/1994/10/02/world/rwandan-rulers-warn-against-violence.html>.

Both Rusesabagina and Umutesi have stated that their respective accounts do not weaken the enormity of the genocide carried out on the Tutsis in Rwanda. Instead, Rusesabagina and Umutesi's accounts elevate parallels between public accounts and individualized accounts. Public memory often holds a one-dimensional view of the Rwandan genocide. The view is often that the Hutu majority killed with intent to exterminate the Tutsi minority in Rwanda. While Hutu majority killed the Tutsi minorities, personal stories from these publicly available accounts has not pardoned the Tutsi minorities from retaliatory crimes. Perhaps it would be prudent to argue the conventional stories about genocide and mass murders are more complicated than what the world knows.²³⁸ Usually, the typical stories are simplistic and do not cover all the aspects of the moral, political, and historical background of such conflicts.²³⁹

Correspondingly, Rusesabagina and Umutesi's accounts symbolize the fate of ordinary people in times of wars. In the same way, Umutesi and Rusasebegin's report perpetuate the controversial debate on the "the legitimacy over memory."²⁴⁰ In so doing, determining the right to be remembered and how that memory is undertaken.

Individual accounts

The following stories belong to ten Rwandan Hutus who live in the United States that I interviewed in the process of this research. While talking to these individuals, I wanted to investigate if the usual narrative about memory and reconciliation matches with the stories of Hutu diaspora. I begin my inquiry citing the work of George Orwell in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* as analyzed by Judi River. In this book, a lower cadre bureaucrat named Winston Smith is charged with silencing political discord by hiding documents that the

²³⁸ Ruth W. Sandwell, *To the Past: History, Education, Public Memory and Citizenship in Canada* (Toronto: Toronto University Press, 2006), p. 117.

²³⁹ Seyward Darby, "The Tragic Mostly Forgotten Story of the Other Ethnic Group Slaughtered in Rwanda" *The Passport- Foreign Policy Magazine* (April 7th, 2014) Accessed 10/19/14
http://blog.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2014/04/07/the_tragic_mostly_forgotten_story_of_the_other_ethnic_group_slaughtered_in_rwanda

²⁴⁰ Elisabeth King, "Memory Controversies in Post-Genocide Rwanda: Implications for Peacebuilding." *Genocide Studies and Prevention* Vol 5, no. Issue 3 (2010): 293-309.pg 300

government conceives as inconvenient in what is described as a “memory hole.”²⁴¹ Winston works in the Ministry of Truth where the government utilizes incinerators to burn the inconvenient documents, so they are not remembered in popular discourse. Using this process, authorities in Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four* can manipulate history and re-write it based on their perceptions and realities. The incinerators act as machines of forgetting and destruction of individual memories.²⁴² George Orwell’s work is prophetic about the situation in Rwanda. In Rwanda, the Hutu diaspora has increasingly become hostile towards the RPF-controlled state. However, such hostilities are symptoms of much deeper frustrations about the memorialization of the Rwandan genocide as well the ubiquity of torture for those that attempt to argue otherwise.

The following is an analysis of accounts from Rwandan Hutu diaspora about memories of the Rwandan genocide. Because it might be hard for the reader to follow the names and accounts of the respondents, I have included a table at the end of this chapter. The table will help users keep track of the memories of ten Hutus who I have interviewed.

Incorrect memories

According to Kevin Nzigiyamana, a 33-year-old Rwandan Hutu, who lives in New Jersey, Rwandan politics is destructive, and the political system is designed to hold the majority of the population as hostages of justice. The country lacks freedom of expression, and the usual *Kwibuka* ceremonies are a mockery for genocide survivors. Kevin came to the United States in 2011 on an exchange program but sought an asylum application after the completion of his program. Kevin has siblings in Rwanda who are adults. “In 1994, I was an eleven-year-old boy in the southern province of Rwanda. I first heard the word genocide in 1996, and it has stuck to my mind until today. I witnessed the war before the genocide, then I

²⁴¹ Abbott Gleason, Jack Goldsmith, & Martha C. Nussbaum, *On "Nineteen Eighty-Four": Orwell and Our Future* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010) pg. 33

²⁴² Judi Rever, "Rwanda's Memory Hole." *Foreign Policy Journal*. April 14, 2014. Accessed March 03, 2016. <http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/author/judi-rever/>.

saw the genocide, and after the genocide, I saw the killings of Hutu refugees and persecution of the Hutu after RPF had taken over. Today, I witness the lies being told at genocide memorials.”

Kevin argues that the Rwandan state is militarized, and the regime uses fear to govern the citizens. Kevin also said that despite the widely held view that RPF stopped the genocide, “genocide stopped because many people had fled the country and many had died.” Kevin also states that RPF insiders who had a much broader plan of power acquisition started the genocide: “Kagame knew that by killing the president, Hutus will rise against the Tutsis. RPF would then take advantage of the chaos and acquire power. These are not only my words. They are backed up by evidence. Watch the BBC documentary *Untold Story*, read the Human Rights report on the genocide as well as Manning’s report and other documentaries.”

According to Kevin, the word “genocide” silences opposition to the Rwandan state. “During genocide memorials, all Hutus automatically become second-class citizens who are monsters. On television, radio, and in newspapers there are agonizing pictures, reports, and commentaries about dead Tutsis. There is always nothing about dead Hutus.” By giving life to the genocide, the memorial week ensures that RPF looks legitimate. “It’s like a rent that we [Hutus] have to pay every year,” Kevin says.

In Kevin’s view, even though the genocide is now a “Tutsi genocide,” many Hutus died and are not remembered. These Hutus died protecting friends, family, and even strangers. Some of them were killed because they joined the RPF army. Now, there is a class of people that has to be remembered and one that is not worthy of remembering. “Millions of people died from 1991, all the skeletons and bones were collected and taken to the memorial centers and classified as Tutsis, and do you think that is true? There are bones of Hutu and Twa people too.”

Kevin stated that he lost siblings during the war. Other family members were killed in the Congo. “I was on my own for months, and I survived mostly because some white people took me to a refugee camp. I

was in the Congo from 1994-1997. I managed to reunite with some of my family members but as soon as we settled in Rwanda, some of my older siblings were arrested and taken to jail for genocide trial. Every man in Rwanda, who was Hutu and was over 16 years old, was a perpetrator at that time.”

Kevin’s testimony speaks to how convoluted the memory of Rwandan genocide is. While one might be excused from the complexity of the situation by examining the genocide just as a single event, such an action would be detrimental to the overall goal of the reconciliation process. As such, in the words of Judi River, “testimony speaks to how one perceives suffering as it moves from the individual level into a realm of sanctioned mass violence that is acceptable.”²⁴³ The denial of Hutu stories is perhaps akin to normalizing violence on one side, in this case, Hutus while castigating acts of violence on the Tutsi side. A balanced memorialization is, given the extremity of the Rwandan case, the first step in the recognition of the *Ubuntu* (humanity) of the dead.

Revenge and split emotions

The usual story about the Rwandan genocide is that Hutus went out of their way to kill Tutsis in an animalistic fashion. Some accounts even highlight cases of Hutu men who killed their wives and children because the children had Tutsi blood. While such stories might be true, there are also contrary narratives of the same events. I interviewed Filone Muziranenge, a Rwandan woman born in Kigali, Rwanda in April 1987. Filone’s family is from Eastern Rwanda. Eastern Rwanda borders Uganda. It was from Eastern Rwanda that RPF army marched into Rwanda from Uganda, an action that Habiryamana’s regime considered an invasion.²⁴⁴ Filone’s father comes from Eastern Rwanda, and he is from Hutu ethnicity. Her mother was Tutsi. Because of Rwandan culture of taking the father’s ethnicity, Filone considers herself a Hutu. Filone lives in St. Louis, Missouri and is in the United States as a refugee from Rwanda.

²⁴³ Judi Rever, "Rwanda's Memory Hole." *Foreign Policy Journal*. April 14, 2014. Accessed March 03, 2016. <http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/author/judi-rever/>. Pg 18.

²⁴⁴ Christian Davenport & Allan Stam, "What Really Happened in Rwanda," *Pacific Standard: The Science of Society*, (October 6th, 2009). Accessed 10/19/14 <http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/what-really-happened-in-rwanda-3432/>

During the genocide, my family was split right in the middle because my father was a Hutu and my mother, a Tutsi. However, we did not have the mindset of many of the people involved in the sickness of murder, rape, and plunder. We were a family, and we did not see each other as Tutsi or Hutu. My father loved my mother and her entire family. He could never think of harming them. Because of the dilemma of loyalty, our family decided to flee the Democratic Republic of Congo. We were refugees in Congo living with friends. My family of four siblings, my dad, and mother all was housed in a single home of a church member.

We had to stay here for approximately six months living off the meager savings that my dad had as a teacher. It was cumbersome. We were running away from Rwanda because of two reasons. First, my family, being Christians and non-political did not want to take sides in the conflict in Rwanda. Second, even after RPF had taken control of Rwanda, they, in turn, committed even more murder in the name of securing the country. Many Hutu moderates were killed in vengeful attacks. We feared we could be targeted. Unfortunately, my mother died by the hands of RPF soldiers who were chasing after my father. They assumed that we were all Hutus. At the same time, my mother's relatives were killed in the genocide. In the revenge attacks of 1996-1997, my father lost half of his family either in Congo refugee camps or Western Rwanda.

Filone's story contradicts what most people usually hear about the Rwandan genocide. Filone's mother is a Tutsi woman killed by RPF soldiers. Why would this happen? It is hard to believe based on the conventional understanding of the genocide. For many in Rwanda's RPF regime, Filone's account qualifies for dismissal and not worthy of memory. However, it has been documented that, unlike the Hutu extremists, RPF never intended to wipe out the entire Hutu people. For this reason, RPF's crimes were not genocidal. Nonetheless, the RPF soldiers killed thousands of Hutus at Kibeho and Giti between 1996 and 1997.²⁴⁵ In Gisenyi, the RPF arrested most Hutu males, accusing them of being secret members of the Interahamwe. According to most Hutus, RPF's killings continued even after the genocide had stopped and are as punishable just as the genocide crimes.²⁴⁶ Filone's story shows that many Hutus were victims even though ordinarily they are not recognized. It further demonstrates the level of intricacy regarding the Rwandan genocide. One asks the question; whose story is worth memory? Moreover, the answer to this issue gets more complicated as the various stories of Rwandans are told.

²⁴⁵ Anuradha Chakravarty, *Investing in Authoritarian Rule: Punishment and Patronage in Rwanda's Gacaca Courts for Genocide Crimes* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015) pg. 102

²⁴⁶ "The Rwandan Patriotic Front (HRW Report - Leave None to Tell the Story: Genocide in Rwanda, March 1999)." The Rwandan Patriotic Front (HRW Report - Leave None to Tell the Story: Genocide in Rwanda, March 1999). Accessed March 04, 2016. <https://www.hrw.org/reports/1999/rwanda/Geno15-8-03.htm>.

Some Hutus do not share this form of misalignment of Hutu stories with the conventional understanding of the Rwandan genocide. Theophile Mugabo, self-identified Hutu government official at the Rwandan embassy in Washington D.C., contradicts the testimonies of many Hutus in the diaspora. According to Theophile, the memorialization of the Rwandan genocide is accurate to what happened. There was a genocide against the Tutsi. The genocide was followed by a “small conflict that affected Hutus.” In such circumstances, it is important to focus on the bigger picture than the complexities of every situation. Even though Theophile argues that the Rwandan state in the post-genocide has been slightly authoritarian, he also claims that some level of authoritarianism is required to protect the Tutsis against another genocide. In the words of Theophile, “the government is the only hope for Tutsis. We must put ourselves in their shoes, and for that reason, and the government has to force reconciliation if it cannot happen willingly.” Theophile concluded his short interview session by showing me pictures of a beautiful and clean Kigali and reaffirming to me that it was most important to look for the common good than focusing on little anomalies.

Perhaps Theophile’s account is a candid account of what Rwanda is today – a beautiful city of Kigali, rising middle class, a haven of Western development workers, and an active player in regional politics- a neoliberal economy on the verge of industrialization.²⁴⁷ Nevertheless, it also raises many questions. For example, how is it that Theophile was in a hurry to get the interview done? Is Theophile an example of a Hutu who has reconciled with himself about the genocide? I gathered after the interview that Theophile was one of the Hutus in the diaspora that Kevin had described, “as eating with the government.” While “eating with the government,” Hutus submerge their inner feelings and tell manufactured views about the genocide and the civil war in Rwanda. This way, they dissociate with the Hutu guilt and tell accepted

²⁴⁷ "In Pictures: 20 Years after the Genocide Kigali City Looks New than Ever IGIHE.com English Version." In Pictures: 20 Years after the Genocide Kigali City Looks New than Ever IGIHE.com English Version. Accessed April 05, 2016. <http://en.igihe.com/news/in-pictures-20-years-after-the-genocide-kigali.html>.

stories by RPF regime. By doing this, Hutus ensure survival by gaining access to jobs and remain unscathed from the strong authoritarian state.

Pamela Mkombozi shares Theophile's sentiments. Pamela is a 22-year old Rwandan student living in Detroit, Michigan. By the time of the interview, Pamela had only lived in the United States for ten months. Pamela's mother is Hutu, but her father who is Tutsi died during the genocide. Pamela was born one month after the genocide. In Rwanda, Pamela is considered a genocide survivor. Pamela argued, "President Paul Kagame should be credited for stopping the genocide. His government helped survivors, widows, and offered scholarships for the victims like me. The United Nations did not help anything." When I asked Pamela if the genocide is remembered in a one-sided manner, she argued that the genocide is commemorated that way because of Hutu shame. "Hutus feel ashamed to sit with people who lost members of their families." However, Pamela argued that it is wrong that Hutu moderates who protected many Tutsis are not remembered.

Hutu survivors should be recognized depending on how they died. If they died protecting Tutsis, they should be remembered, however, if they perished in the war, then it was a war. If you died in the process of killing other innocent people, why should your life be remembered? The commemoration is the only space where survivors get the chance to connect with the dead. How will Tutsis feel if Hutu lives are also remembered in the same place? Will there be commemorations?

Pamela's testimony falls in the category of Rwandans of a new generation. Pamela declined to side with either side during the interview. However, as the conversation progressed, I questioned if her objectivity was because of her split-identity. Born of a Hutu mother and Tutsi father, Pamela carried the burden of both ethnicities. Was it because Pamela is in the United States courtesy of RPF scholarships to people RPF consider as genocide survivors?

As I interviewed other Hutus, a pattern started to emerge. I deduced that in the diaspora, there are two kinds of Rwandans. The first group works with the Rwandan government. They try to attend all the commemoration events and the state events led by Kagame. They frequently get their expenses paid for

and live a luxurious life. Their children go back to Rwanda to college because they have easy access to the right jobs. They are mostly Tutsis with few Hutus that support the Rwandan regime.²⁴⁸ The second group includes adversaries of the Rwandan state. They are majorly Hutu but with few Tutsis. They do not attend commemoration events. They sometimes protest outside embassies and behind Kagame's motorcade in New York every year at the UN convention. For many pro-RPF Rwandans, these Rwandans in the diaspora are genocide deniers.²⁴⁹ Their stories are not worth telling.

Recent political developments

At the turn of the 21st century, the RPF regime under the leadership Kagame has solidified its moral and political acceptability with the help of Western media, its government bureaucracy, the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations.²⁵⁰ The RPF government has possibly gained its legitimacy by continually telling a narrative of good and evil. The RPF is the good while the bad are the Hutu extremists. Western nations abandoned Rwanda at the hour of need. Confronted with the apparent lack of moral authority, Western actors have not had an option but to accept RPF regime without many considerations of its flaws including accusations of ethnic cleansing.²⁵¹ Rwandan foreign policy today is perhaps one defined by politics of victimhood and exaggerated claims of an existential threat from Hutu extremists. The prevalent inertness of the international community has allowed the regime to run an authoritarian and militaristic state.²⁵²

²⁴⁸ Filip Reyntjens, *Political Governance in Post-Genocide Rwanda* (Cambridge University Press, 2013)pg. 331

²⁴⁹Ann Garrison, "Kagame Stop Killing": Rwandans and Congolese Protest in Chicago." News about the San Francisco Bay, the Great Lakes Region of Africa, and More. Accessed April 06, 2016. <http://www.anngarrison.com/audio/kagames-presence-in-chicago-protested>.

²⁵⁰ John Idris Lahai and Tanya Lyons, *African Frontiers: Insurgency, Governance and Peacebuilding in Postcolonial States* (Australia: Flinders University, 2015) pg. 46

²⁵¹ Gettleman, Jeffrey. "The Global Elite's Favorite Strongman." The New York Times. 2013. Accessed April 05, 2016. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/08/magazine/paul-kagame-rwanda.html?_r=0.

²⁵² Judi Rever, "Rwanda's Memory Hole." Foreign Policy Journal. April 14, 2014. Accessed March 03, 2016. <http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/author/judi-rever/>. Pg 18.

One Hutu interviewee, Jerome Tuyishime, has documented the militarization of the state under RPF.

Jerome is a 27-year old Rwandan graduate student in Geospatial Engineering and lives in Dallas, Texas.

Jerome said:

On July 2013, soldiers in civilian clothes arrested me while I was undertaking my regular duties in the Western province. I was a technician charged with property appraisals. I worked on land and houses. My job included estimating the value of properties so that I could help their owners' access loans and credit from the banks. That evening, after completing my work, two soldiers wearing civilian clothes arrested me. I was grouped together with six other people who had also been arrested. They grouped us together so they could wait for more people so that they could combine us and forcefully recruit us to the M23, a Rwanda-backed rebel group in Rwanda. When it was dusk, I asked to go the restroom, escaped from the window, and hid in the forest. They looked at me for hours, but I was lucky to hide in a thick bush. When I was sure they were gone, I walked and took a bus to Kigali. Had they caught me, it would be the end of my life. The Rwandan government has denied any implications on M23 rebels. However, it is widely known that Rwanda government is forcefully recruiting people to fight in the Congo. Anybody with some form of evidence is considered a threat to the stability of the regime. They mostly target young Hutu men. After these events, I applied for a scholarship and was admitted to a university in the U.S. I have decided not to return to Rwanda.

Jerome's account indicates that, in the post-genocide Rwanda, safety for most Rwandan Hutu relies on their close relationship with the RPF regime. Not many Rwandan Hutus have the courage testify against the administration. In some cases, giving testimony on the atrocities committed by the regime could lead to one's death. Many Rwandans have disappeared while attempting to raise their voices against the excesses of the current administration. Because of the authoritarian nature of the RPF regime, spaces that allow divergent voices to come out and agitate for the memorialization of Hutu victims are sanctioned. As we have seen, the conflicting narratives of the Rwandan Hutus are not complimentary with the public memory of the genocide.

Conclusion

Wars may be germane to human history, but conflicts resulting in genocides are rare. When such conflicts occur, they leave a lasting impression on the survivors. Many governments create spaces that aid the survivors in remembering the atrocities and provide hope that such events would not reoccur. These

memory spaces sometimes include public spaces such as national television shows, genocide memorials, museums, and statues among others. Nonetheless, individuals also have private memories based on lived experience regarding such tragic events. These personal memories can sometimes be synonymous with the public memory, but other times they contradict public memory. Based on these stories of Hutus in the United States, I argue that Hutu memories are sanctioned. The undermining of Hutu memories serves two purposes. First, it possibly allows the RPF regime under Paul Kagame to gain legitimacy from the international community. Second, suppressing the conflicting stories perhaps helps RPF assume that it prevents Hutus from reorganizing another genocide.

However, with the idea of respecting all concerned voices, this study suggests that private memories of Hutus are not complimentary with the public remembrance of the genocide since the official commemorations focus on a Tutsi-inspired story. This research enriches our understanding of the Rwandan genocide from the perspective of diaspora Hutus. Also, the study reckons that RPF could be a destabilizing force that deters accountability and reconciliation. I postulate that it is only through a shared understanding that any loss of human life is a criminal act, which Rwanda will be able to forge a realistic peaceful future.

Table Summarizing Individualized Accounts

Names of Rwandan Interviewees and names of Individuals whose stories were used.	Sex	Age	Ethnic Identity	Country or City of residence if the US	Status in the U.S	Type of memory	Memory of the Genocide
Paul Rusesabagina	Male	64	Mixed (Identifies as Hutu).	Brussels, Belgium, and Los Angeles, CA.	Frequent visitor of US Citizen of Belgium	Publicly Available Individualized account. Book	Many Hutus were mistakenly killed based on looks. The genocide had a class undertone. Therefore, both Hutus and Tutsis died. RPF are not only stoppers, but they are also perpetrators. The International community is duped on memory. Victors' justice is practiced.
Marie Beatrice Umutesi	Female	57	Hutu	Belgium	Visits US occasionally	Publicly Available Individualized account. Book	Memory must be inclusive of both Hutu and Tutsi accounts Wars have ravaged great Lakes region for many years, and many ethnicities have been affected. Not all Hutus

							are genociders, and not all Tutsis are victims. RPF killed thousands of people.
David Himbara	Male	66	Tutsi	Toronto, Canada	Frequent US visitor testified to US Congress about Kagame regime	Publicly available account, The Internet, news reports and TV (Not cited on thesis).	One sided memory that hero-worships Paul Kagame Many Rwandans are scared into silence; the idea of the Rwandan economic miracle is a façade. Moreover, RPF is responsible for creating a monster out of Kagame. Many political opponents are exiled. Some have been killed.
Kevin Nzigiyamana	Male	33	Hutu	Atlantic City, NJ	Asylum	Personal account	Lies are told at genocide memorials. Genocide stopped because many people had fled and almost all Tutsis had died. RPF did not stop genocide. Kagame downed the plane to cause mayhem so he can invade Kigali and capture power. Hutus are not remembered.

							Millions died from 1990-2000.
Filone Muziranege	Female	28	Mixed (Identifies as Hutu).	St. Louis, MO	Refugee	Personal account	Tutsi mother died at the hands of Tutsi soldiers. Witnessed murders perpetrated by both Hutu extremists and Tutsi soldiers. Hutu deaths are undermined.
Pamela Mkombozi	Female	22	Mixed (identifies as Tutsi)	Detroit, Michigan	Student	Personal account	Paul Kagame should be credited for stopping the genocide. Hutus feel ashamed to sit with people who lost family members. Hutu victims should be remembered based on how they died. How will Tutsis feel if Hutu deaths are remembered equally?
Theophile Mugabo	Male	40	Hutu	Washington, D.C	Rwandan government worker at Rwandan embassy, D.C	Personal account	Memorialization of the genocide is accurate to what happened. The government is the only hope for Tutsis. The government has to force reconciliation if it can't happen organically.
Jerome Tuyishime	Male	27	Hutu	Dallas, TX	Graduate Student	Personal account	It is widely known that Rwandan

							government is recruiting young men as fighters for rebel groups in DRC. People with evidence are considered threats to the government.
Pendo Mutedli	Female	34	Hutu	Denver, CO	Refugee	Personal account	War is war; genocide was the apex of the Rwandan war. Memory focuses on the stories of those who won the war.
Lawrence Habima	Male	19	Hutu	Maine, USA	Greencard Holder	Personal account	Many Rwandans fear to talk about the genocide. It's a test of morality. If you are Hutu, you are judged as a criminal. Memory reinforces such beliefs.

Chapter Five: Conclusion

This thesis has contrasted public memory of the Rwandan genocide with individualized accounts of Hutus in the United States. While focusing on Rwandan conflict as a “continuum of violence,” the study finds that there is a possible gap between personal memories of Hutus in the United States and public memorialization of the Rwandan genocide. Paul Ricœur’s theory of memory applies in this case because it connects personal memory and public memory. According to Ricœur, the abundance of public memory does not imply that only one memory exists.²⁵³ Often, individualized memories contrast with public memorials. The Rwandan government offers a public memory that condenses the genocide into a single event. Nonetheless, reducing the genocide into a single tragedy minimizes memories of most Hutus. As discussed in the individual accounts chapter as well as the introduction, the Rwandan genocide happened in a context of civil war, which occurred in a background of European colonization and the push for post-cold war democratization.

During the war between Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) and the Rwandan National Army under National Revolutionary Movement for Development (NRMD), civilian Rwandans lost their lives. These civilians were substantially Hutus but also Tutsis. Secondly, in the genocide, thousands of Hutus also died alongside Tutsis. Many Hutus were moderates and died because they were traitors in the eyes of Hutu extremists. Other Hutus died protecting Tutsis; some were mistakenly killed, and RPF killed others in revenge attacks. Lastly, thousands of Hutus lost their lives while seeking refuge in the Democratic Republic of Congo after the genocide had ended courtesy of revenge attacks by the RPF army. The lives of Hutus who died in this cycle of violence are often minimized in public commemorations. Thus, I argue that the memory of the Rwandan genocide is possibly politicized and incomplete.

²⁵³ Philip Lee, *Public Memory, Public Media, and the Politics of Justice* (Houndmills, Basingstoke: Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012) pg.116

Currently, restrictions exist that manages public remembrance, education, and conversations about the Rwandan genocide. The memory of the Rwandan genocide is a matter of political consideration by the Rwandan government, civil society and the social fabric of the citizens. The restrictions on the memory of the genocide are conducted through limitations of the fundamental rights such as freedom of speech, methods of remembrance, and minimization of ethnic identity.²⁵⁴ Feasibly, there is an inconsistency on commemorations in public, memory as taught in schools, and mass distributed on the media with what Rwandan Hutu survivors remember in private.²⁵⁵

My findings agree with Nuquet and Lipstadt's argument that public memory and individual memory has an "adversarial relationship."²⁵⁶ In Rwanda, there is a possibility that public memory does not complement personal narratives about the genocide. The twelve personal accounts of the Hutus interviewed as well as the scholarly work show that there is a likelihood of incompatibility of memories. Likewise, the Rwandan government is attempting to create what Casey calls "a futuristic narrative"²⁵⁷ that defies the nuanced lived experience of genocide survivors. This futuristic narrative is according to Ricœur, a "perception of historical experience"²⁵⁸ of the minorities in Rwanda, in this case, the Tutsi elites and thus, a "construction of historical consciousness"²⁵⁹ as described by Zarka.

Secondly, having established the incompleteness of how the genocide is remembered in Rwanda, I sought answers as to why there is an absence of Hutu memories. I found out that public memories play a critical role in the visualization of events even as public memory create history. Over time, personal memories

²⁵⁴ Judi Rever, "Rwanda's Memory Hole | Foreign Policy Journal." *Foreign Policy Journal*. Foreign Policy Journal, 2015. Web. 13 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/2015/04/14/rwandas-memory-hole/>>.

²⁵⁵ Katherine Conway, "The Role of Memory in Post-genocide Rwanda." *The Insight on Conflict*. August 23, 2013. Accessed April 7, 2015. <http://www.insightonconflict.org/2013/08/the-role-of-memory-in-post-genocide-rwanda/>.

²⁵⁶ Deborah Lipstadt, *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*. (New York, 2006).

²⁵⁷ Edward, Casey "Public Memory in Place and Time." In *Framing Public Memory* (Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2004)pg.17

²⁵⁸ Paul Ricoeur, *Memory, History and Forgetting* (Chicago, U.S: University of Chicago Press, 2009), p.g 82

²⁵⁹ Yves Charles Zarka, "The Construction of Historical Consciousness" *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*. 2004, Vol. 12, No. 3, pp. 413-428.

substitute for individual memories, because as observed by memory theorist, Edward Clay, the individual memory is rich in details and juxtaposes public memory.²⁶⁰ If individualized memories come to the surface, the legitimacy of the RPF will perhaps come into question. Hutu memories undermine the officially acknowledged account of events that hold the view that Hutu extremists killed Tutsis and moderate Hutus and that RPF stopped the genocide after multitudes of Hutus had killed Tutsis. The officially acknowledged narrative skips the events that happened in the continuum of violence that ravaged the country from 1990-2000s. Hutu memories possibly indict RPF for violations of human rights. If Hutu memories are publicized, they will perhaps render the official account of the genocide reductionist.

Thirdly, public memory accompanies the demand for justice and accountability for the lives lost. In Rwanda, the government's policy approaches "post-genocide justice on the presumption of a criminal (adult male Hutu) population is a useful mechanism that the RPF strategically deploys to control political opponents, deflect criticism of its actions during the genocide, and justify its military presence in the Democratic Republic of Congo."²⁶¹ Rwanda faces the challenge of obfuscating justice and legitimizing abuses done under the pretext of ending impunity, accountability, and reconciliation by limiting Hutu memories.²⁶² Avoiding this predicament requires that memorials focus in ways that expose, remember and understand political violence²⁶³ and are also in tension with their role as tools for establishing stability and legitimizing compromises.²⁶⁴

²⁶⁰ Edward, Casey "Public Memory in Place and Time." In *Framing Public Memory* (Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2004)pg.17

²⁶¹ Susan Thomson, *Whispering Truth to Power: Everyday Resistance to Reconciliation in Post genocide Rwanda* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2013) pg. 83.

²⁶² Bronwyn Leebaw, "The Irreconcilable Goals of Transitional Justice." *Human Rights Quarterly* 30 (2008): 98-118. *The Irreconcilable Goals of Transitional Justice*. Web. 29 Nov. 2015. Pg. 4

²⁶³ Barbara Craig, "Selected Themes in the Literature on Memory and Their Pertinence to Archives." *REVIEW ESSAY*.pg. 285. <https://www.archivists.org/conference/neworleans2005/readings/609-craig.pdf>.

²⁶⁴ Bronwyn Leebaw, "The Irreconcilable Goals of Transitional Justice." *Human Rights Quarterly* 30 (2008): 98-118. *The Irreconcilable Goals of Transitional Justice*. Web. 29 Nov. 2015. Pg. 4
pg. 4-5

Perhaps the possibility of obfuscating justice is present in Rwanda where political upheavals have been the norm since the end of the genocide in 1994. Because of the ethnic tensions, public memory not only acts as a political memorial to the dead, they serve as agents of political repression of the opposing ethnic group. In mass violence, the perpetrators may at times also become victims and vice-versa. In the public accounts about the Rwandan genocide, the government has drawn a clear distinction between the perpetrators and victims. But, the act of distinguishing Rwandans as perpetrators and victims pose challenges such as inhibiting closure, validating other lives (Tutsis) while minimizing (Hutu) lives, as well as restricting history.

While examining conflicts in Africa, the prevailing argument espouses a great deal of the debate post-colonially involves the role of the state, acquisition of power, the concentration of power in the hands of the few and the use of that acquired power for self- preservation. Few writers such as Robert Bates and Gerad Prunier have explored the failure of the African state and its relevance to conflicts in the late 1990s. Conflicts are common in societies where the central control center has weakened. In such places, the local leaders controlling non-state resources find themselves able to offer more than the central government. At the heart of this reasoning is poverty as a causative factor. Poverty plays a fundamental role in not only legitimizing conflicts but also making conflicts a necessity.²⁶⁵ Whereas technological expansion, availability of the market, and efficient international network for illegal materials fuel mass disputes, the driving engine for these tragic events is the failure of some states to provide human security. Even though Rwanda also had other causes, this argument helps explain the multiplicities of the causative factors of the Rwandan genocide. Therefore, even as much as ethnicity was used as a reason to kill a section of the populace, the tragic events happened not because of the revival of ancient ethnic hatred, but because of many other causes. These causes include but are not limited to a deadly squabble for control of the state by the elites of both sides, failure of the concept of the nation-state in the post-colonial world,

²⁶⁵ Robert Bates, "When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late Century Africa" (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009) pg. 105

pressure on existing resources, and the impact of the structural adjustment policies of neoliberalism.²⁶⁶

Most Rwandans believe that both sides committed crimes and that true reconciliation must factor in an indiscriminate and holistic revelation of atrocities.²⁶⁷ Sanctioning of Hutu memories only limits the reconciliation process.

It is possible to argue that within the complexity of the Rwandan genocide, public memory develops into the ultimate source of the grievance by Hutus for justice, and possibly, a regime change.²⁶⁸ Genocide memorials, although exercised as means of expressing shared griefs, construct the meaning of the past atrocities.²⁶⁹ At the same time, because of the power of the discourse exhibited by the existence of the government's official narratives, many Rwandans are denied the opportunities to mourn their dead. Perhaps, a historical clarity is necessary for future stability and development of Rwanda. Further, sidelining of individualized memories, especially of concerns of not acknowledging the dead, will not absolve the country from future conflicts. This study utilized memory as a measure of the possibility of sustained peace and success of the reconciliation. In many ways, Rwanda is a "volcano waiting to erupt"²⁷⁰ not because the people of Rwanda are innately murderers, but because the same conditions that led to the genocide are prevailing, and the preservation of power rather than the use of power to reconcile the society is still the primary concern of the state.

²⁶⁶ Aimable Twagilimana, *The Debris of Ham: Ethnicity, Regionalism, and the 1994 Rwandan Genocide* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2003).

²⁶⁷ Philip Clark, *The Gacaca Courts, Post-genocide Justice and Reconciliation in Rwanda: Justice without Lawyers* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), pg. 5

²⁶⁸ Rachel Ibrek, "A Time of Mourning: The Politics of Commemorating Tutsi-Genocide in Rwanda". In *Public Memory, Public Media and the Politics of Justice*, edited by Philip Lee and Pradip Thomas (Brisbane: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012) pg.98.

²⁶⁹ Rachel Ibrek, "A Time of Mourning: The Politics of Commemorating Tutsi-Genocide in Rwanda" pg 100

²⁷⁰ Rachel Ibrek, "A Time of Mourning: The Politics of Commemorating Tutsi-Genocide in Rwanda" pg 48

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