

# RWANDAN GENOCIDE

Hotel Rwanda Background  
information

# GENOCIDE

Essential Question: When is something killing versus genocide?

# GENOCIDE

DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO  
DESTROY A RELIGIOUS OR  
ETHNIC GROUP

Least Harmful-----Most Harmful

## Spitting

- ❑ Spitting on someone because they are Purple
- ❑ Killing a Purple Family because they are Purple
- ❑ Calling someone a derogatory name because they are Purple
- ❑ Beating up a random Purple person walking down the street because they are Purple
- ❑ Passing a law to prevent all Purple people from getting jobs from Green people
- ❑ Ransacking a neighborhood, breaking windows of houses and painting graffiti on Purple peoples' houses
- ❑ Rounding up and taking all Purple to a school yard and killing them

## Right Side – Definition of Genocide

- ▣ Genocide can be defined as the systematic extermination of a group of people based on their ethnicity, religion or other defining characteristic
- ▣ The Genocidal Process:
  - Dehumanization: One group denies the humanity of another group. People are classified as sub-human.
  - Organization and Preparation: genocide is always organized, usually by the government. Hate groups broadcast propaganda, laws may forbid intermarriage or social interaction, and death lists are drawn up
  - Extermination: Mass killing takes place. Often victims are deported or moved into organized areas for extermination
  - Denial: perpetrators of genocide dig mass graves, burn bodies and try to cover up evidence. They deny that they committed any crimes and often blame what happened on the victims



# World Genocides

GENOCIDE

Rwanda









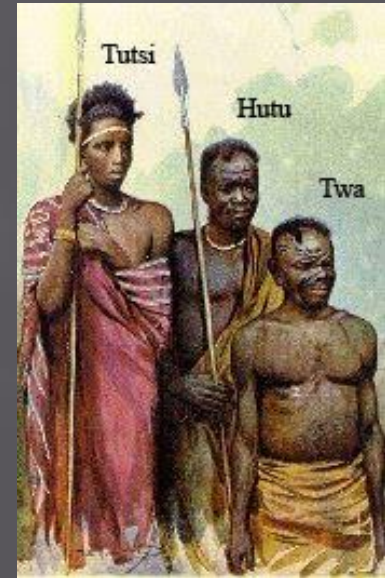






# The Division Begins...

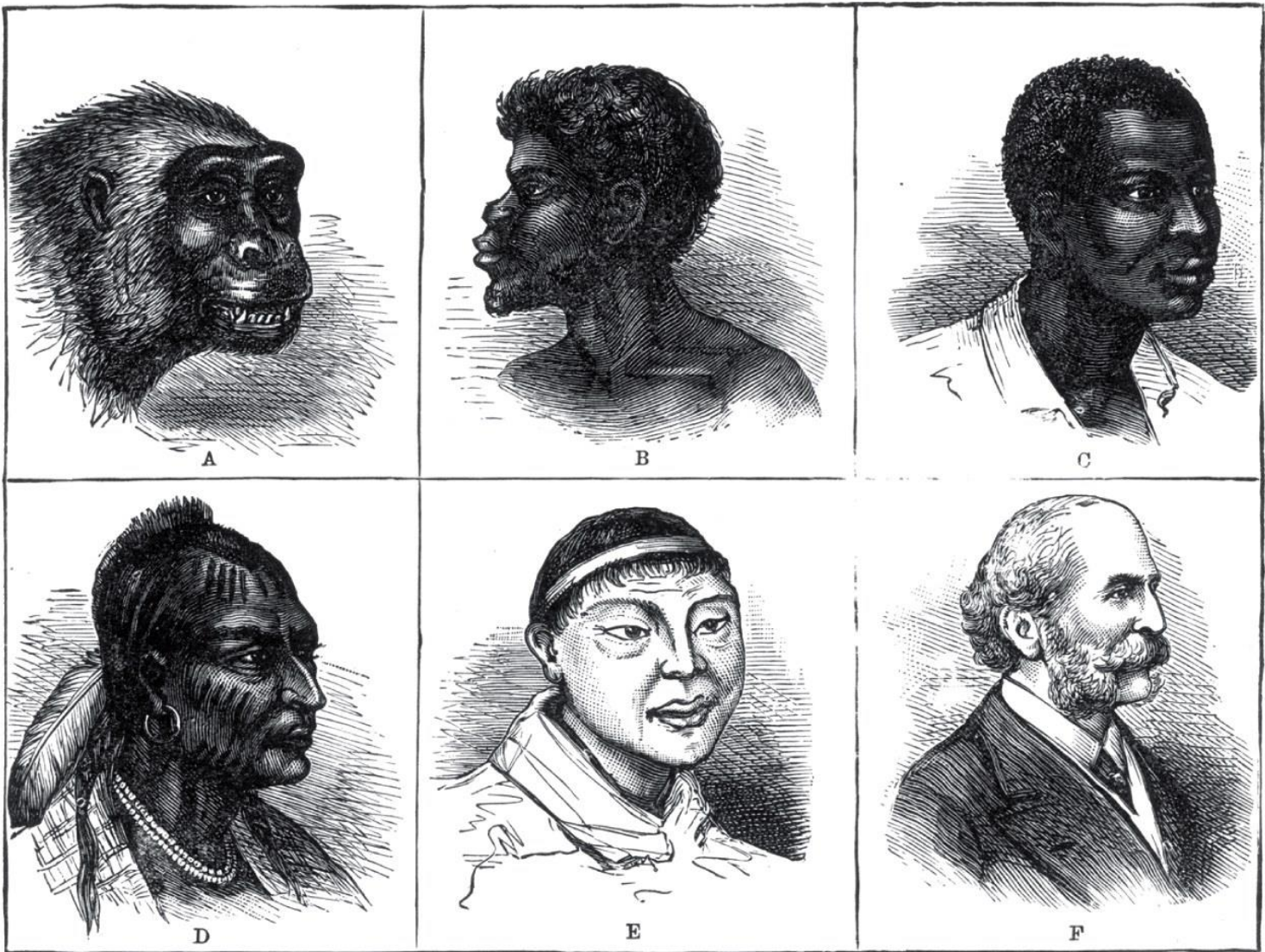
- ▣ Rwandans shared a common culture and had an organized government structure before colonists arrived.
  - Both the Hutu and the Tutsi speak the same Bantu language. Intermarriage between the two groups was quiet common. Besides sharing the same language, the Hutu and Tutsi also share the same religion
- ▣ Belgian and German colonists divided the people of Rwanda into 3 different classifications: HUTU, TUTSI and TWA



# Classification: Tension builds

- ▣ Belgians thought that the Tutsis were a superior people because they were more “white”. The Hutus were considered ignorant peasants
  - People with the whiter skin and *Caucasian* features were chosen to be Tutsi. Believing the Tutsi were superior to the Hutu, only Tutsi given access to higher education and as a result made up the ruling elite despite being minority.
- ▣ Hutus made up 85% of population
  - they were denied higher education, land ownership and positions in the government
  - Rwandans had to carry identity cards (introduced by the Belgians in 1933)





PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF MAN.—(2) EVOLUTION ILLUSTRATED WITH THE SIX CORRESPONDING LIVING FORMS.

European Racial Images  
*Ways of the World*, First Edition  
The Granger Collection, New York





# Retaliation and Power Struggle

- ▣ Belgians began to leave Rwanda in late 1950s
  - 1958-59 over 30,000 Tutsis killed as political power shifts to Hutu
  - 100,000 Tutsis flee to Uganda and Congo
- ▣ After independence, the Hutus gained power and oppressed the Tutsis using the same racial classification that was used against them.
  - Hutus established the MRND: National Revolutionary Movement for Development

# Rwandan Genocide: 1994

- The genocide was planned and carried out through orchestrated public opinion campaigns using radio, television, newspapers and other hate propaganda.
  - April 3, 1994 Hutu President Habyarimana's plane shot down (secretly by Hutu leaders). Hutus blame it on Tutsi rebels.
  - The genocide begins within 30 minutes of the news
  - It was the duty of every Hutu to exterminate the "cockroaches" (Tutsi).
- 1 million Tutsi dead in 100 days









