

Predictive IB History SL Paper 1

May 2025

History SL Paper 1

1 hour 0 minutes

- Read the four sources carefully and answer all parts of all four questions.
 - The maximum mark for this paper is [24 marks].
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Prescribed Subject 5: Conflict and intervention Case Study 1: Rwanda (1990-1998) – Causes of the conflict

Source A An adapted excerpt from "The Seeds of Genocide: Rwandan Society and the Colonial Era" by Dr. Elias Rukundo (fictional historian), in a history journal (2018).

The Belgian colonial administration, inheriting a pre-existing societal structure, fundamentally and rigidly codified ethnic identities in Rwanda. Prior to European arrival, distinctions between Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa were more fluid, often related to socio-economic status rather than fixed ethnicity. However, the Belgians, influenced by Hamitic theories, perceived the Tutsi as a superior, naturally ruling class. This led to the institutionalization of ethnicity through identity cards from 1933, which fixed individuals into these categories. The colonial power favored the Tutsi minority in education, administration, and economic opportunities, creating a system of indirect rule that deepened resentment among the Hutu majority. This preferential treatment and the rigidification of ethnic boundaries laid a critical long-term foundation for future conflict, as it politicized ethnicity and embedded inequality into the very structure of Rwandan society. When independence neared, these colonial-era constructions of identity became central to political mobilization and inter-group hostility.

Source B An adapted excerpt from a (fictional) United Nations Human Rights Commission report on the situation in Rwanda, dated 15 March 1994.

The political climate in Rwanda has deteriorated alarmingly in recent months. The Arusha Accords, signed in August 1993 to end the civil war between the Rwandan government and the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), have faced significant implementation challenges. Hardline elements within the government, associated with the Hutu Power ideology, actively oppose power-sharing arrangements and have intensified hate propaganda through media outlets such as RTLM. Reports of political assassinations, distribution of weapons to civilian militias (Interahamwe), and training of these groups are widespread. The recent downing of President Habyarimana's plane on 6 April 1994 [NB: for exam generation, date could be pre-event if source is earlier March, or post-event if context allows; March 15 is pre-event], while yet unclaimed, has massively escalated tensions. There are credible fears that extremist factions are poised to exploit any power vacuum or instability to incite widespread violence against the Tutsi population and moderate Hutus. The failure to fully implement the Arusha Accords and the persistent incitement to ethnic hatred are critical short-term factors pushing Rwanda towards a catastrophic conflict.

Source C An adapted excerpt from a (fictional) transcript of a broadcast by Radio Télévision Libre des Mille

Collines (RTL), early April 1994, before the genocide fully erupted but after Habyarimana's death was known by the broadcaster.

Brave Hutus of Rwanda, our great President Habyarimana has been murdered by the Tutsi cockroaches of the RPF! They want to take our land, to enslave us again as their Belgian masters taught them. For too long we have been patient. For too long we have listened to those who tell us to share power with these snakes. Now is the time to rise up! We must defend ourselves, our children, our Rwanda! Take your machetes, your clubs! We must eliminate the enemy within. They are hiding among us. Do not be afraid! Work! Clean your neighbourhoods of these RPF collaborators, these Tutsi invaders. This is our final battle for a Hutu Rwanda. Victory will be ours! The graves are not yet full! [Contextual Note for generation: This source contains inflammatory language typical of RTL broadcasts. It is presented to reflect historical reality for analytical purposes within the exam context.]

Source D A (fictional) political cartoon published in an international newspaper in early 1994. The cartoon depicts two large, menacing figures labelled "Hutu Extremists" and "RPF" engaged in a tug-of-war over a small, fragile map of Rwanda, which is cracking under the strain. In the background, tiny figures representing Rwandan civilians are falling into the cracks, while a larger figure labelled "International Community" looks on with a perplexed expression, holding a document titled "Peace Accords - Handle With Care".



1. (a) According to Source A, what were the long-term effects of colonial rule on Rwandan society? (3)
 - (b) What does Source D (the political cartoon) suggest about the political situation in Rwanda in early 1994? (2)
2. With reference to its origin, purpose, and content, analyse the value and limitations of Source C for an historian studying the short-term causes of the Rwandan genocide. (4)
3. Compare and contrast what Source A and Source B reveal about the causes of conflict in Rwanda. (6)