Subject: Hotel Ruwanda
Posted by lon on Mon, 13 Jun 2005 03:40:24 GMT
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We don't know. We just don't know waht goes on there.But this film has a new currency with the rising problems inDarfur.Don Cheadle plays a hotel manager during the Ruwandan genocide.It's an important film to see. And just about everyone can seeit. You see it has a PG13 rating. Don't get me wrong. I think this is a positive thing. Remember: Fahrenheit 911had a restricted rating above this so that young people wouldnot see the aftermath of war.I think that in a picture like this, the actorsd take a lot ofchances for their art. The bad guys in this show are really bad.But there's alos Jean Reno ("The Professional", "The Visitors")as the hotel owner who lives in Paris.The thing that struck me about Hotel Ruwanda was the use of radio by the ... Hutus... I think... the ones that were bringingthe violence. The message of "don't trust your neighbors""watch the people next door" that sort of thing was particularlyeffective. I wondered how far we are from that in USA.The picture also reveals that the difference between the factionswas microscopic: physical features were _measured_ to definewhich was which. top bottom, left-right, persecutor or persecuted.And it goes on today. But Hotel Ruwanda is the first telling of that time... the onlytelling in a dramatic form in these 10 and more years. It's important to make it a part of our collective memory. After all,you won't hear about such things on the news; not in anymeaningful way.

Subject: Re: Hotel Ruwanda
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 13 Jun 2005 13:00:50 GMT
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There is a theory that claims the change in aridity and climate has decimated many areas of Africa and the desertification of big tracts of land in central and western areas has created a famine that modifies all aspects of the political and economic conditions in Africa. The migrations of large population groups is a response to this condition.That combined with the colonial powers imposing arbitrary borders that include hostile tribes within the same countries has created an insurmountable crises. Africa also has the highest birth-rate and lowest life span resulting in an average age of about 17 for the populations of all but the northern muslim nations that remain fairly stable.There seems to be nothing left but to allow the forces of nature to produce some sort of equilibrium and cultural stasis.The movie gives the impression that the war was a cultural event pitting Hutu's and Tutsi's. The truth seems much more related to the food shortages and people reaching for any means of survival. Nothing we can do, they are so corrupt that aid never reaches the people; not to mention the self-serving international aid groups.Comparisons between us and them regarding the use of propoganda; amazing how the level of education has no bearing on what you can be coerced to believe.

Subject: Rwanda
Posted by elektratig on Mon, 13 Jun 2005 20:57:36 GMT

I've mentioned it before (see link), but if you can stand it, Philip Gourevich's book, "We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families" is an utterly compelling and horrifying account of the genocide in Rwanda and the events leading up to it. Shamefully, the international community did nothing -- or rather worse than nothing. The genocide was coordinated in substantial part by the government radio station in Kigali. A single cruise missile or smart bomb on the transmitter and/or tower might well have saved hundreds of thousands of lives. Meanwhile, Madelaine Albright and the State Department were frantically arguing that no legally cognizable "genocide" was taking place and were urging the UN to withdraw the meagre peacekeeping force on the ground. Romeo Dallaire felt that even his small force could have averted, or at least significantly curtailed, the killing before it got underway. Kofi Annan refused. Disgusting.
Post Re Gourevich Book

Subject: Re: Rwanda
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 13 Jun 2005 21:12:45 GMT

I have a hard time believing that those in charge really have the best interests of the people at heart.