

The Last Just Man

Film Study Guide

Director: Steven Silver

2002 | Documentary | 70 Minutes | Canada | English, French | Unrated

Synopsis: All acts of war are at some level unimaginable, but the 1994 Rwandan civil war, which saw the massacre of over 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus by the Hutu militia in just 100 days, stands as one of the most shockingly incomprehensible – because it could have been prevented. Lt. General Romeo Dallaire, the Canadian commander of UN peacekeeping operations in Rwanda at the time, recounts in harrowing detail his growing awareness of the impending genocide, his endless urgent efforts to intervene and the disastrous refusal of his UN bosses to permit any intervention. Speaking directly from his heart and his shaken sense of morality and mission, Dallaire remains haunted by what he was forced to witness. *The Last Just Man* is a compelling and revealing historical deconstruction of the forces behind a tragic failure to achieve peace.

Post-Screening Discussion Questions

1. How much do you know about the massacre in Rwanda?
2. Where did you get your information?
3. What are the differences and similarities between the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia vs. Rwanda?
4. How did the US Government and the UN responses differ in regard to Bosnia vs. Rwanda? Why do you think the responses differed?
5. What role did media coverage play in the attitudes of Americans in each case?
6. How do you define genocide?
7. What do you think General Dallaire could have done differently?
8. Why did the UN react the way it did to General Dallaire's assessment of the situation prior to the massacre?
9. What role did Colonization play in the events in Rwanda?
10. What factors shape public attitudes toward world events?

11. How does American public sentiment about world events shape US government actions/decisions?
12. In your opinion, how could such a tragedy be prevented in the future?