

1300 – Tutsis move into area. Hutu and Twa people already live there.

1890 – Germany colonizes the area.

1916 – During WWI Belgium conquers German forces in Africa. Takes over control of the colony.

1923 – Belgium recruits Tutsis to run the colony even though there are more Hutus in the area. Tutsi people are taller with lighter skin. Because of this, the Belgians figure that they are more superior to Hutu. The Tutsis are given good jobs and have a better life than Hutus. The Hutus don't like this.

1933 – Belgium has a hard time telling Tutsi and Hutu people apart, so they issue I.D. cards.

1957 – Hutus demand more input in how the colony is run. They are tired of being treated poorly by the Tutsi.

1962 – Belgium lets the colony split up into different countries. Rwanda is formed. Elections are held and a Hutu is elected president. Tutsis become nervous that the Hutus will take revenge on them. Many Tutsis leave Rwanda for neighbor: Burundi.

1963 – A large group of Tutsis attack Rwanda from Burundi. Hutus in Rwanda get upset at Tutsi people. Some 20,000 Tutsi are killed. Then, peace resumes.

1973 – Military coup in Rwanda against the Hutu president. General Habyarimana (Haby) takes over. He is a Hutu. He orders Tutsis to be kicked out of universities. He also makes sure that Hutus get the best jobs and have better opportunities for success.

1989 – Economy of Rwanda collapses. Food shortages and starvation happen. World aid groups come in to help.

1990: July – World aid groups threaten to leave Rwanda unless Haby changes his ways. He agrees to change and let Tutsi people have more say in the government.

1990: October – A Tutsi group in neighboring Uganda (The Rwanda Patriotic Front: RPF) invade Rwanda. A civil war begins.

1990 – 1993 – Even though Haby said he'd change things, he never really does.

1993: July – RTLM (a radio station in the capital of Rwanda – Kigali) starts broadcasting hate messages against the Tutsi people.

1993: August – Haby signs a peace agreement to end the civil war. The United Nations sends troops to make sure peace continues.

1994: April 6<sup>th</sup> – Haby's presidential plane is shot down. Hutus blame the RPF (a Tutsi rebel organization). That night, the **Interahamwe** (a Hutu group) takes revenge by killing Tutsi people and Hutus who didn't agree with the killing...men, women, children, and babies.

1994: April to mid-July – nearly 1 million Tutsis are massacred by genocide.

1994: July – The RPF takes control of Kigali and the genocide stops. By August, they have taken control of Rwanda. Members of the **Interahamwe** and other Hutu people flee to neighboring countries for fear that Tutsis will take revenge for the genocide.