

Economics Concept: Analysis of Choices

Discussion: With each choice that we make, we must consider the pros/cons to each choice. With each choice we make, there are consequences/costs involved. Choices are not easy to make, as seen in the following example. A careful analysis of the possibly choices is important.

It is April 1994. The place is Rwanda. There have steadily been tensions arising between the Hutus and Tutsis - two ethnic groups whose ethnic differences were contrasted under Belgian colonial rule, with Belgians favoring the Tutsis. The President of the United States has received information of a possible massacre by the Hutus against the Tutsis. As Commander in Chief, should the President engage U.S. troops to suppress any possible massacre? Before considering this question, complete the chart below, documenting five reasons for each column. Contemplate the following **criteria** when considering your reasons: soldiers' families, strategic location of country, genocide (think about views on Holocaust)/Geneva Accord, morality of the situation, and military involvement in foreign affairs. You may include additional criteria in your choices.

Reasons to send troops	Reasons NOT to send troops
1)	1)
2)	2)
3)	3)
4)	4)
5)	5)

After considering the reasons to send or not to send troops, what have you decided?

Circle one: send troops do not send troops

Explanation (include documented reasons in explanation):

Article: Rwanda slaughter 'could have been prevented'

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/308542.stm>



Lt Gen Romeo Dallaire

The violence left hundreds of orphan, injured children

The United States, Belgium, France and the UN Security Council all had prior warning about the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and could have prevented it, says a new report published by the US-based Human Rights Watch group,

"The Americans were interested in saving money, the Belgians were interested in saving face, and the French were interested in saving their ally, the genocidal government," said Alison Des Forges, a scholar on Rwanda and author of the report.

UN officials are accused of consistently refusing troop requests by the commanding officer of the UN peacekeeping force in Rwanda.

Lt Gen Romeo Dallaire of Canada warned of 1994's systematic killing, but support forces were never sent.

Belgium pulled its troops out following the deaths of 10 Belgian peacekeepers on the first day of the genocide. Belgium subsequently supported the US position against increasing the peacekeepers' mandate.

France, a close ally of the Hutu government in Rwanda, has been accused of sending them military support both before and during the genocide.

"Reacted timidly and tardily"

Entitled "Leave none to tell the story," the 771-page report criticises the US, Belgium, France and the UN Security Council because they "failed to act effectively".

"Even worse, foreign leaders reacted timidly and tardily once the killing began," says the report.

Last week, the UN Security Council said it supported an independent inquiry into UN activity, and the actions of Security Council permanent members, before and during the genocide between April 6 and July 4, 1994.

More than half a million of the country's minority Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus were killed in that time.