

Catholic Social Justice
Hotel Rwanda
Film Questions

1. What is a “culture of impurity” and how does it relate to the “rule of law”?
2. Could the Rwandan genocide have been stopped?
3. Who is to blame for the Rwandan genocide of 1994?
4. Should the U.S. have taken the lead in getting the international community to intervene to stop the Rwandan genocide?
5. According to the Rwandan journalist in the movie, what are the differences between the Hutus and the Tutsis?
6. What was the role of the radio in the genocide?
7. What does the bearded reporter say to Paul’s belief that people around the world would act when they see the footage of the murders? What do you think he means?

8. What tactics does the hotel manager use to keep the hotel open and the people there safe?

9. In the movie, a genocidaire offered to let the hotel manager have a few Tutsis of his own in exchange for turning over the rest of his neighbors and friends. What did the hotel manager do?

10. When he finds out that the European soldiers are there only to take the foreign nationals out of Rwanda, Colonel Oliver tells the hotel manager that “The West, all the superpowers, everything you believe in, Paul. They think you’re dirt. They think you’re dump. You’re worthless.” He goes on to say, “You’re the smartest man here. You got’em eating out of your hands. You could own this hotel, except one thing... You’re black. You’re not even a nigger, you’re African. They’re not gonna stay, Paul. They’re not gonna stop the slaughter.” What did Colonel Oliver mean by saying to the hotel manager that he was not even a “nigger”?

11. At the beginning of the movie, the hotel manager talks to this assistant about the importance of style. What role did style have in saving the Tutsi and moderate Hutu who had sought refuge in the Hotel Mille Collines?

12. Did the hotel manager do the right thing by staying at the hotel and not leaving with his wife and children on the first attempt to get them out?