Burundi & Rwanda Genocides

Burundi Genocide
• 1st recorded case in Great Lakes Region of Africa
• Occurred 22 years before Rwanda (1994)
• May-June 1972
• 200,000 to 300,000 Hutu lost their lives at hands of Tutsi army

Hutu and Tutsi
• Rwanda – revolutionary conflict pitted Hutu v. Tutsi
• Burundi – pre-independence politics
  o Threshold of independence
  o Constitutional monarchy w/ mixed assemblage of Tutsi and Hutu elements

On way to genocide
• May 29, 1972 – violent Hutu-led insurrection
  o Evisceration of pregnant women
  o Hacking off limbs
  o Killed every Tutsi in sight and any Hutu who did join rebel cause
  o 1st week – 2-3,000 killed most Tutsi
• May 30 – Hideous slaughter of Hutu civilians
  o Continued until August
  o End almost every educated Hutu killed or exiled
  o Exact # dead – unknown 100,000-300,000

Ultimate Objective
• Systematically kill all educated Hutu elements
  o Civil servants
  o University students
  o School children
• Eliminate future Hutu rebellion
• Elimination Hutu elites insured peace and order next 16 years
• Among new generations – do not forgive or forget

Help
• In 1972 – as we will see in 1994 – UN did nothing while hundred of thousands Africans being slaughtered
• US stance – indifferent
• Today in Burundi this is no acknowledged as a genocide