

hotel rwanda movie questions answer key

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Understanding the profound historical events depicted in "Hotel Rwanda" often necessitates a deeper dive into the film's narrative, characters, and the broader context of the Rwandan genocide. This article serves as a comprehensive resource, providing detailed answers to frequently asked questions about the movie. We will explore the key figures, their motivations, the ethical dilemmas presented, and the film's accuracy in portraying the tragic events of 1994. Delving into the complexities of Paul Rusesabagina's heroism, the role of international indifference, and the impact of the film, this guide aims to illuminate the enduring significance of "Hotel Rwanda." Our objective is to equip viewers with the knowledge to critically engage with the film and its powerful message.

Table of Contents

Understanding the Protagonist: Paul Rusesabagina

Key Characters and Their Roles

The Rwandan Genocide: Historical Context

Ethical Dilemmas and Moral Choices

The Role of the International Community

Filmmaking and Historical Accuracy

The Legacy of "Hotel Rwanda"

Frequently Asked Questions About Hotel Rwanda Movie Questions Answer Key

Understanding the Protagonist: Paul Rusesabagina

Who was Paul Rusesabagina?

Paul Rusesabagina was the Rwandan hotel manager who, during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, used his position and influence to shelter over 1,200 Tutsi refugees at the Hôtel des Mille Collines in Kigali. His actions, driven by a combination of courage, resourcefulness, and sheer determination, saved countless lives. The film "Hotel Rwanda" is based on his true story, portraying him as a reluctant hero who defied the prevailing chaos and brutality.

What motivated Paul Rusesabagina?

Rusesabagina's primary motivation stemmed from his inherent humanity and his deeply ingrained sense of responsibility towards others, particularly those under his care. While the film sometimes portrays him as navigating complex political landscapes and making difficult compromises, his core drive was the preservation of innocent lives. He leveraged his connections with both Hutu and Tutsi factions, as well as international organizations, to buy time, secure supplies, and negotiate the safety of the refugees.

What were the main challenges Rusesabagina faced?

The challenges Rusesabagina faced were immense and multifaceted. He had to contend with the escalating violence outside the hotel, the constant threat of discovery by the Interahamwe militia, the dwindling supplies of food and water, and the immense psychological pressure of orchestrating such a massive rescue operation. Furthermore, he had to navigate the complex and often corrupt political environment, using bribes and persuasion to keep the perpetrators at bay and the international community engaged, albeit ineffectually at times.

Key Characters and Their Roles

Who is Tatiana Rusesabagina?

Tatiana Rusesabagina, Paul's wife, is depicted as a strong and resilient figure in the film. She plays a crucial role in supporting her husband and in caring for the refugees within the hotel. Her personal experiences of fear and loss underscore the human cost of the genocide and highlight the close-knit nature of the Rusesabagina family amidst the unfolding tragedy.

Who is General Roméo Dallaire?

General Roméo Dallaire was the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) during the genocide. In the film, he is portrayed as a man of principle and integrity, deeply distressed by his inability to protect the Tutsi population due to the UN's limited mandate and the Security Council's refusal to reinforce his troops. His character represents the frustration and moral anguish of those on the ground witnessing atrocities they were powerless to prevent.

Who are the Interahamwe?

The Interahamwe were a Hutu paramilitary group and the principal perpetrators of the genocide. They were responsible for orchestrating widespread killings and terrorizing the Tutsi population. In "Hotel Rwanda," they are depicted as the primary antagonists, embodying the brutal force that Paul Rusesabagina and the refugees desperately tried to evade.

The Rwandan Genocide: Historical Context

What was the Rwandan Genocide?

The Rwandan Genocide was a mass slaughter of Tutsi people by members of the Hutu majority government in Rwanda during a 100-day period in 1994. It is estimated that between 800,000 and 1,000,000 people were killed. The genocide was fueled by decades of ethnic tension, political manipulation, and extremist propaganda. The film "Hotel Rwanda" provides a dramatic and personal account of a small fraction of this horrific event.

What were the underlying causes of the genocide?

The roots of the Rwandan Genocide are complex and deeply embedded in colonial history and post-colonial political dynamics. Colonial powers, first Germany and then Belgium, exacerbated ethnic divisions by favoring the Tutsi minority, reinforcing the idea of distinct ethnic identities. Following independence, Hutu political leaders exploited these divisions for political gain, propagating a narrative of Tutsi oppression and conspiracy. Economic disparities and political instability further contributed to the volatile situation that ultimately erupted into genocide.

What was the role of propaganda in the genocide?

Propaganda played a critical role in inciting and sustaining the genocide. Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM), a private radio station, broadcast hate speech that dehumanized Tutsis, labeling them as "cockroaches" and urging Hutus to exterminate them. This relentless propaganda campaign desensitized the population to violence and created an atmosphere of fear and hatred, making mass participation in the killings possible.

Ethical Dilemmas and Moral Choices

What are the main ethical dilemmas presented in the film?

The film "Hotel Rwanda" is replete with ethical dilemmas. Paul Rusesabagina's constant use of bribes to appease the Interahamwe and secure the safety of his guests raises questions about whether compromising with evil can be justified for a greater good. The decision of whether to hide or flee, the choices individuals made when confronted with violence, and the burden of responsibility faced by those in positions of authority are all central ethical conflicts explored within the narrative.

Did Paul Rusesabagina make morally questionable decisions?

The film portrays Paul Rusesabagina as a pragmatist who made difficult decisions under extreme duress. While his primary goal was saving lives, the methods he employed, such as bribing militia

leaders, could be seen as morally ambiguous by some. However, in the context of a genocidal rampage, where conventional morality offered little protection, his actions are often viewed as a necessary evil, a testament to his extraordinary commitment to humanitarianism.

How did the film portray the concept of humanity amidst inhumanity?

"Hotel Rwanda" powerfully illustrates the resilience of the human spirit and the capacity for compassion even in the face of unimaginable brutality. The acts of bravery by Rusesabagina, the quiet courage of the refugees, and the moments of empathy shown by unexpected individuals highlight the enduring presence of humanity. The film contrasts the best of human nature with the depths of its depravity, emphasizing the importance of moral choices when faced with overwhelming evil.

The Role of the International Community

Why was the international community's response to the genocide so weak?

The international community's response to the Rwandan Genocide was widely criticized as a catastrophic failure. Several factors contributed to this:

- Lack of political will: Many powerful nations were unwilling to intervene, fearing casualties or a protracted engagement.
- Underestimation of the scale: The events were initially downplayed as mere civil unrest rather than a systematic genocide.
- Withdrawal of UN forces: The UN Security Council voted to significantly reduce the UNAMIR force just as the genocide escalated, leaving few peacekeepers to prevent the slaughter.
- Media silence: Initial media coverage was limited, failing to convey the urgency and scale of the atrocities.

What was the mandate of UNAMIR?

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) was initially deployed to help implement the Arusha Accords, a peace agreement between the Rwandan government and the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). Its mandate was primarily focused on peacekeeping and monitoring the

ceasefire, not on intervening to stop mass killings. This limited mandate proved disastrously insufficient once the genocide began.

How did Paul Rusesabagina try to engage the international community?

Paul Rusesabagina repeatedly tried to engage the international community by contacting UN officials, foreign embassies, and journalists. He used the telephone to call anyone he believed could help, pleading for intervention and assistance. His efforts highlight the desperate struggle to draw attention to the unfolding genocide and to secure international protection for the refugees.

Filmmaking and Historical Accuracy

Is "Hotel Rwanda" a historically accurate film?

"Hotel Rwanda" is largely considered to be a powerful and moving dramatization of true events, though some artistic liberties were taken for narrative effect. The core events and the bravery of Paul Rusesabagina are factual. However, certain aspects, such as the depiction of General Roméo Dallaire's direct involvement in specific rescues or the portrayal of the time it took for international forces to arrive, have been subject to historical debate and correction by those who were present.

What are some areas where the film might differ from historical accounts?

Some historical accounts suggest that the film may have simplified complex political dynamics, particularly the extent of Rusesabagina's direct influence over all decisions within the hotel. Additionally, the timeline and the specific roles of certain characters might have been condensed or altered to serve the dramatic arc of the story. The film focuses heavily on Rusesabagina's perspective, which, while central to the narrative, may not encompass the entirety of the complex events and numerous other individuals who also contributed to saving lives.

What is the significance of the Hôtel des Mille Collines in the film?

The Hôtel des Mille Collines in the film serves as a microcosm of the genocide, representing both a sanctuary and a battleground. It is a place where ordinary people were forced to confront extraordinary horror, and where acts of incredible bravery and profound desperation unfolded. The hotel becomes a symbol of hope and resistance against the overwhelming tide of violence, a safe

haven meticulously managed by Rusesabagina.

The Legacy of "Hotel Rwanda"

What impact has "Hotel Rwanda" had on global awareness?

The film "Hotel Rwanda" has had a significant impact on global awareness of the Rwandan Genocide. It brought the horrors of the event to a mainstream international audience, prompting discussions and a greater understanding of the tragedy. The film served as a catalyst for many to learn more about the genocide and the failures of the international community, thereby fostering a sense of remembrance and a commitment to preventing future atrocities.

How does the film contribute to remembering the Rwandan Genocide?

By personalizing the immense tragedy through the story of Paul Rusesabagina and the refugees he sheltered, the film makes the abstract concept of genocide relatable and deeply human. It serves as a powerful educational tool, ensuring that the sacrifices made and the suffering endured are not forgotten. The film's success has cemented its place as a key piece of cultural memory surrounding the event.

What lessons can be learned from the events depicted in "Hotel Rwanda"?

The lessons from "Hotel Rwanda" are profound and far-reaching. They include the devastating consequences of ethnic hatred and unchecked propaganda, the critical importance of international intervention in the face of mass atrocities, and the extraordinary capacity for courage and compassion within individuals. The film underscores the ethical imperative to act against injustice and the need for vigilance against the resurgence of such violence.

Frequently Asked Questions About Hotel Rwanda Movie Questions Answer Key

Q: What is the central theme of the movie "Hotel Rwanda"?

A: The central theme of "Hotel Rwanda" is the triumph of humanity and courage in the face of unimaginable evil. It explores themes of heroism, sacrifice, survival, and the failure of the international community to prevent genocide.

Q: Was Paul Rusesabagina a real person?

A: Yes, Paul Rusesabagina was a real person. He was the manager of the Hôtel des Mille Collines in Kigali, Rwanda, during the 1994 genocide and is credited with saving the lives of over 1,200 people by sheltering them in his hotel.

Q: What ethnic groups were involved in the Rwandan Genocide?

A: The Rwandan Genocide primarily involved the Hutu majority, who carried out the killings, and the Tutsi minority, who were the main victims. However, some moderate Hutus were also targeted, and some Tutsis fought back.

Q: Did the United Nations do anything to help during the genocide?

A: The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), led by General Roméo Dallaire, was present during the genocide. However, its mandate was limited, and the UN Security Council refused to authorize a stronger intervention, leading to a tragically inadequate response.

Q: How accurate is the depiction of the Interahamwe in the film?

A: The film accurately portrays the Interahamwe as the primary Hutu militia responsible for widespread killings and terror during the genocide. Their brutality and role in the systematic extermination of Tutsis are central to the film's narrative of the unfolding tragedy.

Q: What happened to Paul Rusesabagina after the genocide?

A: After the genocide, Paul Rusesabagina and his family left Rwanda. He has since become an international advocate for human rights and has spoken extensively about his experiences and the need for justice.

Q: Did the film "Hotel Rwanda" win any awards?

A: Yes, "Hotel Rwanda" received numerous accolades, including nominations for Academy Awards for Best Actor (Don Cheadle) and Best Original Screenplay. It also won Golden Globe nominations and many other international film awards.

Q: What is the significance of the title "Hotel Rwanda"?

A: The title "Hotel Rwanda" refers to the Hôtel des Mille Collines, the actual hotel where Paul Rusesabagina sheltered refugees. The hotel itself becomes a character in the film, representing a temporary sanctuary amidst the widespread destruction and violence.

Q: Is the film considered a definitive account of the Rwandan Genocide?

A: While "Hotel Rwanda" is a powerful and important film that brought global attention to the genocide, it is a dramatization. Historians and survivors often point out that the genocide was a complex event with many facets, and the film focuses on a specific, albeit crucial, narrative.

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