



## Message to Africans

Author

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

I took a time of thinking about Africa, my home continent, but the direct cause is history of my birth country Rwanda that had been in bad politics and led to Genocide against Tutsi in 1994. This genocide was supported by some of European countries and the government of Rwanda headed by Major General HABYARIMANA Juvenal. For this I wondered, how can European countries and their partners help African countries in leadership and politics? Thus I chose messaging Africans to remind them on how to plan the good future by means of African solidarity. This message will give us a short history of African, African problems, Solutions of African problems and true information about genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda. Come and share to construct our Africa through African solidarity.

#### 2. WHAT IS AFRICA?

Africa is among continent of the world where many black people live. Africa is a source of living for people who live on it. Africa has many natural resources to support all life and wealth of Africa. The difficult problem we have is that during colonial period, European countries exploited Africa and took our wealth to develop

their countries. They took our natural resources, they develop their industry through them and sell products in Africa, and thus we buy what were ours. Africans must understand their home and value their source of living. Africans, we have to think very far so that we know and understand well the future of our continent. African is wealth of ours, it has all we need. Africa is our daily breakfast, supper and dinner, Africa is our Milk. We have to care our continent for good future we have to teach our children about Africa of ours. Colonialists came in Africa and stop our capacity of thinking and understanding. Like Example, in Rwanda we had a way of producing fire by using for woods, but after those who wanted the development of their trading, they brought matchbox. Africans can discover different things like those who discovered but we met barriers. Many times you can wonder about Berlin conference, let me give you a short review from oxford reference (Encyclopedia of Africa )

**Berlin Conference of 1884–1885 Meeting at which the major European powers negotiated and formalized claims to territory in Africa; also called the Berlin West Africa Conference.**

The Berlin Conference of 1884–1885 marked the climax of the European competition for territory

in Africa, a process commonly known as the Scramble for Africa. During the 1870s and early 1880s European nations such as Great Britain, France, and Germany began looking to Africa for natural resources for their growing industrial sectors as well as a potential market for the goods these factories produced. As a result, these governments sought to safeguard their commercial interests in Africa and began sending scouts to the continent to secure treaties from indigenous peoples or their supposed representatives. Similarly, Belgium's King Leopold II, who aspired to increase his personal wealth by acquiring African territory, hired agents to lay claim to vast tracts of land in central Africa. To protect Germany's commercial interests, German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, who was otherwise uninterested in Africa, felt compelled to stake claims to African land.

Inevitably, the scramble for territory led to conflict among European powers, particularly between the British and French in West Africa; Egypt, the Portuguese, and British in East Africa; and the French and King Leopold II in central Africa. Rivalry between Great Britain and France led Bismarck to intervene, and in late 1884 he called a meeting of European powers in Berlin. In the subsequent meetings, Great Britain, France, Germany, Portugal, and King Leopold II negotiated their claims to African territory, which were then formalized and mapped. During the conference the leaders also agreed to allow free trade among the colonies and established a framework for negotiating future European claims in Africa. Neither the Berlin Conference itself nor the framework for future negotiations provided any say for the peoples of Africa over the partitioning of their homelands.

The Berlin Conference did not initiate European colonization of Africa, but it did legitimate and formalize the process. In addition, it sparked new interest in Africa. Following the close of the conference, European powers expanded their claims in Africa such that by 1900, European states had claimed nearly 90 percent of African

territory. This is to justify what I was saying concerning Europeans and wealth of Africa. This conference is where they shared Africa. Africans have to learn from their history, different examples may justify how Africa met challenges from colonial period. This continent need to be cared our value need justification from ourselves. Let us know our Africa as a continent of excellence, our home and source of our living. From here, we will be ready to build peace and future of Africa. By peace and good future living we will be zestful and proud to be Africans. Be proud to be African to build your future.

### 3. AFRICA IN HISTORY

We know Africa in three periods:

Pre-colonial Africa

Colonial Africa

Post-colonial Africa (independent Africa)

#### **Pre- colonial Africa**

It is very useful to know prior issues and problems to get a plan of the following that is why analyzing these periods are important. In Africa, before colonization it was well organized with good political organization, good trading (traditional trade) composed of exchange of goods, solidarity and so on. All of elements talked above made Africa United.

#### **COLONIAL AFRICA**

Africa under Europeans power was Africa of pain and sufferings. Europeans wanted to change everything in Africa of ours. Like example, they introduced baptism to change names of our home languages. They destroy political organization and cultures which led to destruction of solidarity and unity of Africans. They tried to divide people and emphasize those divisions, like in Rwanda, they was three social class, Tutsi, Hutu and Twa but during colonization, colonialists change what were social classes in ethnicity. They taught how Rwandans are not the same up to Genocide against Tutsi where above one million of people died in three months. Look at South Africa many

black people died in recent years. What to know is that Africa has been in problems since colonial period through European politics and power.

#### **POST- COLONIAL PERIOD**

People like Nelson Mandela, Leopold Sedar Sengol, Robert MUGABE, LUMUMBA Pasteur, Jomo Kenyatta, prince Louis RWAGASORE and others are very important for Africa, they strove for independence, they helped Africans to be free of Europeans power. All Africans can imitate them, they gave us a good gift, and they were good Africans who were proud to be Africans. We can take a good example given by these important people of 20<sup>th</sup> century. During this period of striving to liberate Africa many people were killed by colonialists. These important people accepted dying for African independence, let us take a time to study from them because Africa is still having problems, you know when you eat poison sometimes treatment requires different drugs. Let me take an example of tuberculus bacillus infection, this a bacterium with pathogen character of causing tuberculosis, in treatment it take number of months. This good example can explain many things, look at Africa to day, some countries are still having segregations based on nationalities, citizenship, and clans. Numbers of foreigners were killed in South Africa in 2015; really they killed Africans in Africa. If Africans kill each other and one another we are still having poison of segregation from colonialists. Ourselves we are to diagnose and treat the disease. Otherwise we are not condemning European countries or accusing them but they have to know that Africa is Africa of Africans.

#### **4. AFRICAN PROBLEMS**

In public health, the Major problems are diseases and disorders. In Africa, the only problem understands. Let us take an example of European countries, they invested in education before; they developed and expanded their projects in Africa for their own interests. In Africa someone complete his masters or PhD, and migrate to

United State, Europe or Australia, by asking him/her the cause of leaving, his/her leaving he/she will tell you that America is good with health and wealth. This problem has a root from colonization. Colonialists showed how their things are good, that is why you study with thirst of leaving Africa of yours, without any contribution to your friends in Africa. We born in Africa, grow from there, Africa is not bad, if is bad, we are all bad because Africa is not a set of land. Africa is people, Africa is me and you. Africa is Rwandans, Kenyans, Ethiopians, Egyptians, Congolese, Burundians, Ugandans, Tanzanians and other different countries of Africa. We are to make Africa attractive; we are to change African's mind, thinking and understanding. Do not leave Africa like leaving a jail, leave Africa to invest in other countries, it will be interest of Africa and we hope you will share your investment with your brothers of Africa for better change. If you leave Africa like leaving a jail, you are killing Africans. Go and invest but remember Africa. Imitate the way of investment used by your immigration state and do likewise but only if contribute to your birth country. Africans must change their ways of understanding. Youth Africans can be the first ones to change Africans' mind. If you are a teacher, be proud to teach Africans, if you are a lecturer in different Universities of Africa; be proud to teach in Africans. Do not tend to leave Africa, instead of leaving, please help Africans. Youths are pearl of African development.

#### **5. SOLUTIONS OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS**

Only one solution of African problems is changing how we understand Africa of ours. If you consider Africa like a continent of problems and poverty, it will increase problems. Let us think on how overcoming problems. We will overcome these problems through hard working and solidarity.

**Ways of overcoming problems**  
**Solidarity and unity**

We may work in solidarity for example by creating associations like example African youth's peace association to meet twice a year. The aim of this association must focus on how Africa can overcome different problems itself without involving other continents of the world. We have to believe and value our capacity. Everything can happen. I remember Rwanda of last 22 years there was nothing attractive. After genocide against Tutsi, the government of national union brought people together for solidarity. The Government taught people about Rwanda and how to overcome problems we were in, thus we succeeded through solidarity.

### **Education and Research**

African youths must study; it is good to be educated to have knowledge and skills of helping Africa and can help us in Job competitions. Research also can contribute in discovering new ideas and theory to practice in Africa. We need intellectual thinking and understanding; this will be reached through experience of what we got from school. To expand our ideas, we have to share with others; we have to share with our friends. Our skills and knowledge need to grow every day, education is something important for Africans, as it will support our research quality. We need excellence education that can help in gaining skills that can support Africans' way of understanding. The skills of how destroying Africa is not required, what we need are skills of changing our Africa. I am saying this because the roots of genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda came from educated people; this education has no sense, skilled people have bright ideas with light of good change. In 1959 Gregoire KAYIBANDA, the president of the first republic of Rwanda said that Rwanda lived by 2 different people with no relation, he continue saying that Tutsi and Hutu has no relation, the country and all properties are for Hutu. This one has been a president of Rwanda, someone headed million of people cannot made like this way his skills has no sense, his knowledge has no contribution. To know more

you can enter Rwanda history. Let have knowledge and skills that can bring positive change in Africa. Let our education be a benefit for Africa, it will be a way of long-lasting success.

### **6. RWANDA AND GENOCIDE AGAINST TUTSI**

Rwanda is among African countries, it met three periods of African history but according to me I want to classify them in five periods:

Pre-colonial Rwanda

Colonial Rwanda

Rwanda of segregation and genocide ideology

Rwanda of genocide period

Rwanda of freedom and democracy

I do not want to talk to the first two periods; I want to talk to second three periods. The first two are like those of Africa in general.

### **RWANDA OF SEGREGATION AND GENOCIDE IDEOLOGY**

This period began in 1959-1993

By reading Rwanda history, you will know how 1959, the house of Tutsi were burnt and their cows eaten without forgetting destruction and damaging their properties. They were not free of education, education were for Hutu especially for native area of presidents of first and second republic. Many Tutsi died during this period.

In 1990 the government of Rwanda of that period began investigation and imagining unreal thing like saying that some of Tutsi who were in Rwanda were helping RPF (Rwanda Patriotic Front) to overcome the government of second republic. They killed many Tutsi in roads, those who were to go to school they did not reach there. From 1990 RPF began liberation war; this time was a very dark period for Tutsi and Hutu who were not in the side of the government ideas. In 1992 number of Tutsi died in Bugesera District and other different parts of the country. From this period also, the government to plan genocide it trained armed force called INTERAHAMWE. Armed force of INTERAHAMWE was trained on how to kill by using traditional materials like

Panga, hoe and others. Tutsi were unvalued people, they were not human being, they were snakes, insects like flies. Tutsi were not Rwandese, they were Ethiopians, and you can wonder in Ethiopia they do not have a tribe of Tutsi, where did they get this? It was only a real hatred for killing Tutsi pointed by colonialists who divided Rwandans. It busted on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1994 the President HABYARIMANA died, after above one million of Tutsi escorted him. The death mayor general Juvenal HABYARIMANA who were the president of Rwanda, was not the cause of genocide or catalyst, they planned genocide before. Some Europeans emphasized that Tutsi were perished because of Habyarimana's death, this is a total untrue message, we may justify this, by means of words talked by HABYARIMANA in 1992, he said: if a glass is full of water and pour water again, the water cannot be stirred, the first water flow out of the glass and poured water stay in. this was because united nations were to ask him to liberate Tutsi who were refugees in neighboring countries to come in their home country Rwanda.

The government limited Tutsi in government policy

The government limited Tutsi in education

In the first republic they grouped them in harmful place of forest to be bitten by tse-tse flies, this is the region of BUGESERA.

The government of second republic emphasized division among Rwandans up to genocide against Tutsi. Africans we have to avoid divisions. Africa is Africa; Africans must be free in Their Africa. We need to share what we have. Those who can teach divisions can be prevented like preventing epidemics. The good vaccine building peace in Africa is solidarity.

#### **RWANDA OF GENOCIDE April-July 1994**

This genocide was planned by the government of Rwanda of first and second republic and all plans were put in action in 1994 in second republic. The death of president cannot cause the death of people, at all if it was demonstrating, they were to

demonstrate to ask how the president's death happened. The government of Rwanda of 1994 instead of planning how to bury their president they said our leader to support us in our plan dies; let us do what he instructed us to avoid enemies (Tutsi).

There was no good end, only killing above one million of Tutsi has been a result of genociders. The government planned genocide using people, Soldiers, armed force called Interahamwe and police all of them were together to perish Tutsi. When people weakened, the Interahamwe, police and soldiers were to help them. Imagine police has a task of security, they were killing, soldiers with a task of country protection, they were also killing, people were killing their friends, husbands, Wives, children and neighbors. This genocide took place in 1994 from 7<sup>th</sup> April to July, only 3 months has been enough to perish above one million of Tutsi. RPF stopped genocide but we are still having genocide consequences.

We have orphans, widows and widowers, and others but the difficult issue is that some Rwandans and countries do not accept genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda. African we have to strive for self reliance. We have to know our continent to avoid segregations that can lead to genocide. During this genocide we missed many people and were important for the country, we missed our brothers who were to support us in some difficulties, our moms has gone like that, Rwanda suffered with this heavy problem. African we have to take a lesson for this Example of Rwanda to avoid divisions. It took energy so that Rwanda solves this heavy burden. RPF saved us and brought us to life we have still now.

#### **RWANDA OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY**

RPF headed by major general Paul KAGAME stopped genocide. After genocide to stop, they rebuild the country, mending infrastructures, helping orphans, widows and widowers. It was a hard task to lead Rwanda of genocide, grief and depression and people who killed others. They

built unity of Rwandans, they changed ID that separated Rwandans to ID that unit them. They created unity and reconciliation commission, they sentenced genociders. Each Rwandan is proud to be Rwandan, people are the same, they are all Rwandans, there is equal right today in Rwanda.

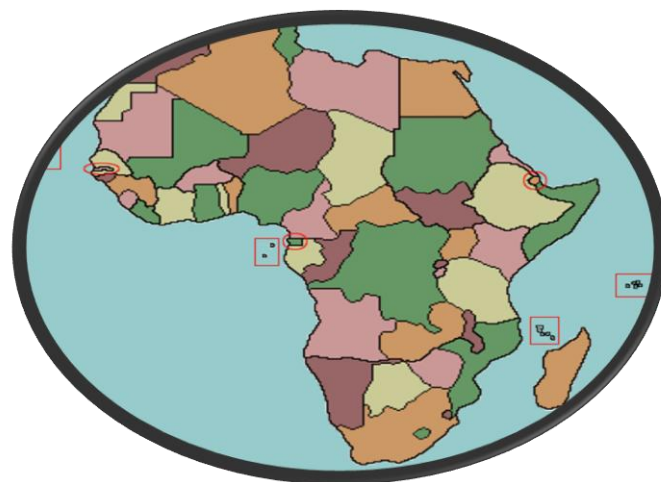
All people get education, government of Rwanda built schools to facilitate education for all Rwandans, government now offers free basic education for all Rwandans, the government of Rwanda today is the government of national union. Rwanda has fast development in all areas such as infrastructures, ICT and others. This shows good politics and leadership of Rwanda, to develop international competitions, Rwanda entered in international organizations like EAC, COMESA, common wealth and others. Today's Rwanda is Rwanda of health and peace. The peace in the country and outside of the country as some soldiers and polices are used in peace keeping in different countries. It is a responsibility of Africans to build Africa; it is a task of Africans to cure Africa as Rwandans built their country themselves. Africa is our home continent.

## CONCLUSION

Africans (Africans countries) can close together to maintain peace and wealth of Africa. Youth Africans are very strong, their effort can produce something important in Africa. We can create associations to avoid internal conflicts among African countries. African countries closed together to fight against colonization, we can also strive for peace, health and development of Africa. It is not always good calling European Union to come and help, We are strong. If you are Kenyan, Tanzanian, Rwandan, Ethiopian,... you have to know that you are all Africans. Africa is in our hands, we are to handle it, ourselves we will support Africa to reach the vision we want, our effort is needed. Handling Africa will not only need effort but also changing direction and understanding (psychological change). Africa will never have problems if we respect it, thus we will be respected. Youth Africans are handlers and

saviors of Africa. As Africans, we have to be handlers of our Africa to make the difference.

## AFRICA



## Author Profile



**Author:** Dr Callixte YADUFASHIJE (PhD)

**Position:** DVC for academic affairs

**Institution:** Rusizi International University

**Vision:** Interest of others to change the World

**Slogan:**

- Thinking
- Understanding

I always think about changes, the change that can lead to positive results. Many days, I used thinking about Rwanda my home place, analyzing its history brought sadness and unhappy situation in my soul, I analyzed the period of Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda and the mind became absent. After this I came to history of Rwanda after genocide and how Rwandans are in peace today, thus I became happy for this success. I

acknowledge those who strove for Rwanda liberation, they struggled to stop genocide and some lost their lives God will bless them, and we always imitate their good Example. Africa must take example of Rwanda so that we build Africa of peace and solidarity. I used advising in my papers, this paper is written to remind African about them and also helping other nations to prevent things that can interrupt solidarity of people, because it can lead to bad situations. Wish you success.