

**ROLE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE NATIONAL
CONFLICTS OF THE THIRD WORLD REFLECTED IN
TERRY GEORGE'S *HOTEL RWANDA* MOVIE:
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Hotel Rwanda (2004) was a historical movie that was released on September 11th, 2004, ten years after the humanitarian tragedy happened on April 6th, 1994 in Rwanda. Terry George as the director together with A. Kitman Ho, produced that movie and together with Keir Pearson wrote the script of the movie. Through the scenario, Terry portrayed the sorrow of Rwandans at that time. He also showed the intervention and role of developed countries in the national conflicts of Rwanda that caused the civil war and the genocide. Genocidal that happened in Rwanda as the impact of the national conflict. Genocide is the deliberate and systematic destruction of an ethnic, religious or national group (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocide>). Lions Gate Films and United Artist distributed that movie. It was starred by Don Cheadle as Paul Rusesabagina, Sophie Okonedo as Tatiana Rusesabagina, Joaquin Phoenix as Jack Daghish the cameraman, and Nick Nolte as Colonel Oliver. Its duration is about 121 minutes. This movie was nominated for three: Best Actor (Don Cheadle), Best Supporting Actress (Sophie Okonedo) and Best Original Screenplay for Terry George and Keir Pearson. It was also nominated for Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Original Song “Million Voices” in Golden Globe.

The real life story of Paul made Terry George interested in writing a script about national conflict of Rwanda then filming it. Terry George was a Northern Irish filmmaker. He was born on December 20th, 1952 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK. He ever faced deportation from the United States but was allowed to remain following Irish – American lobbying efforts on his behalf. He was obsessed making documentary because he was obsessed by historical trauma. He spent one year writing the first draft of the script. Much of his film work involved the troubles in several countries such as *The Boxer*, *Some Mother's Son* (1996), and *In the Name of Father* (1993) that involved some turbulences in Northern Ireland and *Hotel Rwanda* (2004) that involved civil war in Rwanda in 1994. His other works were *Reservation Road* (2007), *Hart's War* (2002), *A Bright Shinning Lie* (1998), and many others.

The movie is telling about the tension and the conflict between Hutu and Tutsi that are erupted when President Habyarimana's plan was shot down after signing a historic peace agreement in Tanzania. That incident was used by Hutu military as a motivating catalyst for the action against Tutsi. Paul married a Tutsi, named Tatiana. He used all of his efforts to save his family and his Tutsi neighbors from slaughtering that was done by Hutu and Interhamwe under George Rutaganda rule. Paul spent all of his treasures to save the refugees and protect them in the hotel. He saved 1268 refugees from genocidal by engaging negotiations.

The *Hotel Rwanda* movie is very interesting. There are three points that make this movie becomes an epic, those are; it relates to the historical

event of Rwanda in 1994, its cinematography, characters and scenes are going smoothly, and it presents the role of developed countries in the national conflicts of the third world.

Hotel Rwanda was a historical movie because it presented an event that happened in Rwanda in 1994. It portrayed of sorrow that must be faced by the people in the middle of conflict. The cinematography brings us in the journey to Rwanda. It took us over as we were watching it by ourselves. It makes the emotion of audiences were going along with Paul (Don Cheadle) all the time. The acting is superb, excellent and the story is emotionally gripping. The performance of Don Cheadle, as Paul, is worth price of admission. The rest of the mostly black cast is excellent. The film has the documentary feeling and seems hard to get into but after only 5 minutes, we get inside Rwanda and live the strong story of survival and heroic. The film's cinematography and editing are well down. *Hotel Rwanda* is a truly moving, stunning and inspirational masterpiece. Paul Rusesabagina and Tatiana were the people who ever lived in the middle of conflict and civil war. They had to survive from the bloody conflict that must be faced by them. And eventually, Paul has saved about 1.268 refugees into the hotel successfully.

The role of developed countries influences the erupted of the conflict. The national conflict that happened in Rwanda reflected in *Hotel Rwanda* was really influenced by the west intervention and the developed countries' role. Belgian Colonists had a powerful influence and an important role in Rwanda. As a colonizer, Belgium applied "*divide et impera*" policy to divisive and

break the relationship between Hutu and Tutsi. When Belgium took over of Rwanda administration from Germany, Belgium put the ethnic identity card system into effect to differentiate the Hutus and the Tutsis. The Belgians considered that Tutsis were taller people with the thinner noses and lighter skin than the Hutus. They were also more European, honorable and more elegant than Hutus, so that the Belgians entrusted the government administration to them. The difference that was created by Belgians brings about jealousy for Hutus. But when the Belgians left from Rwanda, they left the power to Hutus and of course the Hutus took revenge on the elite Tutsis.

French was the only one of the developed countries that supported the Hutus action in taking revenge. In the early, French was afraid upon losing its influence in Rwanda so that they exploited the conflict situation between the Hutus and the Tutsis in order to strengthen its existence in Rwanda. They acted as the armament supplier for Hutu militia, named Interhamwe that was led by George Rutaganda, a Hutu extremist. When many refugees that were evacuated in the Mille Collines hotel by Paul Rusesabagina needed some helps, French sent its forces but only to evacuate foreign nationals and journalists who were guests there. All the whites left the hotel the French, the Italians and even the U.N. Belgian soldiers. Rwandans had been abandoned by the west. Colonel Oliver led the U.N. soldier to stand guard in the Mille Collines hotel. They protected the refugees from slaughtering but they were not allowed to shoot the Interhamwe. Here, the U.N. as peacekeepers not as peacemakers. There was no intervention from the west no

more especially French and Belgium to stop the Interhamwe violence. Rwanda was worthless enough to be saved because it worthless for them. While General Bizimungu, the leader of Hutu army that should be a peacekeeper just kept silent. He would stop the rebels as long as he got bribe of money, beers and whiskey from Paul. Paul compelled general to help him to save his family and the refugees and would suppose the general as a war criminal unless he stopped the Interhamwe from slaughtering the refugees.

Considering all about the explanation above, the writer is interested to analyze the genocidal in Rwanda entitled: **“ROLE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE NATIONAL CONFLICTS OF THE THIRD WORLD REFLECTED IN TERRY GEORGE’S *HOTEL RWANDA* MOVIE: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH”**.

B. Literature Review

As long as the writer knows, there is no previous researcher that conducts to study Terry George’s *Hotel Rwanda* movie at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. So this study is the first study. Further, in this study, the writer studies Terry George’s *Hotel Rwanda* based on the sociological approach.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the research background above, the researcher proposes the problem of the study as: “How is the role of developed countries in the

national conflicts that is happened in Rwanda reflected in Terry George's *Hotel Rwanda*".

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer will focus on the role of developed countries in the national conflicts of Rwanda reflected in *Hotel Rwanda* by using Sociological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the studies are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on the Sociological Approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

By presenting this research, the writer hopes that there will be some benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study gives additional information to literature research especially those dealing with Terry George's *Hotel Rwanda*.

2. Practical Benefit

This study can develop the writer's skill and ability in applying the Sociological Approach in Terry George's *Hotel Rwanda*.

G. Research Method

1. Type of Study

Type of this study is descriptive qualitative study.

2. Object of the Study

The researcher took *Hotel Rwanda* movie and its script as the object of the study.

3. Type of Data and Data Sources

The types of data in this study are texts and scenes of the movie. The text consists of dialogues, words, phrases and sentences.

There are two data sources, namely primary and secondary data sources:

a. Primary Data Sources

Primary data sources are taken from the *Hotel Rwanda* movie and its script that is downloaded from www.imdb.com

b. Secondary Data Sources

Secondary data sources are gained from the biography of the author, the history of Rwanda, the theory of sociological approach books and other relevant information that are related to the study and also website about Terry George's *Hotel Rwanda* movie.

4. Technique of Data Collection

The collecting data technique is done by library research. The data are collected from books and articles related to the topic. There are 6 techniques of data collecting, as follows:

- a. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly.
- b. Reading the movie script to get more understanding.
- c. Reading some related references to observe the theory, data and information.
- d. Making notes of important part and both primary and secondary data sources.
- e. Classifying the data into some categories.
- f. Arranging and developing the selected data.

5. Technique of Data Analysis

The writer employs descriptive analysis in analyzing the data through sociological approach. Here, the writer tries to describe the structural elements of the movie and sociological analysis. Hence the collected data will be interpreted and analyzed in detail through sociological approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

In order to make the research is easier to follow; this research paper is organized into six chapters. Chapter I is introduction which explains the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory that consists of notion of sociology, the major principles of sociology, theoretical application

and the structural element of the movie. Chapter III includes the social historical background of American society in the early twenty-first century. Chapter IV will cover the structural analysis of the movie. Chapter V is sociological analysis. Chapter VI contains conclusion and suggestion.