



Burundi: Opportunities for Peace-building



- Burundi
- History of Burundi
- My perspective on conflicts in Burundi
- Needs for Peace-building
- Opportunities of peace-building



Burundi: Violence

- There have been many violent conflicts in Burundi

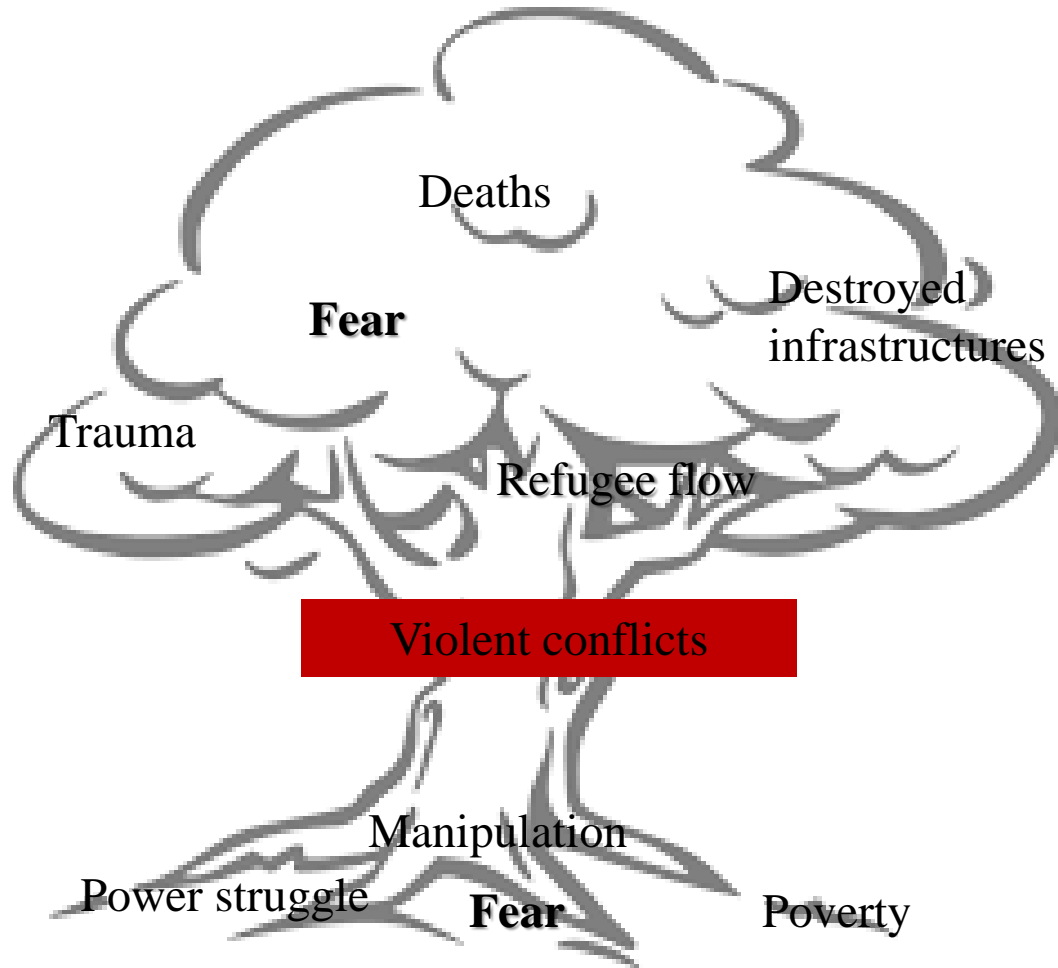
Most of those conflicts were **ethnically-based**.

Mainly in 1972 against Hutu people and mainly in 1993 against Tutsi people (after the assassination of the first democratically-elected Hutu President, H.E. Melchior Ndadaye)

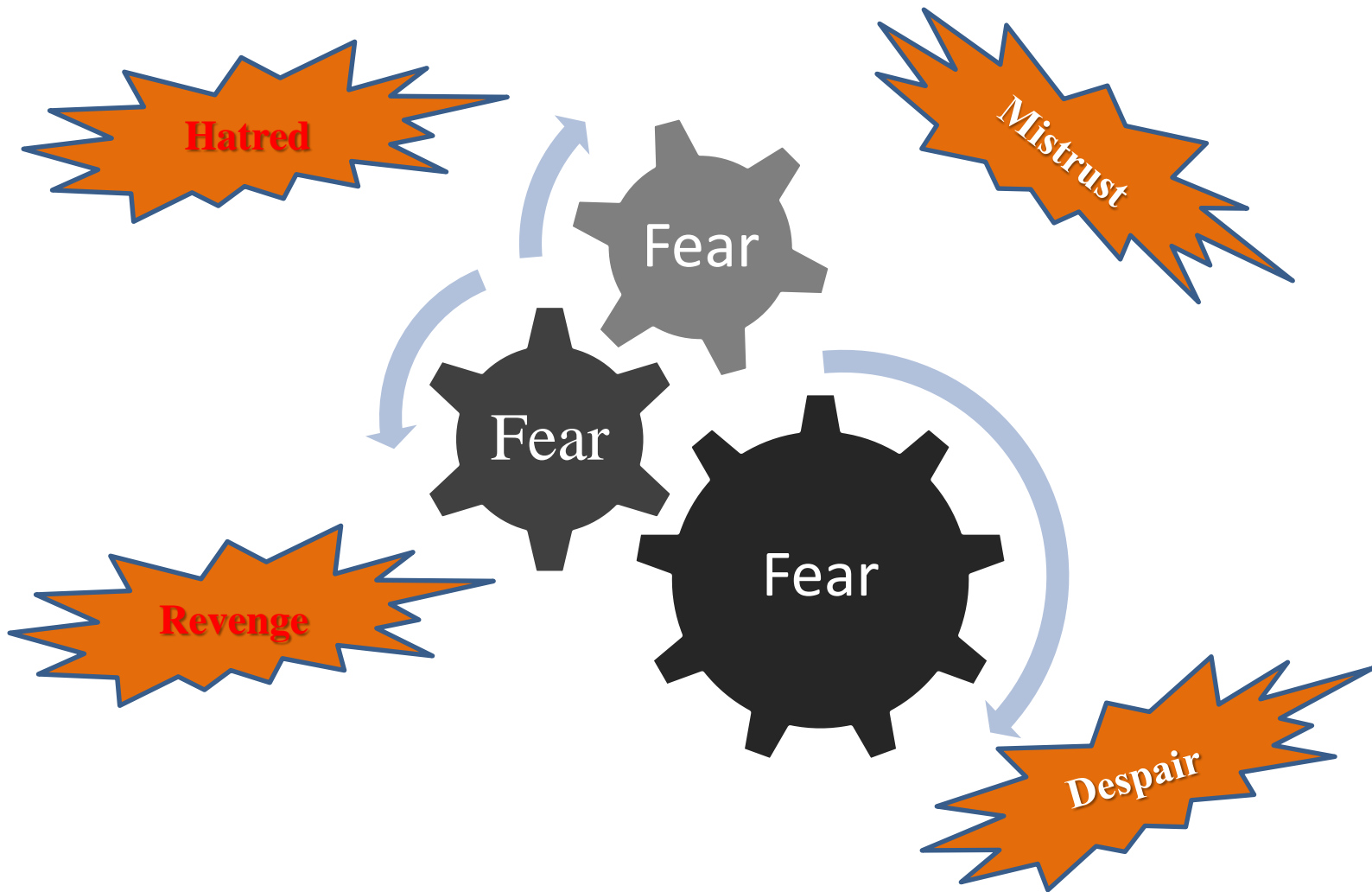
- In 2003, the Arusha Peace Agreement was signed between the government and rebel groups (power sharing).
- The political outbreak of 2015 is considered as a crisis by some and not by others. In Burundi, the year 2015 was marked by protests against the third term of President Peter Nkurunziza from April, a failed coup d'état in May and elections in August.



Conflict Tree



F
E
A
R



“Me” in the conflict

- **Characteristics:** Violence often happens on all sides involved in the conflict

I chose to be *neutral*.

- I know people from different categories involved in the conflicts.
- I am not *passive* neither. I chose to be a *peace-builder*.

Needs

- ✓ People's well-being: Young people need skills and jobs.
- ✓ Dealing with the past: story-telling and repentance and apology
- ✓ Dialogue (if you are right, why not listening? Anyway, you are right)
- ✓ Commemoration
- *Peace-building has to respond to needs, consequences but also root causes of the conflicts*



Possibilities of Peace-building

- i. The Arusha Peace Agreement is an example that Burundian conflicts can be settled. We can use it to inspire confidence in the possibility of peace.

- ✓ *Reconciliation*
- ✓ *Development*
- ✓ *Establishment of strong institutions*



ii. Raising awareness on the past to
prepare a brighter future



iii. Story telling



E.g.:

- ✓ *Peace circles,*
- ✓ *Vigils,*
- ✓ *Commemoration days*
- ✓ *Healing (group therapy for example)*

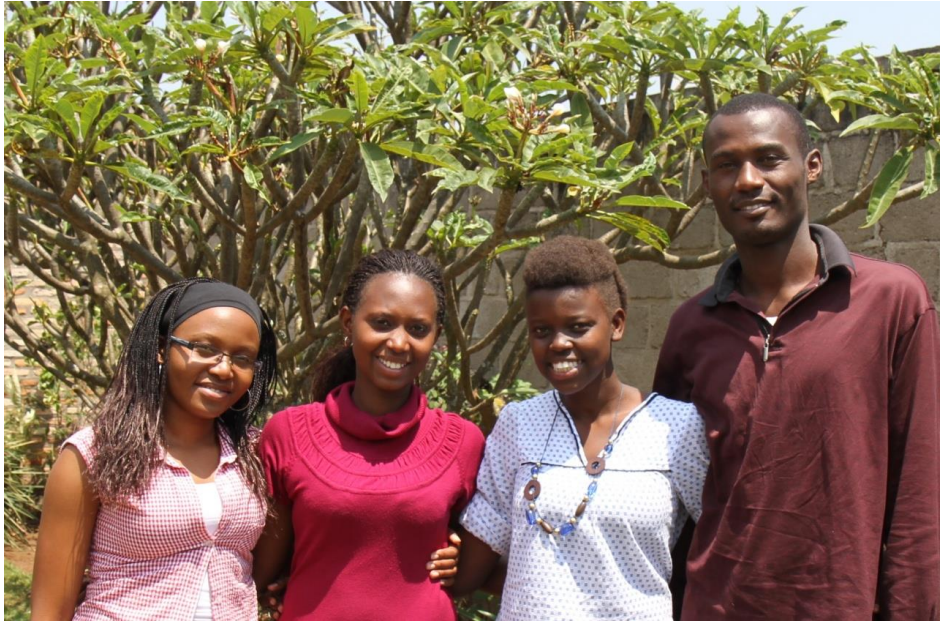
iv. Peace education

E.g.: Critical thinking

- ✓ *Young people*
- ✓ *In schools*
- ✓ *In communities*



v. Young peace practitioners



E.g.:

✓ *Research*

✓ *Grassroots' peace initiatives*

- ✓ We need to believe in non-violence and give it a chance.
- ✓ When there is violence, wishes for more violence germinate in our hearts. Being able to overcome anger and pulses of revenge is a what we need to strive for.
- ✓ “There are many reasons I am ready to die for, but there is no cause I am ready to kill for” – Mahatma Gandhi



CONCLUSION

Arigato gozaimashita!!!

