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**The Challenging Role of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in Promoting Peace
in Africa and the Aftermath of the Rwanda Genocide (1994 – 2014)**

(SUMMARY OF THE THESIS, 2025)

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Background to the Study: The evolution of international organisations as institutional actors reflect the shifting dynamics of global governance, particularly in the contexts of conflict prevention and resolution, as well as peacekeeping. Among these organisations, the United Nations (UN) has played a central role, with its Security Council (UNSC) standing as a key instrument for maintaining international peace and security. The UNSC's mandate and actions have evolved in response to various global challenges, revealing both the strengths and limitations of collective security mechanisms.

Research Objectives: This study aims to comprehend how the UNSC's conflict resolution strategies and multilateral security approach have enhanced effective peacekeeping operations in Africa, particularly in Rwanda.

Contributions to Knowledge: The existing studies on the Rwanda conflict have inevitably left many questions unanswered, as there is a host of contending issues emanating from the contradictions underpinning the efforts to keep peace in Rwanda since 1994. The twenty-year review of the post-genocide efforts of the UNSC to keep peace in Rwanda provides unique insights into the long-term institutional efforts and capacity concerning conflict management and resolution.

Summary: This thesis contains eight (8) chapters, focused on the challenging role of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in promoting peace in Africa and the aftermath of the Rwanda genocide (1994 – 2014). The major powers, including the permanent members of the UNSC (P5), resolved after the Rwandan conflict of 1994 that the only way to compensate Africa, particularly the global community at large, is to make an amendment.

Chapter One sets out the outline of the study, comprising the background to the study and a statement of the problem, the research questions and research objectives, the significance of the study, showing its relevance to contemporary scholarship and policy focus, presumed contribution to the study, motivation for the study, and chapter synopsis.

Chapter 2 provided a background to UN peacekeeping missions. The chapter also provides a historical review of the 1994 Rwanda Genocide. The chapter explored the concepts of peace, peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding in international relations. The chapter discussed the intervention of the UNSC in the Rwandan conflict. It also examined the role of the UNSC vis-à-vis other key players in the Rwandan post-genocide conflicts. Importantly, it unveils the lessons drawn from the UNSC's peacekeeping approaches as discovered in the literature.

Chapter 3 grappled with the realist theory and the interest-based negotiation model. The chapter examined the historical background, tenets, contextual application and critiques of both the realist and the interest-based negotiation model. The chapter also illustrates how the theories capture the dynamics of conflict resolution and peacekeeping in the aftermath of the Rwanda genocide through the synchronisation of the two theories without losing sight of the role of grassroots institutions and local agencies. Therefore, the focus of the study is defined in chapters one, two and three. Chapter 3 focused on the theoretical perspective of the study.

Chapter 4 is rooted in the methodology of the study. The methodology discusses the empirical focus of the study in line with the adopted research methods. The chapter conceptualised the concept of methodology, and engages the conceptual meaning of qualitative research. It crystallised the research design and illustrates the reason why these methods were adopted, and supplements some quantitative data through research instruments, like key informant interviews, open-ended qualitative online questionnaires, and documentary reviews.

Chapter 5 examined UN's peacekeeping projects in Africa, highlighting the institutional, normative, and operational challenges faced since the early 1990s. The UN has played a significant role in peacekeeping efforts in Africa since the end of the Cold War, with the UNSC being a major organ. However, there are differing perspectives on the UN's involvement in Africa, with some viewing it as necessary for stability and others criticising it as a neocolonial agenda.

Chapter 6 examined UN's role in managing conflicts in post-genocide Rwanda, focusing on its strengths and weaknesses. The research questions are based on data from key informant interviews, open-ended online questionnaires, and documentary analysis of relevant literature, archival records, books, and online sources. The second theme, The Impact of the UNSC Peacekeeping in Post-Genocide Rwanda (1994–2014), is explored.

Chapter 7 grappled with the take-home lessons from the UNSC's peacekeeping efforts during and after the genocide in Rwanda. The chapter nuanced some strategies to bolster peacebuilding, not just in the post-genocide Rwanda, but across Africa and the globe.

Policy Recommendations

Chapter 8 discusses policy recommendations based on the findings in the discussion chapters, which explored the thesis title – the role and impact of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in post-genocide Rwanda (1994–2014) and broader peacekeeping efforts in Africa. The following are the proposed policy recommendations:

- (a) Reform UNSC Peacekeeping Mandates
- (b) Strengthen Regional Partnership
- (c) Institutionalise Local Participation in Peace Processes
- (d) Prioritise Humanitarian and Human Rights Concerns
- (e) Renew African Peace Infrastructure and Capacity
- (f) Early-Warning Mechanism, Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Mechanisms
- (g) Evaluation of Past Commitments and Promotion of Strategic Political Reforms.