

**RWANDA'S FOREIGN POLICY:  
FROM *LA FRANCOPHONIE* PIVOT TO THE  
COMMONWEALTH IN 2009**

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**



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## ENDORSEMENT PAGE

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This undergraduate thesis has been examined and endorsed by the board of examiners from the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta

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## STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that this undergraduate thesis entitled “**Rwanda’s Foreign Policy: From *La Francophonie* Pivot to the Commonwealth in 2009**” is my own work, and that to the best of my knowledge, this undergraduate thesis has not been submitted for any degree or other purposes, at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta or other institutions.

I certify that the intellectual content of this undergraduate thesis is original. All kind of assistances received in compiling this undergraduate thesis and the cited sources have been duly acknowledged.

I made this statement truthfully and in case of any discrepancy found in this statement in the future, I am willing to accept academic sanction and be processed in accordance with the applicable provisions at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta.

Yogyakarta, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

Amalia Nurul Hutami

## EPIGRAPH

*Iqra'! Bacalah! Read!*

– (QS. Al – Alaq: 1)

*Fa inna ma'al 'usri yusra. Inna ma'al 'usri yusra*

For indeed, along with every hardship is relief.

Indeed, along with every hardship is relief.

– (QS. Insyirah: 5-6)

Time will pass anyway whether you take action or not.

Just try. You'll see.

– *Unknown*

*La vraie générosité envers l'avenir consiste  
à tout donner au présent*

Real generosity towards the future lies in  
giving all to the present.

– *Albert Camus*

He who has a *why* to live can bear almost any *how*.

– *Friedrich Nietzsche*

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Herewith, I present my undergraduate thesis. May the light and knowledge be with us.

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Amalia Nurul Hutami

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CCM	Center for Conflict Management
CFAO	<i>Compagnie Française de l'Afrique Occidentale</i>
CFTC	Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CHRI	Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
FFRP	<i>Forum des Femmes Rwandaises Parlementaires</i>
GBS	General Budget Support
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICJ	International Court of Justice
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MNRD	<i>Mouvement Révolutionnaire National pour le Développement</i>
NRA	National Resistance Army
OIF	<i>Organisation Internationale de La Francophonie</i>
RPA	Rwandan Patriotic Army
RPF	Rwandan Patriotic Front
SIS	Secret Intelligence Service
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations

## ABSTRACT

*The historical background of Rwanda tracked from the colonization era has played a prominent role in determining Rwanda's foreign policy. The set of distinction between two indigenous groups—Hutu and Tutsi—in Rwanda had led them into a conflict and political turmoil as well as designated the inclination of each group on allies. The Hutu-Francophone had been the close ally of France since its independence and automatically became the part of Organisation Internationale de La Francophonie (OIF) as it established French as its official language. In contrast, the Tutsi started having an inclination with the United Kingdom during their exile in African Anglo-Saxon countries. Once the Tutsi seized in power, Rwanda's political direction was gradually shifting. Rwanda became the member of the Commonwealth in 2009 despite Rwanda never had a historical connection with British imperialism. This research aims at investigating the foreign policy shift of Rwanda as the part of La Francophonie pivot to the Commonwealth in 2009. The method used in this research is qualitative method by using secondary data such as books, articles, journals, official documents, reports and other literary sources. It is found that the shift of Rwanda's foreign policy was influenced by the political transition in Rwanda's domestic politics, its economy condition post-genocide, and the international context which included Rwanda's geography as well as the role of the United Kingdom in aiding Rwanda's state-building post-genocide.*

**Keywords:** *Rwanda, Foreign policy shift, La Francophonie, Commonwealth*

## **LIST OF TABLE**

Table 3.1 Women’s Representation on Standing .....	44
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## **LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1.1 Scheme of Foreign Policy Decision-making Process .....	6
Figure 3.2 Map of Rwanda .....	29
Figure 4.3 Rwanda’s Economic Growth .....	54
Figure 4.4 Rwanda’s Bordering Countries .....	57
Figure 4.5 Top Donors to Rwanda Post-genocide.....	62

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>UNDERGRADUATE THESIS .....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>ENDORSEMENT PAGE .....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>EPIGRAPH.....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>EXTENDED GRATITUDE .....</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLE.....</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
A. Background .....	1
B. Research Question.....	4
C. Theoretical Framework .....	4
D. Hypothesis .....	12
E. Research Methodology.....	13
F. Research Objectives .....	13
G. Research Limitations .....	13
H. Thesis Outlines.....	14

<b>CHAPTER II RWANDA, FRANCE AND ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE.....</b>	<b>15</b>
A. Rwanda-France Initial Relation.....	15
B. Rwanda and Organisation Internationale de La Francophonie .....	18
C. Rwanda-France Diplomatic Crisis .....	19
D. The Restoration of Rwanda-France Diplomatic Relation .....	23
<b>CHAPTER III RWANDA, BRITISH AND THE COMMONWEALTH .....</b>	<b>26</b>
A. The Origin of Rwandan Patriotic Front: British Implicit Role.....	26
B. Commonwealth Membership Criteria .....	31
C. Rwanda’s Efforts to Join the Commonwealth... 35	
1. Recognize Queen Elizabeth II .....	36
2. The Establishment of English as the Official Language of Rwanda .....	37
3. Human Rights Enforcement .....	40
4. Democracy and Gender Equality Enforcement.....	42
<b>CHAPTER IV FROM <i>LA FRANCOPHONIE</i> PIVOT TO THE COMMONWEALTH.....</b>	<b>46</b>
A. The Domestic Politics .....	46
1. Paul Kagame’s Background .....	46

2. Political Transition.....	49
a. Rwanda under the Hutu-Francophone Leader .....	49
b. The Rising of Tutsi-Anglophone .....	51
B. Economy Condition.....	53
C. International Context.....	56
1. Rwanda’s Geography.....	57
2. United Kingdom Foreign Aid on Rwanda’s State-building.....	60
<b>CHAPTER V CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>69</b>