1A. THE CRY FREETOWN; THE SIERRA LEONE CIVIL WAR

It was a civil war that began in 23 march 1991 when the revolutionary united front with support from the Charles taylor’s national patriotic front of Liberia intervened in sierra leone in an attempt to overthrow the joseph momoh government. The war lasted for 11 years and left 50,000 dead people during that period. It was a war characterized by many factors from the political aspects, the struggle for governmental positions, possession of natural resources etc.

B. It was uploaded on 2nd October, 2018 by serious samura. The civil war documentary was hosted to CNN for broadcasting.

C. During the first year of the war, the RUF took control of large swathes of territory in eastern and southern sierra leone, which were rich in alluvial diamonds. The government’s ineffective response to the RUF, and the disruption in government diamond production, precipitated a military coupe d’etat in April 1992 by the National provisional ruling council (NPRC). By the end of 1993, the sierra leone army (SLA) had succeeded in pushing the RUF rebels back to the liberian border, but the RUF recovered and fighting continued. In march 1995, executive outcome a south African -based private military company, was hired to repel the RUF. Sierra leone installed an elective civilian government in march 1996, and the retreating RUF signed the Abidjan peace accord under UN pressure, the government terminated its contract with EO before the accord could be implemented, and hostilities recommenced. In may 1997, a group of disgruntled SLA officers staged a coup and established the Armed forces revolutionary council (AFRC) as the new government of sierra leone. The RUF joined with the AFRC to capture freetown with little resistance. The new government, led by jonny paul declared the war over. A wave of looting, rape, and murder followed the announcement. Reflecting international dismay at the overturning of the civilian government, ECOMOG forces intervened and retook freetown on behalf of the government, but they found the outlying regions more difficult to pacify.

In January 1999, world leaders intervened diplomatically to promote negotiations between the RUF and the government. The Lome peace Accord, signed on 27 march 1999, was the result. Lome gave Foday sako the commander of the RUF, the vice presidency and control of sierra Leone’s diamond mines in return for a cessation of the fighting and the deployment of a UN peace keeping force to monitor the disarmament process. RUF compliance with the disarmament process was inconsistent and sluggish, and by may 2000, the rebels were advancing again upon freetown. The causes of the war are;

* The struggle for natural resources (diamonds)
* Greed
* Political history
* The demographics of rebel recruitment

The implication for this bloody civil war was the loss of lives it accumulated and diamonds have been critical in financing the continual pattern of corruption and personal aggrandizement at the expense of needed public services, institutions, and infrastructure. The phenomenon whereby countries with an abundance of natural resources tend to nonetheless be characterized by lower levels of economic development is known as the resource curse. The presence of diamonds in sierra leone invited and led to the civil war in several ways. First, the highly unequal benefits resulting from diamond mining made ordinary sierra leoneans frustrated.

Diamonds also helped t arm the RUF rebels who used funds harvested from the alluvial diamond mines to purchase weapons and ammunition from neighboring nations like Guinea, Liberia and even SLA soldiers, but the most significant connection between diamonds and war is that the presence of easily extractable diamonds provided an incentive for violence. To maintain control of important mining districts like kono, thousands of civilians were expelled and kept away from these economic centers.

D. The documentary is well captured and categorized whereby it tells every bit of the sierra Leonean civil war and making sure that the world sees what is happening there. The RUF group and other neighboring nations who were meant to help seize the war did no do their job properly instead instigated in the continuation of the war which is seen as one of the major critiques of the war. Another one is the greed and lack of responsibilities from the government and the politicians, who were only concerned about the nation’s natural resources as well as positions in offices.