

# Burundi: A Brief Historical Overview

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# Burundi



<https://www.africa-confidential.com/browse-by-country/id/6/Burundi>



<http://extension.wsu.edu/4h/youth/global-4-h/burundi/>

# Do you know them?



Picture taken at Bujumbura on November 2010 by the author.



<http://www.leramobile.com/content/54226/Burundi-president-Pierre-Nkurunziza-sworn-in-for-third-term/>

# Important dates in Burundi

- Precolonial kingdom since 17c
- A part of German East Africa
- Ruanda-Urundi: LN mandate / UN trust territory, controlled by Belgium.
- Sept. 1961: First election. Victory of UPRONA.
- Oct. 1961: Assassination of the Prince L. Rwagasore.
- July 1962: Independence of Burundi
- Nov. 1966: Destitution of the King. The Tutsi-led army took power.
- 1972: Mass murder of Hutu
- June 1993: Election. Victory of M. Ndadaye (FRODEBU) (Murdered in Nov., Civil War)
- 2000: Arusha Peace Agreement (System of power sharing)
- 2005: Election. Victory of P. Nkurunziza (CNDD-FDD)
- 2015: Third term problem.

# Tutsi and Hutu

- Constitute the population of Burundi
  - Minority(Tutsi) and majority (Hutu), Twa (1%)
  - No difference in language, religion, and residential areas.
- Transformation during the colonial period
  - Clarifying membership of each group.
  - Rising Inter-group tensions.
- Difference between Rwanda and Burundi
  - Burundi had had more decentralized political structure.
  - UPRONA was a nation-wide anti-colonialism political party under Rwagasore.

# Transformation of the two political parties

- UPRONA
  - Nationalist party claiming independence
  - Nation-wide supports under the leadership of Rwagasore
  - Hijacked by the Tutsi-led army
- CNDD-FDD
  - Biggest Hutu armed group during the civil war in the 1990s
  - Power-sharing after the Arusha Peace Agreement
  - Power consolidation by the core of Hutu rebel group