

Rwanda

Rice

Rwanda was granted independence from Belgium on 1 July 1962. Prior to that date, Rwanda had been granted internal autonomy by the Belgians, which allowed for the formation of a government led by the Democratic Republican Movement-Party for the Hutu Emancipation Movement (MDR-PARMEH). After independence, Grégoire Kayibanda, the leader of the MDR-PARMEH, became President. From 1962 until 1973, Geddes classifies Rwanda as a single-party state. Kayibanda remained in office for that entire period.

In 1973, after several years of government inefficiency and corruption, Kayibanda's government was overthrown by a military coup led by Major General Juvenal Habyarimana (United States Department of State). After dissolving the National Assembly and abolishing the MDR-PARMEH, Habyarimana created the National Revolutionary Movement for Development (MRND), and established a regime that Geddes classifies as being a military/personalist hybrid. Habyarimana was reelected President several times, although he was the only candidate in the elections. In 1990, Rwandan exiles banded together to form the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and invaded Rwanda from their base in Uganda. Their war against the Rwandan government lasted until 1992, when a ceasefire was signed and political negotiations began.

In April 1994, Habyarimana was on a plane with the Burundian President when it was shot down, killing both men. Upon Habyarimana's death, the mass killings of members of the Tutsi ethnic group began—the beginnings of the Rwandan genocide. Leadership of the country passed to Théodore Sindikubwabo, a member of the MRNDD (Republican Movement for National Democracy and for Development--the new name for the MRND) who was named Acting President. This is not a SOLS change, as he was from the same party as Habyarimana and was not officially the President. Sindikubwabo was the leader of Rwanda throughout the genocide period, which lasted from April until July of 1994.

The RPF, which had battalions stationed throughout Rwanda, came under attack after Habyarimana's death. They moved to the northern part of the country and once again began to wage war, leading to a civil war that ran alongside the genocide. The RPF quickly defeated the Rwandan Army, and took the capital city, Kigali, on July 16, 1994. This ended both the war and the genocide. The RPF organized a coalition government that Geddes classifies as being a single party/military hybrid (that continues into the present day). Bizimungu ruled at the conclusion of the war. Kagame was the Vice-President in Bizimungu's government, and was elected President in 2000, so therefore the spreadsheet is missing a leader. Kagame became President after Bizimungu resigned in 2000, and remains in office in the present day. Kagame was the leader of the RPF throughout the period, though, and is considered the effective leader by Archigos.

References

United States Department of State. "Country Background Note: Rwanda". Last edited 20 August 2010.
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