

## SAMPLE: COUNTRY PORTRAIT



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<b>Official Name:</b>	<b>Republic of Burundi (Republika y'u Burundi / Republique du Burundi)</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Central Africa, between the Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania.
<b>Size:</b>	About the size of Maryland.
<b>Capital:</b>	Bujumbura.
<b>Population:</b>	8,990,000 (July 2009 estimate).
<b>Political System:</b>	Republic: President w/2 VPs (1 Tutsi, 1 Hutu), w/cabinet (appointed by the President), and bicameral legislature.
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b>	Hutu (Bantu), 85%; Tutsi (Hamitic), 14%; Twa (Pygmy), 1%; Europeans, other.
<b>Language(s) spoken:</b>	<i>Kirundi</i> (official); <i>French</i> (official); <i>Swahili</i> (along Lake Tanganyika and in the Bujumbura area)
<b>Religion(s):</b>	<i>Christian (Roman Catholic)</i> , 67%; indigenous beliefs, 23%; <i>Muslim</i> , 10%.
<b>Challenges:</b>	Rwanda (borders: Akanyaru/Kanyaru and Kagera/Nyabarongo rivers); internal conflict (Tutsi vs. Hutu); refugees (from Congo); trafficking people (servitude and sex exploitation)

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<b>Family:</b>	<i>Patriarchal</i> , closely knit, extended (the trend is toward smaller families because of overcrowding); many marriages continue to be arranged; some <i>polygyny</i> persists, despite religious objections; often grooms must pay the family of the bride a <i>bride price</i> to marry her; all children are taught from an early age discipline and respect for their elders; children care for their parents when they get old.
<b>Gender roles:</b>	<i>GG</i> : c. 118 <sup>th</sup> /130; parity: 61%. A male-dominant society; decisions and finances are vested in men; the women's responsibilities are to rear the children, care for the home, and handle all domestic chores, such as collect wood, fetch water, cook, et al.; older girls tend to look after their younger siblings and help their mothers with the household duties.
<b>Proxemics:</b>	Short: men/women shake hands (limp); family members and friends often touch each other's cheek three times; friends of the same sex hug firmly by grasping each other's shoulders; there is good to fair eye contact between persons of equal stature, but furtive otherwise.

- Caveats:** The elderly are revered and given priority in all settings; they make decisions for their family/group. Disciplining children is the responsibility of the parents, the extended family, and their friends and acquaintances; failure to correct bad behavior implies shirking one's responsibility to the community. Owning cattle is a status symbol; to wish one "herds" is to wish for health and good fortune. Christians baptize their babies one month after birth. Visits are never announced; people simply show up. Children are trafficked for soldiering, domestic servitude, agricultural labor, or commercial sexual exploitation.
- Education:** (Please, consult Part II).
- Dates** *SD:* 8/12/2009; *LD:* 8 December 2009.
- Numbers** *DD:* comma (3,14); *TS:* space (1 234 567); *NN:* *LS,*  $10^9 = \text{billion}$
- Time:** 24-hr Clock: 13:15. GMT: +2.
- Name structure:** Male/Female: Before colonization: surname only, given by parents at birth: either the father's, or the mother's, or a totally different surname; most surnames incorporate the word "mana" (=God) in them: i.e., Hakizimana (=God cures), Nshimirimana (I thank God), or Havyarimana/Habyarimana (God gives birth), but others do not: i.e., Inamuganuro, Bugabo, Ntare. After colonization (and baptisms), given names (usually French) were added: i.e., Dieudonne Kwizera, Pierre Nkurunziza. A married woman keeps her full name. On official records, surnames precede given names: Inamuganuro, Jean Paul.
- Diet:** A cuisine based primarily on grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables: sorghum, maize, wheat, beans, plantains, and palm oil are staples; the traditional dish of choice is red kidney beans and rice; some meat (beef and, occasionally antelope and monkey) are also eaten either boiled, in stew w/greens, or *en brochette*; chicken is more common (*Boko Boko Harees*); fish from Lake Tanganyika (more affordable), usually fried or w/greens; *chapatti* bread; dairy products (milk, cream); dates and bananas with cream and sugar; water, coffee, tea, banana beer and banana wine (both are traditional alcoholic beverages).
- Body Language:** Gesticulation is common along with an animated voice; one points with arm extended, hand open, with palm upward; it is rude to point with the index finger; one beckons with palm down, and says good bye with palm up or by a waving hand; not establishing eye contact may be a way to show respect for the elderly or important persons.
- Punctuality:** Lax generally, more so in social settings.
- Cultural Patterns:** A two-tier society: the Tutsis, the minority that controls political and economic power and the Hutus, the subservient majority that lives in abject poverty; there is mutual dislike, mistrust and fear between the two; the 15-year Hutu rebellions have cost dearly: over 300,000 lives (mostly Hutus) and 1,000,000 homeless; stoic, pessimistic about the future; devoid of basic necessities (food, medical help): one in 15 adults has AIDS; they are great wood carvers and produce fine musical instruments (*ikembe, indingiti, inanga*); they love story-telling in song, accompanied by an *inanga*; they perform exuberant folk dances with spears, shields, and painted faces to the beat of the world-famous, 3-foot-tall "karyenda" drums, clad in colorful clothes; they are great track & field athletes and basketball players, and enjoy the national sport, soccer.