

Burundi: Burundi has been wracked by recurring genocidal violence and Tutsi massacres of Hutus, and observers have repeatedly warned of risks of future genocide. Those risks may be overstated. The crucial change in Burundi in the last decade has been the emergence of moderate leaders, both Tutsi and Hutu, who want to contain communal violence. So long as they control the regime, genocide initiated or condoned by the government is highly unlikely. The risks are of a different sort: militant Hutus in eastern Congo repeatedly attack Tutsi villagers and officials in Burundi, sometimes in collusion with Hutus living in Burundi. These incursions sustain the cycle of Hutu-Tutsi communal violence. If militants of either group came to power, genocidal violence almost certainly would follow. International attention and support has reinforced the government's commitment to moderate policies. Long-term reduction of the risks of geno/politicide is possible only if international engagement brings an end to anarchy in eastern Congo.