

1895), but lost control quickly. The Rwandans have had strong superstitions associated with Ijwi, considering it an island of sorcerers and thieves!

Bukavu

Like Goma, Bukavu was a region which the Belgians designated "extra-coutumier" which meant that many groups lived together and "traditional" laws were not in force. In 1959-1964, many of the Tutsi who fled the persecution of the Tutsi in Rwanda settled here. They have been especially targeted by the Hutu militias in the camps from 1994-1996. There is a strong ethnic split in this region between the Shi and the Rega (Lega). Mobutu has strongly fostered this split giving the Rega the top administrative positions in the region. There probably have been killings between these groups under cover of the "rebellion." The archbishop of Bukavu was a Shi. The number of Rwandans in Bukavu with the exodus of Tutsi from Rwanda in 1959, and these people strongly supported the Rwandan Patriotic Front. There is considerable evidence that many returned to Rwanda in July 1994.

Pangi, Shabuna, Mwenga

Warega (Rega, Lega)

The Rega dominate the politics of South Kivu because Mobutu has strongly supported this group in a "divide and rule" tactic. It appears that the Rega are so strong locally because they took advantage of education systems under the Belgians, and political possibilities under Mobutu, who was looking for a counterweight to the power of the Shi. The Bakano of Walikale, who numbered 3,000 in 1971, so probably do not exceed 10,000 now, are a subgroup of the Rega. The Rega numbered 400,000 in 1982, but must be a substantially larger group now.

Kabare

Bashi

This set of 7 kingdoms were also targeted by the pre-colonial kingdom of Rwanda, again Rwandan claims to this territory would be viewed very suspiciously. There are strong linguistic and ethnic ties between the Shi, Vira (see below) and Havu, although the Havu maintain a distinction, politically and socially.

Uvira

Bavira (Joba)

Classified as a variant of the Shi-Havu language, it is likely that this group was "created" by the Belgians as separate group. Most likely they can be seen as a Shi kingdom which changed identity in this period. In 1989 they numbered 10,000.