

which had previously held lower level positions. The Belgians also increased the hold the Tutsi aristocracy had over the peasantry, **Tutsi** and **Hutu** and made the Nyaginya dynasty even more exploitative and extractive.

There are regional differences in concentration of **Hutu** and **Tutsi**. The provinces of Gisenyi and Ruhengeri were virtually 100% Hutu, given that they were the region of Rwanda which Rwabugiri had conquered before German colonialism. Until the 1920s the majority of aristocrats in the area were **Hutu** and not **Tutsi**. Belgian reorganization replaced these lords with **Tutsi** lords. In the Central and Southern provinces of Giterama and Butare, the core of the ancient kingdom, **Tutsi** formed 25% of the population. The Eastern areas, which were in migration areas, had a high population of **Tutsi**, many of whom settled during the turbulent years of 1959-1964. The 1980s saw the in-migration of landless **Hutu** from the overpopulated Northwest, the resulting tensions were fanned in the 1990s by the racist politics the extremists in the Habyarimana regime.

In Rwanda and in Burundi, although there are three clearly labelled ethnicities, **Batutsi**, **Bahutu** and **Batwa**, the long history of coexistence, intermarriage and common history makes these categories hard to define. People look very similar and physical distinctions are good identifiers, there are very tall, fair **Hutu**, short, dark **Tutsi** and tall **Batwa**. Regional differences are as important in the recent history of both these countries as ethnicity.

#### **Batwa**

The **Twa** are considered to be a pygmy group, but as mentioned above, it is often hard to tell the **Twa** from the general population. Some are hunter-gathers, some are potters and some are in other mainstream professions. Under the precolonial state the **Twa** associated with the court were seen as either buffoons or spies. This stereotype, whether true or not, have increased the stigmatization of this group.

#### **Hima**

The **Hima** are a pastoralist peoples who live in Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi. Museveni, the president of Uganda, comes from this group. In Rwanda they are less than 1% of the population and have historically moved back and forth over the border between Uganda and Rwanda. They do not appear to have ever been a kingdom.

## **D. Burundi**

#### **Batutsi, Bahutu and Batwa**

There are three ethnic groups, **Tutsi**, **Hutu** and **Twa**, living in Burundi, which have coexisted in the ancient kingdom in Burundi for many hundreds of years.