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Timeline Democratic Republic of Congo

This timeline is a chronological order of historical events the Eastern regions of D.R. Congo from 1885-2025. These events are among the root causes of the discrimination and exclusion of Tutsi and Banyamulenge in 2025.

Before Colonization: Existence of Chiefdoms in the current D.R.Congo including those chiefdoms led by Tutsi in North & South Kivu. Example: North Kivu and South Kivu.

1885-1910:

- Berlin Conference on Feb 26th, 1885, to divide Africa.
- Last delimitation of borders b/w German & Belgian decree Dec 22nd, 1910, from King Albert II (See maps and documentation)

1910-1920:

- **WW1 (1914-1910):** World War I started by German.
- Loss of German colonies (Rwanda and Burundi under Mandate of Belgian on top of Belgian Congo)
- Creation of new chief based on allegiance Example in Eastern Congo (Example in Eastern Congo in South Kivu and North Kivu).

1920-1959:

- Organizing Belgian Colonies by putting new leaders that obey to their will. (Example in Rwanda (Remove Mwami Musinga in 1930) and Eastern D.R.Congo, removed leaders in Rutshuru in 1920).
- Organized Migration of Banyarwanda (MIB) from Rwanda-Burundi to Belgian Congo. These people were transplanted in North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Katanga provinces in current D.R.Congo. (The legal status of these people was resolved by citizenship of 1972 but was revoked by law of 1981.

1960-1965:

- **Rwanda: In 1959** _First pogrom against Tutsi and refugees from Rwanda to Eastern Congo
- **North Kivu:** First pogrom on ethnic based erupted in Congo targeting the Congolese Banyarwanda calling “foreigners, immigrants, refugees)= Kanyarwanda war see Us consular report from 1965.
- **South Kivu:** Tutsi are targeted by local militia called Muleliste/Simba made rival tribes.

1965-1981:



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- President Mobutu took power and stabilized the entire country banning all form of tribalism and discrimination among the tribes.
- **Citizenship law of 1972** (Article 15) that specifically grant Ruanda and Burundi immigrants established before January 1st, 1950.

1981-1996:

- **New citizenship law enacted in 1981:** This law revokes the citizenship of the immigrants from Rwanda and Burundi (established by Belgian Colonization between 1930-1950).
- **1989:** First exclusion of elected officials of Congolese of Kinyarwanda culture.
- **1991:** Exclusion of Kinyarwanda speaking in the National Souverain Forum in Kinshasa for the sole reason not fulfilling the citizenship law.
- **1992-1993:** First massacres happened in Eastern Congo targeting Kinyarwanda speaking population, killing and destroying all livelihood mainly made of cattle.
- **1994:** Genocide of Tutsi in Rwanda and invasion of Eastern Congo by the perpetrators of genocide who continued the genocide of Tutsi in Eastern Congo (North and South Kivu)
- **1995:** Official exclusion of all Tutsi and Banyamulenge by the Congo (Zairean) Parlement'
- **1996:** Establishment of refugee's camp composed essentially of Tutsi and Banyamulenge in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania.

1996-1998:

- **May 1997:** First rebellion made of Congolese including Tutsi and Banyamulenge who were excluded with other led by Laurent Desire Kabila overthrew former regime Mobutu with the assistance of neighboring countries Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi.
- While the new regime led by Laurent Desire Kabila got in trouble with his allied (Rwanda and Uganda).
- **December 1997:** Massacre of more than 300 Congolese refugees mostly Tutsi from North Kivu Province in D.R.Congo who were interned in Mudende refugee camp in Western Rwanda by former Rwanda "Interahamwe" militia currently under the current name of FDLR.

1998-2004:

- **August 1998:** Second rebellion led by dissident to President Laurent Desire Kabila with the support of neighboring countries essentially Rwanda and Ouganda
- **Sept 1998 :** President Laurent Desire Kabila incite Congolese population to kill all "Tutsi" using all types armes.
- All Tutsi and Banyamulenge were arrested, killed, burned alive on street in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Kisangani .
- Specifically in Kamina military camp, in the Province of Nord Kivu, more than 150 cadet officers were burnt alive by Congolese military leaders. No survivors from Kamina military Camp.



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- **In 1999**, around 2500 survivors in Lubumbashi interned in Bakita camp, in Kinshasa survivors were interned in Camp INSS were rescued by the United States with the special from Secretary Madeleine Albright in Clinton Administration. These survivors were temporally settled in Kpomasse camp in Benin, West Africa for six months.
- **In Feb 2000**, all the survivors were re-settled across in the US and today they are proud US citizens.
- **In 2003**: After dialogue among Congolese parties (Congolese government and rebel groups), a new government was formed and ends the second war in Congo.
- **In August 2004**: 166 Tutsi Banyamulenge from South Kivu Provinces were massacred in Gatumba Refugee camp in Burundi following the hate speech against Tutsi and Banyamulenge by Congolese politicians such Vice-President Abdoulaye Yerodia Ndombasi who called Tutsi as “vermin” “snakes” to be destroyed.

2004-2009:

- **In 2004**, after the massacres of Banyamulenge and the hate speech from Congolese leaders, Laurent Nkunda, a general of Congolese army decided to start a rebel group called CNDP (National Congress for People Defense) in Masisi Territory in North Kivu Province to protect the Tutsi in North Kivu.
- **March 2009**: After 5 years of rebellion, a peace agreement was signed between the Congolese government and CNDP to end the conflict and resolve the root causes of the conflict such the return of refugees, the end of discrimination and hate speech against Tutsi and Banyamulenge and the repatriation of Rwanda FDLR militia that threatened the safety of Congolese Tutsi.
- **In 2012-2013**: A new rebellion called M23, that is related to March 23, 2009, peace agreement started a war because the peace agreement was not fulfilled by Congolese government. With the help of military support from United nations, the rebel group M23 was defeated in January 2013.
- **In 2013-2019**: Addis-Abeba Accord was adopted among countries in the great lakes regions to resolve the root causes of the conflict included the dismantle of all local armed group and foreign rebel groups such as FDLR from Rwanda. Then, M23 rebel group was interned in military camp in Uganda and another group in Rwanda.
- **In 2019**: New President Tshisekedi agreed to resolve the root causes of the conflict and comply with the peace agreement of March 2009 with M23.
- **In 2022-2025**, after disappointment with Congolese government to resolve the roots causes of the conflict and mostly the return of refugees and their security, a war erupted by M23 that has already located in Eastern Congo near Volcano Sabyinyo (bordering Uganda and Rwanda).

The fate of Congolese Refugees and IDPs

- **From 1995-1997**: Only Congolese Tutsi and Banyamulenge were expelled from their home country based on a citizenship law that declared them of “Rwandan Origin” equal to Rwandan Citizens.



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- Most of these refugees are still living in camps in Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania and Kenya.
- **From 1997-2024:** Other Congolese ethnic groups were displaced and fled to neighboring countries for fear of war but were not targeted on ethnic based as the Tutsi and Banyamulenge from 1995-1997
- **From 2000-2013:** Many refugees mostly Congolese Tutsi and Banyamulenge were re-settled in the US, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.
- **From 2013-2024:** Other Congolese refugees from other ethnic group were resettled also in the same countries and at the same time killings, kidnapping and destructions.
 - In Nord Kivu, Tutsi were killed, kidnapped and released after paying ransom. Populations were under the administration of local armed groups such as Nyatura, Mai-Mai and foreign
 - In South Kivu, from 2017, Banyamulenge living the low and high mountains in Minembwe have been killed, attacked by extremist local armed group and foreign armed group such Burundian Red Tabara, destroying their livelihood with more than 500 000 cattle looted.
 - **As 2025,** the villages are still under bombardment with drones and aviation and the entire Minembwe and surrounds are under permanent attacks by these extremists' groups armed by the government official led by members of parliament from the same regions who campaigned to cleanse all Tutsi and Banyamulenge out of D.R. Congo.

March 23rd , 2025

By Safari Munyarugendo

President ISÔKO_USA