



Traditional Governance Structures and Modern Democracy in Burundi: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract

Burundi's traditional governance structures have influenced its path towards modern democracy, making it a case study of interest in Southern Africa. A comparative analysis approach was employed using qualitative data from historical documents and interviews with former traditional leaders and current government officials. The study revealed that while traditional structures provided community-based decision-making, their integration into a modern democracy framework has led to inefficiencies in policy implementation. Traditional governance structures need to be reformed to better align with modern democratic principles for effective governance and sustainable development. Integrate traditional leadership roles within the existing political system and provide training on contemporary governance practices to enhance their effectiveness.

Keywords: *African geography, Traditional institutions, Modernization theory, Comparative methodology, Power structures, Ethnic divisions, Political anthropology*

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