

POLITICAL REPRESENTATION IN THE WAKE OF ETHNIC VIOLENCE AND POST-CONFLICT INSTITUTIONAL REFORM.

COMPARING VIEWS FROM RWANDAN AND BURUNDIAN CITIZENS

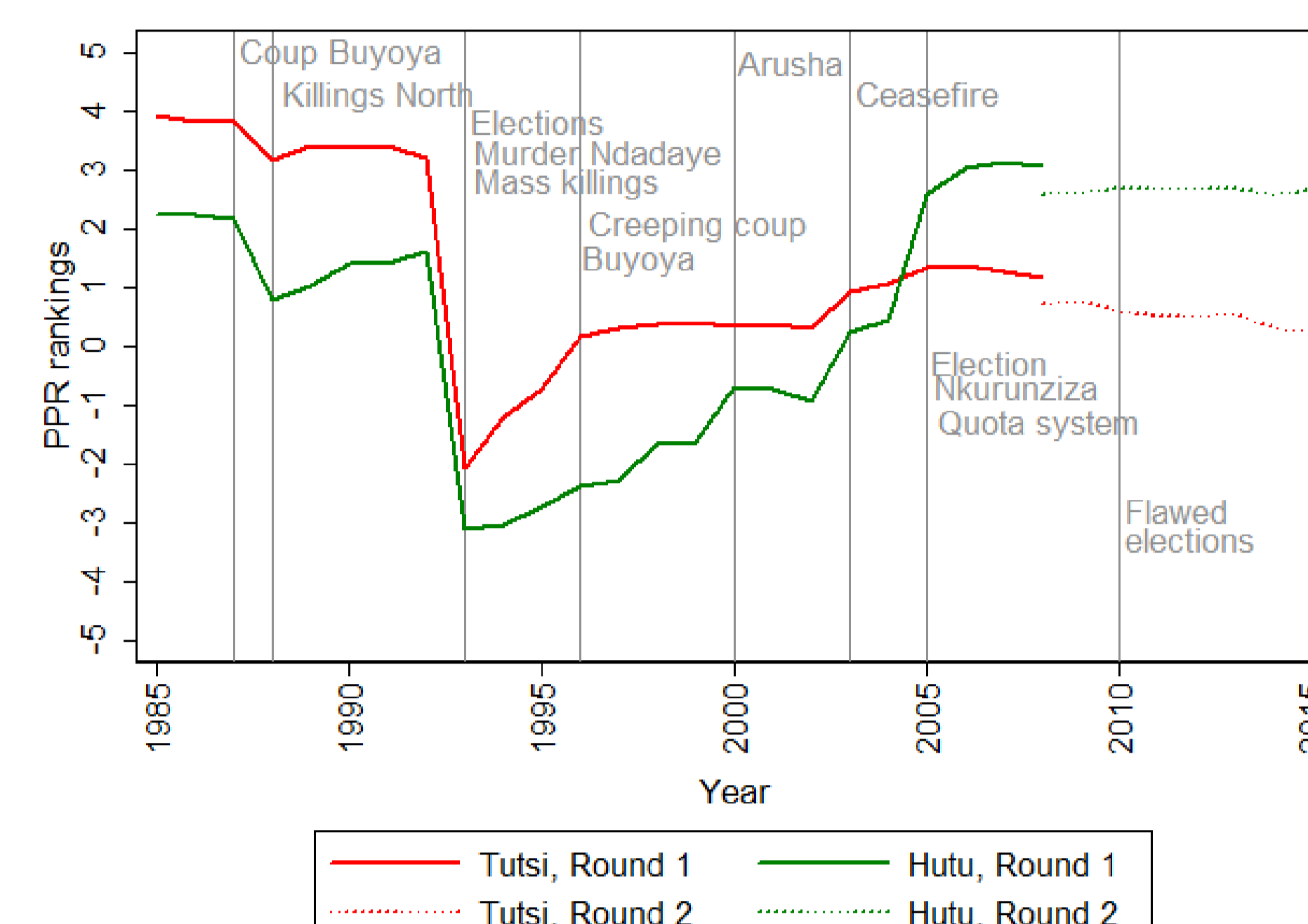
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Abstract

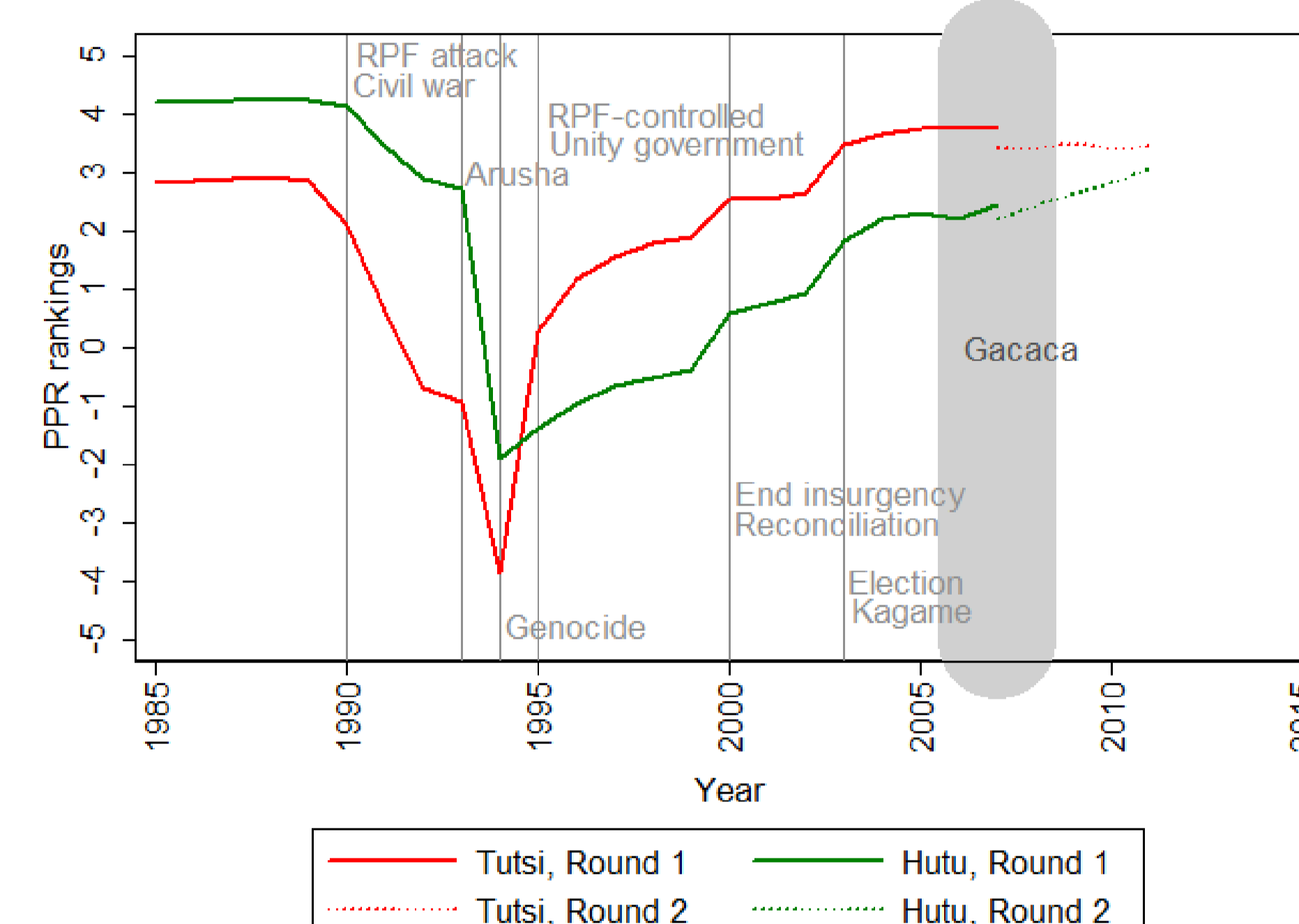
The lack of political representation often lies at the origin of identity-based violence, and, when not resolved, can re-ignite violence. We study who perceives gains and losses in political representation in Rwanda and Burundi and why. We rely on a quantitative and qualitative analysis of over 700 individual life histories that cover the period 1985–2015. For both countries, we observe a sharp drop in perceived political representation in the run-up to and during violence, and a reversal across ethnicities in its aftermath, when Tutsi feel more represented than Hutu in Rwanda, and Hutu feel more represented than Tutsi in Burundi. We find that the gap in perceived political representation narrows over time in Rwanda as Hutu gradually perceive increases in substantive representation, which is in line with the idea that Tutsi elites in Rwanda who lack ‘input legitimacy’ maximize policies aiming for ‘output legitimacy’. In Burundi, the gap is widening, suggesting that the Burundian regime has failed to give either input or output legitimacy.

Figure: Rankings of perceived political representation as reported in life stories: (a) Burundi, 1985–2015 and (b) Rwanda, 1985–2011

(a) Burundi, 1985–2015



(b) Rwanda, 1985–2011



based on the life story rankings of 302 traced Burundian respondents and 412 traced Rwandan respondents. 1 data series is used for the overlapping period 2000–07/08. Round 2 data series starts from 2008/09. To yield representative results for the Hutu and Tutsi groups, we apply weights to the ethnic subgroup proportional to their population share.

Keywords

1. Political representation
2. Violence
3. Rwanda
4. Burundi
5. Life histories
6. Legitimacy

Output so far

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More information

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