

AFRICA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE IN CONTEMPORARY BURUNDI: A QUEST
FOR CONTEXTUALIZED THEOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT
IN TWA COMMUNITY

BY
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ABSTRACT

This dissertation describes a contextualized theology of development and its implication in addressing Twas' condition of underdevelopment arising from the maldistribution of human rights and justice in the Burundian society. There have been concerted efforts to address Twas' social predicament and its various causes for more than a decade now. Yet, this same social predicament persists to this day. Twas decry their marginalization from the mainstream socio-economic life of the society. This research presents a unique development model that centers on what has been a subject of less concern to previous researchers and practitioners of development in this community. It sets forth theological ideas and practices that can contribute to the solution of enlarging Twas' freedom and capabilities to enable them to become the best of what they can be, reaching their highest human and social potential. At the core of this development strategy, lies a conceptual understanding of the socio-cultural context of the community as the overarching principle for effective and efficient social transformation in local communities. By employing an integrative research method, consisting of critical contextualization, documentary and phenomenological analysis, this research delves into the indigenous approaches of development and the practical implications of Jesus' nature, person and work, to propose a Christocentric development strategy capable of transforming Twas' plight. The cause of such unpleasant human experience is attributed to the failure of social, economic, political, judicial, cultural and religious institutions to guarantee shalom that God desires for the people He has created in His own image. Jesus, as the paradigmatic model of contextualization is enriched with ideals, values and practices capable of providing a viable solution to Twas' denigrating human and social realities. Overall, this is an attempt to contribute towards the solution of rebuilding Twa community through the active engagement of evangelical theology in the transformation of individuals, institutions, structures and systems with the goal of recreating a society that is founded on the principle of utmost respect for human rights and justice in the social system as a whole.