

This diploma thesis “Transition to democracy in Rwanda with Regard to the Role of Chieftaincy“ analyses the democratization process in Rwanda, which had run before the genocide as well as after the genocide in 1994. This diploma thesis draws from theoretical conceptions of democratization, which are introduced in the first chapter. In order to understand the circumstances in which the transition to democracy is taking place, the history of Rwanda since the beginning of colonization until the first republic is analysed. In the following period, the influence of important elements forming the shape of the second republic regime is depicted. The essence of this thesis is the analysis of the democratization processes, which genesis are to be found in the second half of the 1980's. The democratization and attitudes of individual participants are analysed until 2003, when a new constitution was approved. The events of the genocide are described briefly. The final part deals with clientship and chieftaincy and their role during the democratization process. The theoretical basis of the analysis derives from the work of Max Weber. The importance of clientship after 1994 is analysed on the gacaca tribunals.