

= Zimbabwe =

Zimbabwe ( / zɪmˈbʌbwe / ), officially the Republic of Zimbabwe , is a landlocked sovereign state located in southern Africa , between the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers . It borders South Africa to the south , Botswana to the west , Zambia to the northwest , and Mozambique to the east and northeast . The capital and largest city is Harare . A country of roughly 13 million people , Zimbabwe has 16 official languages , with English , Shona , and Ndebele the most commonly used .

Since the 11th century , present @-@ day Zimbabwe has been the site of several organised states and kingdoms as well as a major route for migration and trade . The British South Africa Company of Cecil Rhodes first demarcated the present territory during the 1890s ; it became the self @-@ governing British colony of Southern Rhodesia in 1923 . In 1965 , the conservative white minority government unilaterally declared independence as Rhodesia . The state endured international isolation and a 15 @-@ year guerrilla war with black nationalist forces ; this culminated in a peace agreement that established universal enfranchisement and de jure sovereignty in April 1980 . Zimbabwe then rejoined the Commonwealth of Nations ? which it withdrew from in 2003 ? and became a member of the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community ( SADC ) .

Robert Mugabe became Prime Minister of Zimbabwe in 1980 , when his ZANU @-@ PF party won the elections following the end of white minority rule ; he has been the president of Zimbabwe since 1987 . Under Mugabe 's authoritarian regime , the state security apparatus has dominated the country and been responsible for widespread human rights violations . Mugabe has maintained the revolutionary socialist rhetoric from the Cold War era , blaming Zimbabwe 's economic woes on conspiring Western capitalist countries . Burnished by his anti @-@ imperialist credentials , contemporary African political leaders have been reluctant to criticise Mugabe , though Archbishop Desmond Tutu has called him " a cartoon figure of an archetypal African dictator . "

= = Etymology = =