[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-pc1](/wiki/Template:Pp-pc1) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use South African English](/wiki/Template:Use_South_African_English)[Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Zimbabwe** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)), officially the **Republic of Zimbabwe**, is a landlocked [sovereign state](/wiki/Sovereign_state) located in [southern Africa](/wiki/Southern_Africa), between the [Zambezi](/wiki/Zambezi) and [Limpopo Rivers](/wiki/Limpopo_River). It borders [South Africa](/wiki/South_Africa) to the south, [Botswana](/wiki/Botswana) to the west, [Zambia](/wiki/Zambia) to the northwest, and [Mozambique](/wiki/Mozambique) to the east and northeast. The capital and largest city is [Harare](/wiki/Harare). A country of roughly 13 million people, Zimbabwe has 16 [official languages](/wiki/Official_languages),[[1]](#cite_note-1) with [English](/wiki/English_language), [Shona](/wiki/Shona_language), and [Ndebele](/wiki/Northern_Ndebele_language) 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](/wiki/British_South_Africa_Company) of [Cecil Rhodes](/wiki/Cecil_Rhodes) first demarcated the present territory during the 1890s; it became the [self-governing](/wiki/Self-governing_colony) British colony of [Southern Rhodesia](/wiki/Southern_Rhodesia) in 1923. In 1965, the conservative [white](/wiki/White_people_in_Zimbabwe) [minority government](/wiki/Minority_rule) [unilaterally declared independence](/wiki/Unilateral_Declaration_of_Independence) as [Rhodesia](/wiki/Rhodesia). The state endured international isolation and a 15-year [guerrilla war](/wiki/Rhodesian_Bush_War) with [black nationalist](/wiki/Black_nationalist) forces; this culminated in a [peace agreement](/wiki/Lancaster_House_Agreement) that established universal enfranchisement and [*de jure*](/wiki/De_jure) sovereignty in April 1980. The country then rejoined the [Commonwealth of Nations](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations)—which it withdrew from in 2003—and became a member of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations) and the [Southern African Development Community](/wiki/Southern_African_Development_Community) (SADC).

[Robert Mugabe](/wiki/Robert_Mugabe) became Prime Minister of Zimbabwe in 1980, when his [ZANU-PF](/wiki/ZANU-PF) party won the [elections](/wiki/Southern_Rhodesian_general_election,_1980) following the end of white minority rule; he has been the [president of Zimbabwe](/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_Zimbabwe) since 1987. Under Mugabe's [authoritarian](/wiki/Authoritarianism) regime, the state security apparatus has dominated the country and been responsible for widespread human rights violations.[[2]](#cite_note-2) Mugabe has maintained the revolutionary socialist rhetoric from the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War) era, blaming Zimbabwe's economic woes on conspiring Western capitalist countries.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Burnished by his anti-imperialist credentials, contemporary African political leaders have been reluctant to criticise Mugabe, though [Archbishop Desmond Tutu](/wiki/Archbishop_Desmond_Tutu) has called him "a cartoon figure of an archetypal African dictator."[[4]](#cite_note-4)

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Template:Moresources](/wiki/Template:Moresources) The name "Zimbabwe" is based on a [Shona](/wiki/Shona_language) term for [Great Zimbabwe](/wiki/Great_Zimbabwe), an ancient ruined city in the country's south-east whose remains are now a protected site. There are two theories on the origin of the word. Many sources hold that the word is derived from *dzimba-dza-mabwe*, translated from the Karanga dialect of Shona as "large houses of stone" (*dzimba* = plural of *imba*, "house"; *mabwe* = plural of *bwe*, "stone").[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7) The Karanga-speaking Shona people are found around Great Zimbabwe in the modern-day [province](/wiki/Provinces_of_Zimbabwe) of [Masvingo](/wiki/Masvingo_Province). Archaeologist [Peter Garlake](/wiki/Peter_Garlake) claims that "Zimbabwe" is a contracted form of *dzimba-hwe* which means "venerated houses" in the Zezuru dialect of Shona, and is usually applied to chiefs' houses or graves.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Zimbabwe was formerly known as [Southern Rhodesia](/wiki/Southern_Rhodesia) (1898), [Rhodesia](/wiki/Rhodesia) (1965), and [Zimbabwe Rhodesia](/wiki/Zimbabwe_Rhodesia) (1979). The first recorded use of "Zimbabwe" as a term of national reference was in 1960, when it was coined by the black nationalist Michael Mawema,<ref name=fontein119120/> whose Zimbabwe National Party became the first to officially use the name in 1961.<ref name=ndlovugatsheni113114/> The term Rhodesia—derived from the surname of [Cecil Rhodes](/wiki/Cecil_Rhodes), the primary instigator of British colonisation of the territory during the late 19th century—was perceived as inappropriate because of its colonial origin and connotations.<ref name=fontein119120>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

According to Mawema, black nationalists held a meeting in 1960 to choose an alternative name for the country, and names including Machobana and [Monomotapa](/wiki/Monomotapa) were proposed before his suggestion, Zimbabwe, prevailed.[[9]](#cite_note-9) A further alternative, put forward by nationalists in [Matabeleland](/wiki/Matabeleland), had been "Matopos", referring to the [Matopos Hills](/wiki/Matobo_National_Park) to the south of [Bulawayo](/wiki/Bulawayo).<ref name=ndlovugatsheni113114>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

It was initially unclear how the chosen term was to be used — a letter written by Mawema in 1961 refers to "Zimbabweland"<ref name=ndlovugatsheni113114/> — but "Zimbabwe" was sufficiently established by 1962 to become the generally preferred term of the black nationalist movement.<ref name=fontein119120/> In a 2001 interview, black nationalist [Edson Zvobgo](/wiki/Edson_Zvobgo) recalled that the name was mentioned by Mawema during a political rally, "and it caught hold, and that was that".<ref name=fontein119120/> The name was subsequently used by the black nationalist factions during the Second *Chimurenga* campaigns against the Rhodesian government during the [Rhodesian Bush War](/wiki/Rhodesian_Bush_War). The most major of these were the [Zimbabwe African National Union](/wiki/Zimbabwe_African_National_Union) (led by [Robert Mugabe](/wiki/Robert_Mugabe) from 1975), and the [Zimbabwe African People's Union](/wiki/Zimbabwe_African_People's_Union), led by [Joshua Nkomo](/wiki/Joshua_Nkomo) from its founding in the early 1960s.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Pre-colonial era (1000–1886)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|upright|Towers of](/wiki/File:Tower,_Great_Zimbabwe1.jpg) [Great Zimbabwe](/wiki/Great_Zimbabwe) Proto-Shona speaking societies first emerged in the middle Limpopo valley in the 9th century before moving on to the Zimbabwean highlands. The Zimbabwean plateau eventually became the centre of subsequent Shona states, beginning around the 10th century. Around the early 10th century, trade developed with [Arab merchants](/wiki/Shirazi_era) on the Indian Ocean coast, helping to develop the [Kingdom of Mapungubwe](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Mapungubwe) in the 11th century. This was the precursor to the more impressive Shona civilisations that would dominate the region during the 13th to 15th centuries, evidenced by ruins at [Great Zimbabwe](/wiki/Great_Zimbabwe), near [Masvingo](/wiki/Masvingo), and other smaller sites. The main archaeological site uses a unique dry stone architecture.

The Kingdom of Mapungubwe was the first in a series of sophisticated trade states developed in Zimbabwe by the time of the first European explorers from Portugal. They traded in gold, ivory, and copper for cloth and glass.[[10]](#cite_note-10) From about 1300 until 1600, Mapungubwe was eclipsed by the [Kingdom of Zimbabwe](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Zimbabwe). This Shona state further refined and expanded upon Mapungubwe's stone architecture, which survives to this day at the ruins of the kingdom's capital of Great Zimbabwe. From c. 1450–1760, Zimbabwe gave way to the [Kingdom of Mutapa](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Mutapa). This Shona state ruled much of the area that is known as Zimbabwe today, and parts of central [Mozambique](/wiki/Mozambique). It is known by many names including the [Mutapa Empire](/wiki/Mutapa_Empire), also known as *Mwene Mutapa* or *Monomotapa* as well as "Munhumutapa," and was renowned for its strategic trade routes with the [Arabs](/wiki/Arabs) and Portugal. The Portuguese sought to monopolise this influence and began a series of wars which left the empire in near collapse in the early 17th century.[[10]](#cite_note-10) As a direct response to increased [European](/wiki/Europe) presence in the interior, a new Shona state emerged, known as the [Rozwi Empire](/wiki/Rozwi_Empire). Relying on centuries of military, political and religious development, the Rozwi (meaning "destroyers") expelled the Portuguese from the Zimbabwean plateau by force of arms. They continued the stone building traditions of the Zimbabwe and Mapungubwe kingdoms while adding [muskets](/wiki/Musket) to their arsenal and recruiting a professional army to defend recent conquests.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

Around 1821, the [Zulu](/wiki/Zulu_people) general [Mzilikazi](/wiki/Mzilikazi) of the Khumalo clan successfully rebelled against King [Shaka](/wiki/Shaka) and created his own clan, the [Ndebele](/wiki/Ndebele_people_(Zimbabwe)). The Ndebele fought their way northwards into the [Transvaal](/wiki/South_African_Republic), leaving a trail of destruction in their wake and beginning an era of widespread devastation known as the [Mfecane](/wiki/Mfecane). When [Dutch](/wiki/Dutch_people) [trekboers](/wiki/Boers) converged on the Transvaal in 1836, they drove the tribe even further northward. By 1838, the Rozwi Empire, along with the other smaller Shona states were conquered by the Ndebele and reduced to [vassaldom](/wiki/Vassal).[[11]](#cite_note-11) After losing their remaining South African lands in 1840, Mzilikazi and his tribe permanently settled in the southwest of present-day Zimbabwe in what became known as [Matabeleland](/wiki/Matabeleland), establishing [Bulawayo](/wiki/Bulawayo) as their capital. Mzilikazi then organised his society into a military system with regimental [kraals](/wiki/Kraal), similar to those of Shaka, which was stable enough to repel further Boer incursions. Mzilikazi died in 1868 and, following a violent power struggle, was succeeded by his son, [Lobengula](/wiki/Lobengula).

### Colonial era (1888–1965)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Moresources](/wiki/Template:Moresources) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Matabeleland.png)[Matabeleland](/wiki/Matabeleland) in the 19th century. In the 1880s, white colonists arrived with [Cecil Rhodes's](/wiki/Cecil_Rhodes) [British South Africa Company](/wiki/British_South_Africa_Company) (BSAC).[[12]](#cite_note-12) In 1888, Rhodes obtained a [concession for mining rights](/wiki/Rudd_Concession) from [King Lobengula](/wiki/King_Lobengula) of the [Ndebele](/wiki/Ndebele_people_(Zimbabwe)) peoples.[[13]](#cite_note-13) He presented this concession to persuade the government of the United Kingdom to grant a [royal charter](/wiki/Royal_charter) to the company over [Matabeleland](/wiki/Matabeleland), and its subject states such as [Mashonaland](/wiki/Mashonaland) as well.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Rhodes used this document in 1890 to justify sending the [Pioneer Column](/wiki/Pioneer_Column), a group of Europeans protected by well-armed [British South Africa Police](/wiki/British_South_Africa_Police) (BSAP) through Matabeleland and into Shona territory to establish Fort Salisbury (now [Harare](/wiki/Harare)), and thereby establish [company rule](/wiki/Company_rule_in_Rhodesia) over the area. In 1893 and 1894, with the help of their new [Maxim](/wiki/Maxim_gun) guns, the BSAP would go on to defeat the Ndebele in the [First Matabele War](/wiki/First_Matabele_War). Rhodes additionally sought permission to negotiate similar concessions covering all territory between the [Limpopo River](/wiki/Limpopo_River) and [Lake Tanganyika](/wiki/Lake_Tanganyika), then known as "Zambesia".[[14]](#cite_note-14) In accordance with the terms of aforementioned concessions and treaties,[[14]](#cite_note-14) mass settlement was encouraged, with the British maintaining control over labour as well as precious metals and other mineral resources.[[15]](#cite_note-15) In 1895, the BSAC adopted the name "[Rhodesia](/wiki/Rhodesia_(name))" for the territory, in honour of Rhodes. In 1898 "[Southern Rhodesia](/wiki/Southern_Rhodesia)" became the official name for the region south of the Zambezi,[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17) which later became Zimbabwe. The region to the north was administered separately and later termed [Northern Rhodesia](/wiki/Northern_Rhodesia) (now [Zambia](/wiki/Zambia)). Shortly after Rhodes' disastrous [Jameson Raid](/wiki/Jameson_Raid) on the [South African Republic](/wiki/South_African_Republic), the Ndebele rebelled against white rule, led by their charismatic religious leader, Mlimo. The [Second Matabele War](/wiki/Second_Matabele_War) lasted in Matabeleland until 1896, when Mlimo was assassinated. Shona agitators staged unsuccessful revolts (known as [*Chimurenga*](/wiki/Chimurenga)) against company rule during 1896 and 1897.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Following these failed insurrections, the Ndebele and Shona groups were finally subdued by the Rhodes administration, which organised the land with a disproportionate bias favouring Europeans, thus displacing many indigenous peoples.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn) [thumb|300px|The opening of the railway to](/wiki/File:1899railroad_salisbury.jpg) [Umtali](/wiki/Umtali) in 1899. Southern Rhodesia was annexed by the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom) on 12 September 1923.[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[19]](#cite_note-19)[[20]](#cite_note-20)[[21]](#cite_note-21) Shortly after annexation, on 1 October 1923, the first constitution for the new Colony of Southern Rhodesia came into force.[[20]](#cite_note-20)[[22]](#cite_note-22) Under the new constitution, Southern Rhodesia became a [self-governing](/wiki/Self-governing_colony) [British colony](/wiki/British_Empire), subsequent to a 1922 referendum. Rhodesians of all races served on behalf of the United Kingdom during the two World Wars. Proportional to the white population, Southern Rhodesia contributed more per capita to both the [First](/wiki/Southern_Rhodesia_in_World_War_I) and [Second World Wars](/wiki/Southern_Rhodesia_in_World_War_II) than any other part of the Empire, including Britain itself.[[23]](#cite_note-23) In 1953, in the face of African opposition,[[24]](#cite_note-24) Britain consolidated the two Rhodesias with [Nyasaland](/wiki/Nyasaland) ([Malawi](/wiki/Malawi)) in the ill-fated [Central African Federation](/wiki/Federation_of_Rhodesia_and_Nyasaland), which was essentially dominated by Southern Rhodesia. Growing [African nationalism](/wiki/African_nationalism) and general dissent, particularly in Nyasaland, persuaded Britain to dissolve the Union in 1963, forming three separate divisions. While multiracial democracy was finally introduced to Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, however, Southern Rhodesians of European ancestry continued to enjoy [minority rule](/wiki/Minority_rule).[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

With Zambian independence, [Ian Smith's](/wiki/Ian_Smith) [Rhodesian Front](/wiki/Rhodesian_Front) (RF) dropped the designation "Southern" in 1964 and issued a [Unilateral Declaration of Independence](/wiki/Unilateral_Declaration_of_Independence) (commonly abbreviated to "UDI") from the United Kingdom on 11 November 1965, intent on effectively repudiating the recently adopted British policy of "[no independence before majority rule](/wiki/No_independence_before_majority_rule)". It was the first such course taken by a British colony since the [American declaration](/wiki/United_States_Declaration_of_Independence) of 1776, which Smith and others indeed claimed provided a suitable precedent to their own actions.[[23]](#cite_note-23)

### UDI and civil war (1965–1979)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Moresources](/wiki/Template:Moresources) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Udi2-rho.jpg)[Ian Smith](/wiki/Ian_Smith) signing the [Unilateral Declaration of Independence](/wiki/Unilateral_Declaration_of_Independence_(Rhodesia)) on 11 November 1965 with his cabinet in audience. After the [Unilateral Declaration of Independence](/wiki/Unilateral_Declaration_of_Independence) (UDI), the British government petitioned the United Nations for [sanctions](/wiki/Economic_sanctions) against Rhodesia pending unsuccessful talks with Smith's administration in 1966 and 1968. In December 1966, the organisation complied, imposing the first mandatory trade embargo on an autonomous state.[[25]](#cite_note-25) These sanctions were expanded again in 1968.[[25]](#cite_note-25) The United Kingdom deemed the Rhodesian declaration an act of rebellion, but did not re-establish control by force. A [guerrilla war](/wiki/Rhodesian_Bush_War) subsequently ensued when [Joshua Nkomo's](/wiki/Joshua_Nkomo) [Zimbabwe African People's Union](/wiki/Zimbabwe_African_People's_Union) (ZAPU) and [Robert Mugabe's](/wiki/Robert_Mugabe) [Zimbabwe African National Union](/wiki/Zimbabwe_African_National_Union) (ZANU), supported actively by communist powers and neighbouring African nations, initiated guerilla operations against Rhodesia's predominantly white government. ZAPU was supported by the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union), the [Warsaw Pact](/wiki/Warsaw_Pact) and associated nations such as Cuba, and adopted a [Marxist–Leninist](/wiki/Marxism–Leninism) ideology; ZANU meanwhile aligned itself with [Maoism](/wiki/Maoism) and the bloc headed by the People's Republic of China. Smith declared Rhodesia a republic in 1970, following the results of a [referendum](/wiki/Rhodesian_constitutional_referendum,_1969) the previous year, but this went unrecognised internationally. Meanwhile, Rhodesia's internal conflict intensified, eventually forcing him to open negotiations with the militant nationalists.

[thumb|right|Bishop](/wiki/File:Lancaster-House-Agreement.png) [Abel Muzorewa](/wiki/Abel_Muzorewa) signs the Lancaster House Agreement seated next to [British Foreign Secretary](/wiki/Secretary_of_State_for_Foreign_and_Commonwealth_Affairs) [Lord Carrington](/wiki/Peter_Carington,_6th_Baron_Carrington). In March 1978, Smith reached an accord with three African leaders, led by Bishop [Abel Muzorewa](/wiki/Abel_Muzorewa), who offered to leave the white population comfortably entrenched in exchange for the establishment of a biracial democracy. As a result of the [Internal Settlement](/wiki/Internal_Settlement), [elections](/wiki/Zimbabwe_Rhodesia_general_election,_1979) were held in April 1979, concluding with the [United African National Council](/wiki/United_African_National_Council) (UANC) carrying a majority of parliamentary seats. On 1 June 1979, Muzorewa, the UANC head, became prime minister and the country's name was changed to [Zimbabwe Rhodesia](/wiki/Zimbabwe_Rhodesia). The [Internal Settlement](/wiki/Internal_Settlement) left control of the [Rhodesian Security Forces](/wiki/Rhodesian_Security_Forces), civil service, judiciary, and a third of parliament seats to whites.[[26]](#cite_note-26) On 12 June, the [United States Senate](/wiki/United_States_Senate) voted to lift economic pressure on the former Rhodesia.

Following the [fifth Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting](/wiki/Commonwealth_Heads_of_Government_Meeting_1979) (CHOGM), held in [Lusaka](/wiki/Lusaka), Zambia from 1 to 7 August in 1979, the British government invited Muzorewa, Mugabe, and Nkomo to participate in a constitutional conference at [Lancaster House](/wiki/Lancaster_House). The purpose of the conference was to discuss and reach an agreement on the terms of an independence constitution, and provide for elections supervised under British authority allowing Zimbabwe Rhodesia to proceed to legal independence.[[27]](#cite_note-27) With [Lord Carrington](/wiki/Lord_Carrington), [Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs](/wiki/Secretary_of_State_for_Foreign_and_Commonwealth_Affairs) of the United Kingdom, in the chair, these discussions were mounted from 10 September to 15 December in 1979, producing a total of 47 [plenary sessions](/wiki/Plenary_session).[[27]](#cite_note-27) On 21 December 1979, delegations from every major interest represented reached the [Lancaster House Agreement](/wiki/Lancaster_House_Agreement), effectively ending the guerrilla war.[[28]](#cite_note-28) On 11 December 1979, the Rhodesian House of Assembly voted 90 to nil to revert to British colonial status (the 'aye' votes included Ian Smith himself). The bill then passed the Senate and was assented to by the President. With the arrival of Lord [Christopher Soames](/wiki/Christopher_Soames), the new Governor, just after 2 p.m. on 12 December 1979, Britain formally took control of [Zimbabwe Rhodesia](/wiki/Zimbabwe_Rhodesia) as the Colony of Southern Rhodesia, although on 13 December Soames declared that during his mandate the name Rhodesia and Zimbabwe Rhodesia would continue to be used. Britain lifted sanctions on 12 December, and the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations) on 16 December, before calling on its member states to do likewise on 21 December. Thus Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Angola and Botswana lifted sanctions on 22–23 December; Australia partly pre-empted this, lifting all but trade sanctions on 18 December, and trade sanctions on 21 December.[[29]](#cite_note-29)

### Independence era (1980–present)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Moresources](/wiki/Template:Moresources) [thumb|350px|Trends in Zimbabwe's](/wiki/File:Zimbabwe,_Trends_in_the_Human_Development_Index_1970-2010.png) [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index), 1970–2010. [Zimbabwe's first president](/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_Zimbabwe) after its independence was [Canaan Banana](/wiki/Canaan_Banana) in what was originally a mainly ceremonial role as Head of State. Robert Mugabe, leader of the ZANU party, was the country's first Prime Minister and Head of Government. During the [elections of February 1980](/wiki/Zimbabwean_parliamentary_election,_1980), Robert Mugabe and the ZANU party secured a landslide victory.[[30]](#cite_note-30) Opposition to what was perceived as a Shona takeover immediately erupted around [Matabeleland](/wiki/Matabeleland). The Matabele unrest led to what has become known as [*Gukurahundi*](/wiki/Gukurahundi) ([Template:Lang-sn](/wiki/Template:Lang-sn) [chaff](/wiki/Chaff) before the spring rains").[[31]](#cite_note-31) The [Fifth Brigade](/wiki/Zimbabwean_Fifth_Brigade), a North Korean-trained elite unit that reported directly to the Zimbabwean Prime Minister,<ref name=meredith6273/> entered Matabeleland and massacred thousands of civilians accused of supporting "dissidents".<ref name=meredith6273>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref><ref name=hill77>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

Estimates for the number of deaths during the five-year *Gukurahundi* campaign ranged from 10,000 to 30,000.<ref name=hill77/> Thousands of others were tortured in military internment camps.<ref name=catholiccommission>[Breaking the Silence: Building True Peace](https://archive.org/details/BreakingTheSilenceBuildingTruePeace), Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe (1997), p. 157. [PDF](https://web.archive.org/web/20090211071232/http://www.sokwanele.com/pdfs/BTS.pdf)</ref>[[32]](#cite_note-32) The campaign officially ended in 1987 after Nkomo and Mugabe reached a unity agreement that merged their respective parties, creating the [Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front](/wiki/ZANU-PF) (ZANU–PF).<ref name=meredith6273/>[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[34]](#cite_note-34) [Elections in March 1990](/wiki/Zimbabwean_general_election,_1990) resulted in another victory for Mugabe and the Zanu-PF party, which claimed 117 of the 120 contested seats.[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[36]](#cite_note-36) During the 1990s, students, [trade unionists](/wiki/Trade_unionist), and other workers often demonstrated to express their growing discontent with Mugabe and Zanu-PF party policies. In 1996, civil servants, nurses, and [junior doctors](/wiki/Junior_doctor) went on strike over salary issues.[[37]](#cite_note-37)[[38]](#cite_note-38) The general health of the population also began to significantly decline; by 1997 an estimated 25% of the population had been infected by HIV in a pandemic that was affecting most of southern Africa.[[39]](#cite_note-39)[[40]](#cite_note-40) Land redistribution re-emerged as the main issue for the [Zanu-PF](/wiki/ZANU_(PF)) government around 1997. Despite the existence of a "willing-buyer-willing-seller" land reform programme since the 1980s, the minority white Zimbabwean population of around 0.6% continued to hold 70% of the country's most fertile agricultural land.[[41]](#cite_note-41) In 2000, the government pressed ahead with its [Fast Track Land Reform](/wiki/Land_reform_in_Zimbabwe#Fast-track_land_reform_and_violence) programme, a policy involving compulsory land acquisition aimed at redistributing land from the minority white population to the majority black population.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Confiscations of white farmland (accompanied by brutality and corruption), continuous droughts, and a serious drop in external finance and other supports led to a sharp decline in agricultural exports, which were traditionally the country's leading export-producing sector.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Some 58,000 independent black farmers have since experienced limited success in reviving the gutted cash crop sectors through efforts on a smaller scale.[[44]](#cite_note-44) [thumb|Map showing the food insecurity in Zimbabwe in June 2008](/wiki/File:Food_insecurity_in_Zimbabwe.svg) Accused of committing numerous human rights abuses and grossly mismanaging the economy, Mugabe and the Zanu-PF party leadership found themselves beset by a wide range of international sanctions.[[45]](#cite_note-45) In 2002, the nation was suspended from the [Commonwealth of Nations](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations) due to the reckless farm seizures and blatant [election tampering](/wiki/Electoral_fraud).[[46]](#cite_note-46) The following year, Zimbabwean officials voluntarily terminated its Commonwealth membership.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Following [elections in 2005](/wiki/Zimbabwean_parliamentary_election,_2005), the government initiated "[Operation Murambatsvina](/wiki/Operation_Murambatsvina)", an effort to crack down on illegal markets and slums emerging in towns and cities, leaving a substantial section of urban poor homeless.[[48]](#cite_note-48) The Zimbabwean government has described the operation as an attempt to provide decent housing to the population, although according to critics such as Amnesty International, authorities have yet to properly substantiate their claims.[[49]](#cite_note-49) On 29 March 2008, Zimbabwe held a [presidential election](/wiki/Zimbabwean_presidential_election,_2008) along with a [parliamentary election](/wiki/Zimbabwean_parliamentary_election,_2008). The results of this election were withheld for two weeks, after which it was generally acknowledged that the [Movement for Democratic Change – Tsvangirai](/wiki/Movement_for_Democratic_Change_–_Tsvangirai) (MDC-T) had achieved a majority of one seat in the lower house of parliament.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

In a surprising moment of candour at the ZANU-PF congress in December 2014, President Robert Mugabe accidentally let slip that the opposition had in fact won the contentious 2008 polls by an astounding 73%.[[50]](#cite_note-50) estimated to produce 12 million carats in 2014 worth over $350 million.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Zimbabwe is the biggest trading partner of South Africa on the continent.[[108]](#cite_note-108) Taxes and tariffs are high for private enterprises, while state enterprises are strongly subsidised. State regulation is costly to companies; starting or closing a business is slow and costly.[[109]](#cite_note-109) Government spending was predicted to reach 67% of GDP in 2007.[[110]](#cite_note-110) Tourism was an important industry for the country, but has been failing in recent years. The Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force released a report in June 2007, estimating 60% of Zimbabwe's wildlife has died since 2000 due to poaching and deforestation. The report warns that the loss of life combined with widespread [deforestation](/wiki/Deforestation) is potentially disastrous for the tourist industry.[[111]](#cite_note-111) The [ICT](/wiki/Information_and_communications_technology) sector of Zimbabwe has been growing at a fast pace. A report by the mobile internet browser company, Opera, in June/July 2011 has ranked Zimbabwe as Africa's fastest growing market.[[112]](#cite_note-112)[[113]](#cite_note-113) [thumb|A market in](/wiki/File:2010_market_Harare_Zimbabwe_5866074969.jpg) [Mbare, Harare](/wiki/Mbare,_Harare). Since 1 January 2002, the government of Zimbabwe has had its lines of credit at international financial institutions frozen, through US legislation called the [Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001](/wiki/Zimbabwe_Democracy_and_Economic_Recovery_Act_of_2001) (ZDERA). Section 4C instructs the Secretary of the Treasury to direct directors at international financial institutions to veto the extension of loans and credit to the Zimbabwean government.[[114]](#cite_note-114) According to the United States, these [sanctions](/wiki/Economic_sanctions) target only seven specific businesses owned or controlled by government officials and not ordinary citizens.[[115]](#cite_note-115) An independent study has shown that the sanctions have adversely affected the welfare of ordinary citizens.[[116]](#cite_note-116)[thumb|350px|The GDP per capita (current), compared to neighbouring countries (world average = 100).](/wiki/File:GDP_per_capita_(current),_%25_of_world_average,_1960-2012;_Zimbabwe,_South_Africa,_Botswana,_Zambia,_Mozambique.png) Zimbabwe maintained positive economic growth throughout the 1980s (5% GDP growth per year) and 1990s (4.3% GDP growth per year). The economy declined from 2000: 5% decline in 2000, 8% in 2001, 12% in 2002 and 18% in 2003.[[117]](#cite_note-117) Zimbabwe's involvement from 1998 to 2002 in the war in the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo) drained hundreds of millions of dollars from the economy.[[118]](#cite_note-118) The downward spiral of the economy has been attributed mainly to mismanagement and corruption by the government and the eviction of more than 4,000 white farmers in the controversial land confiscations of 2000.[[119]](#cite_note-119)[[120]](#cite_note-120)[[121]](#cite_note-121)[[122]](#cite_note-122) The Zimbabwean government and its supporters attest that it was Western policies to avenge the expulsion of their kin that sabotaged the economy.[[123]](#cite_note-123) By 2005, the purchasing power of the average Zimbabwean had dropped to the same levels in real terms as 1953.[[124]](#cite_note-124) In 2005, the government, led by central bank governor [Gideon Gono](/wiki/Gideon_Gono), started making overtures that white farmers could come back. There were 400 to 500 still left in the country, but much of the land that had been confiscated was no longer productive.[[125]](#cite_note-125) In January 2007, the government issued long term leases to some white farmers.[[126]](#cite_note-126) At the same time, however, the government also continued to demand that all remaining white farmers, who were given eviction notices earlier, vacate the land or risk being arrested.[[127]](#cite_note-127)[[128]](#cite_note-128) Mugabe pointed to foreign governments and alleged "sabotage" as the cause of the fall of the Zimbabwean economy, as well as the country's 80% formal unemployment rate.[[129]](#cite_note-129) Inflation rose from an annual rate of 32% in 1998, to an official estimated high of 11,200,000% in August 2008 according to the country's Central Statistical Office.[[130]](#cite_note-130) This represented a state of [hyperinflation](/wiki/Hyperinflation_in_Zimbabwe), and the central bank introduced a new 100 billion dollar note.[[131]](#cite_note-131) On 29 January 2009, in an effort to counteract runaway inflation, acting Finance Minister [Patrick Chinamasa](/wiki/Patrick_Chinamasa) announced that Zimbabweans will be permitted to use other, more stable currencies to do business, alongside the Zimbabwe dollar.[[132]](#cite_note-132) In an effort to combat inflation and foster economic growth the Zimbabwean Dollar was suspended indefinitely on 12 April 2009.[[133]](#cite_note-133) Zimbabwe now allows trade in the [United States dollar](/wiki/United_States_dollar) and various other currencies such as the [rand](/wiki/South_African_rand) (South Africa), the [pula](/wiki/Botswana_pula) (Botswana), the [euro](/wiki/Euro), and the Pound Sterling (UK).[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

Since the formation of the Unity Government in 2009, the Zimbabwean economy has been on the rebound. GDP grew by more than 5% in the years 2009 and 2011. In November 2010, the IMF described the Zimbabwean economy as "completing its second year of buoyant economic growth".[[134]](#cite_note-134)[[135]](#cite_note-135) Zimplats, the nation's largest platinum company, has proceeded with US$500 million in expansions, and is also continuing a separate US$2 billion project, despite threats by Mugabe to nationalise the company.[[136]](#cite_note-136) The pan-African investment bank [IMARA](/wiki/IMARA) released a favourable report in February 2011 on investment prospects in Zimbabwe, citing an improved revenue base and higher tax receipts.[[137]](#cite_note-137) In late January 2013, the Zimbabwean finance ministry reported that they had only $217 in their treasury and would apply for donations to finance the coming elections that is estimated to cost 107 million USD.[[138]](#cite_note-138)[[139]](#cite_note-139)

### Agriculture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

Zimbabwe's commercial farming sector was traditionally a source of exports and foreign exchange, and provided 400,000 jobs. However, the government's land reform program badly damaged the sector, turning Zimbabwe into a net importer of food products.[[99]](#cite_note-99) For the past ten years, the [International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics](/wiki/International_Crops_Research_Institute_for_the_Semi-Arid_Tropics) ([ICRISAT](/wiki/ICRISAT)) has been assisting Zimbabwe's farmers to adopt [conservation agriculture](/wiki/Conservation_agriculture) techniques, a sustainable method of farming that can help increase yields. By applying the three principles of minimum soil disturbance, legume-based cropping and the use of organic mulch, farmers can improve infiltration, reduce evaporation and soil erosion, and build up organic soil content.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

Between 2005-11, the number of smallholders practising conservation agriculture in Zimbabwe increased from 5000 to more than 150000. Cereal yields rose between 15 and 100 per cent across different regions.[[140]](#cite_note-140)

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Moresources](/wiki/Template:Moresources) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|300px|](/wiki/File:Victoria5.jpg)[Victoria Falls](/wiki/Victoria_Falls), the end of the upper [Zambezi](/wiki/Zambezi) and beginning of the middle Zambezi. Since the [land reform programme](/wiki/Land_reform_in_Zimbabwe) in 2000, tourism in Zimbabwe has steadily declined. After rising during the 1990s, (1.4 million tourists in 1999) industry figures described a 75% fall in visitors to Zimbabwe in 2000.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) By December, less than 20% of hotel rooms had been occupied.[[141]](#cite_note-141) This has had a huge impact on the Zimbabwean economy. Thousands of jobs have been lost in the industry due to companies closing down or simply being unable to pay staff wages due to the decreasing number of tourists.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

Several airlines have also pulled out of Zimbabwe. Australia's [Qantas](/wiki/Qantas), Germany's [Lufthansa](/wiki/Lufthansa), and [Austrian Airlines](/wiki/Austrian_Airlines) were among the first to pull out and most recently [British Airways](/wiki/British_Airways) suspended all direct flights to Harare.[[141]](#cite_note-141)[[142]](#cite_note-142) The country's flagship airline [Air Zimbabwe](/wiki/Air_Zimbabwe), which operated flights throughout Africa and a few destinations in Europe and Asia, ceased operations in February 2012.[[143]](#cite_note-143) Zimbabwe has several major tourist attractions. [Victoria Falls](/wiki/Victoria_Falls) on the [Zambezi](/wiki/Zambezi), which are shared with Zambia, are located in the north west of Zimbabwe. Before the economic changes, much of the tourism for these locations came to the Zimbabwe side but now Zambia is the main beneficiary. The [Victoria Falls National Park](/wiki/Victoria_Falls_National_Park) is also in this area and is one of the eight main [national parks](/wiki/National_parks) in Zimbabwe,[[144]](#cite_note-144) the largest of which is [Hwange National Park](/wiki/Hwange_National_Park).

The [Eastern Highlands](/wiki/Eastern_Highlands) are a series of mountainous areas near the border with [Mozambique](/wiki/Mozambique). The highest peak in Zimbabwe, [Mount Nyangani](/wiki/Mount_Nyangani) at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) is located here as well as the [Bvumba Mountains](/wiki/Bvumba_Mountains) and the [Nyanga National Park](/wiki/Nyanga_National_Park). [World's View](/wiki/World's_View,_Nyanga) is in these mountains and it is from here that places as far away as [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) are visible and, on clear days, the town of [Rusape](/wiki/Rusape) can be seen.

Zimbabwe is unusual in Africa in that there are a number of ancient ruined cities built in a unique [dry stone](/wiki/Dry_stone) style. The most famous of these are the [Great Zimbabwe](/wiki/Great_Zimbabwe) ruins in [Masvingo](/wiki/Masvingo). Other ruins include [Khami Ruins, Zimbabwe](/wiki/Khami), [Dhlo-Dhlo](/wiki/Dhlo-Dhlo) and [Naletale](/wiki/Naletale), although none of these is as famous as Great Zimbabwe.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

The [Matobo Hills](/wiki/Matobo_National_Park) are an area of [granite](/wiki/Granite) [kopjes](/wiki/Kopje) and wooded valleys commencing some [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) south of [Bulawayo](/wiki/Bulawayo) in southern Zimbabwe. The Hills were formed over 2,000 million years ago with granite being forced to the surface, then being eroded to produce smooth "whaleback dwalas" and broken kopjes, strewn with boulders and interspersed with thickets of vegetation. [Mzilikazi](/wiki/Mzilikazi), founder of the [Ndebele](/wiki/Ndebele_people_(Zimbabwe)) nation, gave the area its name, meaning 'Bald Heads'. They have become famous and a tourist attraction due to their ancient shapes and local wildlife. [Cecil Rhodes](/wiki/Cecil_Rhodes) and other early white pioneers like [Leander Starr Jameson](/wiki/Leander_Starr_Jameson) are buried in these hills at a site named World's View.[[145]](#cite_note-145)

### Water supply and sanitation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Water supply](/wiki/Water_supply) and [sanitation](/wiki/Sanitation) in Zimbabwe is defined by many small scale successful programs but also by a general lack of improved water and [Sanitation](/wiki/Sanitation) systems for the majority of Zimbabwe. According to the [World Health Organization](/wiki/World_Health_Organization) in 2012, 80% of Zimbabweans had access to improved, i.e. clean, [drinking-water](/wiki/Drinking-water) sources, and only 40% of Zimbabweans had access to improved sanitation facilities.[[146]](#cite_note-146) Access to improved water supply and sanitation is distinctly less in rural areas.<ref name=wsp1>["Water Supply and Sanitation in Zimbabwe AMCOW. Collaboratively published report circa 2010](http://www.wsp.org/sites/wsp.org/files/publications/CSO-Zimbabwe.pdf), wsp.org; accessed 4 May 2016.</ref>

There are many factors which continue to determine the nature, for the foreseeable future, of water supply and sanitation in Zimbabwe. Three major factors are the severely depressed state of the Zimbabwean economy, the willingness of foreign aid organizations to build and finance infrastructure projects, and the political stability of the Zimbabwean state.[[147]](#cite_note-147)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|A](/wiki/File:Shona_witch_doctor_(Zimbabwe).jpg) [n'anga](/wiki/N'anga) (Traditional Healer) of the majority (70%) [Shona people](/wiki/Shona_people), holding a [kudu](/wiki/Kudu) horn trumpet Zimbabwe's total population is 12.97 million.[[148]](#cite_note-148) According to the United Nations [World Health Organisation](/wiki/World_Health_Organisation), the life expectancy for men was 56 years and the life expectancy for women was 60 years of age (2012).[[149]](#cite_note-149) An association of doctors in Zimbabwe has made calls for President Mugabe to make moves to assist the ailing health service.[[150]](#cite_note-150)The [HIV infection rate in Zimbabwe](/wiki/HIV/AIDS_in_Zimbabwe) was estimated to be 14% for people aged 15–49 in 2009.[[151]](#cite_note-151) [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO) reported a decline in HIV prevalence among pregnant women from 26% in 2002 to 21% in 2004.[[152]](#cite_note-152) Some 85% of Zimbabweans are Christian; 62% of the population attends religious services regularly.[[153]](#cite_note-153) The largest Christian churches are [Anglican](/wiki/Anglican), Roman Catholic, [Seventh-day Adventist](/wiki/Seventh-day_Adventist_Church)[[154]](#cite_note-154) and [Methodist](/wiki/Methodist).

As in other African countries, Christianity may be mixed with enduring traditional beliefs. Besides Christianity, [ancestral worship](/wiki/Ancestor_worship) is the most practised non-Christian religion, involving [spiritual](/wiki/Spirituality) intercession; the Mbira Dza Vadzimu, which means "Voice of the Ancestors", an instrument related to many [lamellophones](/wiki/Lamellophone) ubiquitous throughout Africa, is central to many ceremonial proceedings. Mwari simply means "God the Creator" (musika vanhu in Shona). Around 1% of the population is Muslim.[[155]](#cite_note-155)[thumb|left|A group of women and children in Norton, Zimbabwe](/wiki/File:Women_and_children_at_a_borehole.jpg) Bantu-speaking ethnic groups make up 98% of the population. The majority people, the [Shona](/wiki/Shona_people), comprise 70%. The [Ndebele](/wiki/Ndebele_people_(Zimbabwe)) are the second most populous with 20% of the population.[[156]](#cite_note-156)[[157]](#cite_note-157) The Ndebele descended from [Zulu](/wiki/Zulu_people) migrations in the 19th century and the other tribes with which they intermarried. Up to one million Ndebele may have left the country over the last five years, mainly for South Africa. Other [Bantu](/wiki/Bantu_peoples) ethnic groups make up the third largest with 2 to 5%: these are [Venda](/wiki/Venda), [Tonga](/wiki/Tonga_language_(Zambia_and_Zimbabwe)), [Shangaan](/wiki/Shangaan), [Kalanga](/wiki/Kalanga_language), [Sotho](/wiki/Sotho_language), [Ndau](/wiki/Ndau_language), [Nambya](/wiki/Nambya), [Tswana](/wiki/Tswana_language), [Xhosa](/wiki/Xhosa_language) and [Lozi](/wiki/Lozi_language).[[157]](#cite_note-157) Minority ethnic groups include [white Zimbabweans](/wiki/White_people_in_Zimbabwe), who make up less than 1% of the total population. White Zimbabweans are mostly of British origin, but there are also [Afrikaner](/wiki/Afrikaner), [Greek](/wiki/Greeks_in_Zimbabwe), [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_people), [French](/wiki/Franco-Mauritian) and [Dutch](/wiki/Dutch_people) communities. The white population dropped from a peak of around 278,000 or 4.3% of the population in 1975[[158]](#cite_note-158) to possibly 120,000 in 1999, and was estimated to be no more than 50,000 in 2002, and possibly much less. The 2012 census lists the total white population at 28,782 (roughly 0.22% of the population), one-tenth of its 1975 estimated size.[[159]](#cite_note-159) Most emigration has been to the United Kingdom (between [200,000 and 500,000](/wiki/Zimbabweans_in_the_United_Kingdom) Britons are of Rhodesian or Zimbabwean origin), South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. [Coloureds](/wiki/Coloureds) form 0.5% of the population, and various [Asian](/wiki/Asian_people) ethnic groups, mostly of Indian and Chinese origin, are also 0.5%.[[160]](#cite_note-160) According to 2012 Census report, 99.7% of the population is of African origin.[[161]](#cite_note-161) Official fertility rates over the last decade were 3.6 (2002 Census),[[162]](#cite_note-162) 3.8 (2006)[[163]](#cite_note-163) and 3.8 (2012 Census).[[161]](#cite_note-161)

### Largest cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Largest cities of Zimbabwe](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Zimbabwe)

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [English](/wiki/English_language) is the main language used in the education and judiciary systems. The [Bantu languages](/wiki/Bantu_languages) [Shona](/wiki/Shona_language) and [Sindebele](/wiki/Northern_Ndebele_language) are the principal indigenous languages of Zimbabwe. [Shona](/wiki/Shona_language) is spoken by 70% of the population, [Sindebele](/wiki/Northern_Ndebele_language) by 20%. Other minority Bantu languages include [Venda](/wiki/Venda), [Tsonga](/wiki/Tsonga_language), [Shangaan](/wiki/Shangaan), [Kalanga](/wiki/Kalanga_language), [Sotho](/wiki/Sotho_language), [Ndau](/wiki/Ndau_language) and [Nambya](/wiki/Nambya). Less than 2.5%, mainly the white and "[coloured](/wiki/Coloured)" (mixed race) minorities, consider English their native language.[[164]](#cite_note-164) Shona has a rich oral tradition, which was incorporated into the first Shona novel, *Feso* by [Solomon Mutswairo](/wiki/Solomon_Mutswairo), published in 1956.[[165]](#cite_note-165) English is spoken primarily in the cities, but less so in rural areas. Radio and television news now broadcast in Shona, Sindebele and English.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

Zimbabwe has 16 official languages and under the constitution, an Act of Parliament may prescribe other languages as officially recognised languages.[[1]](#cite_note-1)

### Refugee crisis[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

The economic meltdown and repressive political measures in Zimbabwe have led to a flood of refugees into neighbouring countries. An estimated 3.4 million Zimbabweans, a quarter of the population, had fled abroad by mid-2007.[[166]](#cite_note-166) Some 3,000,000 of these left for South Africa and Botswana.[[167]](#cite_note-167) Apart from the people who fled into the neighbouring countries, there are approximately 36,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). There is no current comprehensive survey,[[168]](#cite_note-168) although the following figures are available:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Survey** | **Number** | **Date** | **Source** |
| national survey | 880–960,000 | 2007 | Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee[[169]](#cite_note-169) |
| former farm workers | 1,000,000 | 2008 | UNDP[[168]](#cite_note-168) |
| victims of [Operation Murambatsvina](/wiki/Operation_Murambatsvina) | 570,000 | 2005 | UN[[170]](#cite_note-170) |
| people displaced by political violence | 36,000 | 2008 | UN[[168]](#cite_note-168) |

The above surveys do not include people displaced by [Operation Chikorokoza Chapera](/wiki/Operation_Chikorokoza_Chapera) or beneficiaries of the fast-track land reform programme but who have since been evicted.[[168]](#cite_note-168)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box)

An estimated 80% of the country's citizens identify themselves as Christians. Protestants (mostly followers of Pentecostal African Churches) are around 63% of the population. Estimates from 2005 said there were 1,145,000 Roman Catholics in Zimbabwe. This is about 9% of the total population. The followers of ethnic religions are around 11%. Around 1% are Muslims, mainly from Mozambique and Malawi, 0.1% are [Hindus](/wiki/Hindus) and 0.3% are [Baha'is](/wiki/Baha'is). Approximately 7% of citizens have no religious practice or are atheist.[[171]](#cite_note-171)[[172]](#cite_note-172)[[173]](#cite_note-173)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Zimbabwe has many different cultures which may include [beliefs](/wiki/Beliefs) and [ceremonies](/wiki/Ceremonies), one of them being [Shona](/wiki/Shona_people), Zimbabwe's largest ethnic group. The Shona people have many sculptures and [carvings](/wiki/Rock_carving) which are made with the finest materials available.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

Zimbabwe first celebrated its independence on 18 April 1980.[[174]](#cite_note-174) Celebrations are held at either the [National Sports Stadium](/wiki/National_Sports_Stadium_(Zimbabwe)) or [Rufaro Stadium](/wiki/Rufaro_Stadium) in Harare. The first independence celebrations were held in 1980 at the Zimbabwe Grounds. At these celebrations [doves](/wiki/Dove) are released to symbolise peace and fighter jets fly over and the [national anthem](/wiki/National_Anthem_of_Zimbabwe) is sung. The flame of independence is lit by the president after parades by the presidential family and members of the armed forces of Zimbabwe. The president also gives a speech to the people of Zimbabwe which is televised for those unable to attend the stadium.[[175]](#cite_note-175)

### Arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Traditional arts in Zimbabwe include [pottery](/wiki/Pottery), [basketry](/wiki/Basketry), textiles, jewellery and carving. Among the distinctive qualities are symmetrically patterned woven baskets and stools carved out of a single piece of wood. Shona sculpture has become world famous in recent years having found popularity in the 1940s. Most subjects of [carved](/wiki/Rock_carving) figures of stylised birds and human figures among others are made with [sedimentary](/wiki/Sedimentary) rocks such as [soapstone](/wiki/Soapstone), as well as harder [igneous](/wiki/Igneous) rocks such as [serpentine](/wiki/Serpentine_group) and the rare stone [verdite](/wiki/Serpentinite). Zimbabwean artefacts can be found in countries like Singapore, China and Canada. i.e. [Dominic Benhura's](/wiki/Dominic_Benhura) statue in the [Singapore botanic gardens](/wiki/Swing_me_mama).

Shona sculpture in has survived through the ages and the modern style is a fusion of African [folklore](/wiki/Folklore) with European influences. World-renowned Zimbabwean sculptors include Nicholas, Nesbert and Anderson Mukomberanwa, Tapfuma Gutsa, Henry Munyaradzi and Locardia Ndandarika. Internationally, Zimbabwean sculptors have managed to influence a new generation of artists, particularly Black Americans, through lengthy apprenticeships with master sculptors in Zimbabwe. Contemporary artists like New York sculptor M. Scott Johnson and California sculptor Russel Albans have learned to fuse both African and Afro-diasporic aesthetics in a way that travels beyond the simplistic mimicry of African Art by some Black artists of past generations in the United States.

Several authors are well known within Zimbabwe and abroad. [Charles Mungoshi](/wiki/Charles_Mungoshi) is renowned in Zimbabwe for writing traditional stories in English and in Shona and his poems and books have sold well with both the black and white communities.[[176]](#cite_note-176) [Catherine Buckle](/wiki/Catherine_Buckle) has achieved international recognition with her two books *African Tears* and *Beyond Tears* which tell of the ordeal she went through under the 2000 [Land Reform](/wiki/Land_reform_in_Zimbabwe).[[177]](#cite_note-177) The first [Prime Minister of Rhodesia](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Rhodesia), [Ian Smith](/wiki/Ian_Smith), wrote two books – [*The Great Betrayal*](/wiki/The_Great_Betrayal) and [*Bitter Harvest*](/wiki/Bitter_Harvest_(2001_book))*.* The book [*The House of Hunger*](/wiki/The_House_of_Hunger) by [Dambudzo Marechera](/wiki/Dambudzo_Marechera) won an award in the UK in 1979 and the Nobel Prize-winning author [Doris Lessing's](/wiki/Doris_Lessing) first novel [*The Grass Is Singing*](/wiki/The_Grass_Is_Singing), the first four volumes of [*The Children of Violence*](/wiki/The_Children_of_Violence) sequence, as well as the collection of short stories *African Stories* are set in Rhodesia. In 2013 NoViolet Bulawayo's novel *We Need New Names* was shortlisted for the [Booker Prize](/wiki/Booker_Prize). The novel tells the story of the devastation and emigration caused by the brutal suppression of Zimbabwean civilians during the [Gukurahundi](/wiki/Gukurahundi) in the early 1980s.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

Internationally famous artists include Henry Mudzengerere and Nicolas Mukomberanwa. A recurring theme in Zimbabwean art is the [metamorphosis](/wiki/Metamorphosis) of man into beast.[[178]](#cite_note-178) Zimbabwean musicians like [Thomas Mapfumo](/wiki/Thomas_Mapfumo), [Oliver Mtukudzi](/wiki/Oliver_Mtukudzi), the [Bhundu Boys](/wiki/Bhundu_Boys); [Alick Macheso](/wiki/Alick_Macheso) and [Audius Mtawarira](/wiki/Audius_Mtawarira) have achieved international recognition. Among members of the white minority community, Theatre has a large following, with numerous theatrical companies performing in Zimbabwe's urban areas.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[thumb|Raw](/wiki/File:Boerewors_raw.jpg) [boerewors](/wiki/Boerewors) Like in many African countries, the majority of Zimbabweans depend on a few staple foods. "Mealie meal", also known as [cornmeal](/wiki/Cornmeal), is used to prepare [*sadza*](/wiki/Sadza) or *isitshwala*, as well as [porridge](/wiki/Porridge) known as *bota* or *ilambazi*. Sadza is made by mixing the cornmeal with water to produce a thick paste/porridge. After the paste has been cooking for several minutes, more cornmeal is added to thicken the paste.

This is usually eaten as lunch or dinner, usually with sides such as [gravy](/wiki/Gravy), [vegetables](/wiki/Vegetable) ([spinach](/wiki/Spinach), [chomolia](/wiki/Chomolia), or [spring greens](/wiki/Spring_greens)/[collard greens](/wiki/Collard_greens)), [beans](/wiki/Bean), and [meat](/wiki/Meat) (stewed, grilled, roasted, or sundried). Sadza is also commonly eaten with curdled milk ([sour milk](/wiki/Sour_milk)), commonly known as "lacto" (*mukaka wakakora*), or dried [Tanganyika sardine](/wiki/Tanganyika_sardine), known locally as *kapenta* or *matemba*. Bota is a thinner porridge, cooked without the additional cornmeal and usually flavoured with [peanut butter](/wiki/Peanut_butter), milk, butter, or [jam](/wiki/Jam).[[179]](#cite_note-179) Bota is usually eaten for breakfast.

[Graduations](/wiki/Graduation), [weddings](/wiki/Wedding), and any other family gatherings will usually be celebrated with the killing of a goat or cow, which will be barbecued or [roasted](/wiki/Roasting) by the family.

Even though the [Afrikaners](/wiki/Afrikaner) are a small group (10%) within the white minority group, Afrikaner recipes are popular. [Biltong](/wiki/Biltong), a type of [jerky](/wiki/Jerky_(food)), is a popular snack, prepared by hanging bits of spiced raw meat to dry in the shade.[[180]](#cite_note-180) [Boerewors](/wiki/Boerewors) is served with sadza. It is a long sausage, often well-spiced, composed of beef rather than pork, and barbecued.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn) As Zimbabwe was a British colony, some people there have adopted some colonial-era English eating habits. For example, most people will have [porridge](/wiki/Porridge) in the morning, as well as 10 o'clock tea (midday tea). They will have lunch, often leftovers from the night before, freshly cooked *sadza*, or sandwiches (which is more common in the cities). After lunch, there is usually 4 o'clock tea (afternoon tea), which is served before dinner. It is not uncommon for [tea](/wiki/Tea) to be had after dinner.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

Rice, pasta, and potato-based foods ([french fries](/wiki/French_fries) and [mashed potato](/wiki/Mashed_potato)) also make up part of Zimbabwean cuisine. A local favourite is rice cooked with peanut butter, which is taken with thick gravy, mixed vegetables and meat.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn) A potpourri of peanuts known as *nzungu*, boiled and sundried maize, [black-eyed peas](/wiki/Black-eyed_pea) known as *nyemba*, and [bambara groundnuts](/wiki/Bambara_groundnut) known as *nyimo* makes a traditional dish called *mutakura*. Mutakura can also be the above ingredients cooked individually. One can also find local snacks, such as *maputi* (roasted/popped maize kernels similar to [popcorn](/wiki/Popcorn)), roasted and salted [peanuts](/wiki/Peanut), [sugar cane](/wiki/Sugar_cane), [sweet potato](/wiki/Sweet_potato), pumpkin, and indigenous fruits, such as [horned melon](/wiki/Horned_melon), *gaka*, [*adansonia*](/wiki/Adansonia), *mawuyu*, [*uapaca kirkiana*](/wiki/Uapaca_kirkiana), *mazhanje* (sugar plum), and many others.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Football](/wiki/Association_football) is the most popular sport in Zimbabwe. The Warriors have qualified for the Africa Cup of Nations two times (2004, 2006). The Warriors are also 4 Time Cossafa cup Champions (2000, 2003, 2005, 2009) and 3 Times Runners-Up. , [rugby union](/wiki/Rugby_union) also has a very strong following and [cricket](/wiki/Cricket) also has a following, traditionally among the white minority. Zimbabwe has won eight Olympic medals, one in [field hockey](/wiki/Field_hockey) at the [1980 Summer Olympics](/wiki/Zimbabwe_at_the_1980_Summer_Olympics) in Moscow, and seven in swimming, three at the [2004 Summer Olympics](/wiki/Zimbabwe_at_the_2004_Summer_Olympics) and four at the [2008 Summer Olympics](/wiki/Zimbabwe_at_the_2008_Summer_Olympics), all by [Kirsty Coventry](/wiki/Kirsty_Coventry).

[Rugby union](/wiki/Rugby_union) is a significant sport in Zimbabwe. The national side have represented the country at 2 [Rugby World Cup](/wiki/Rugby_World_Cup) tournaments in 1987 and 1991. The team are currently ranked 26 in the world by World Rugby.[[181]](#cite_note-181)