



A HISTORY of ZIMBABWE

ALOIS S. MLAMBO

CAMBRIDGE

A History of Zimbabwe

There is currently no single-volume history of Zimbabwe that provides detailed coverage of the country's experience from precolonial times to the present. This book examines Zimbabwe's precolonial, colonial and postcolonial social, economic and political history and relates historical factors and trends to more recent developments in the country. Zimbabwe is a country with a rich history, dating from the early San hunter-gatherer societies. The arrival of British imperial rule in 1890 impacted the country tremendously, as the European rulers developed and exploited Zimbabwe's resources, which gave rise to a movement of African nationalism and demands for independence. This process culminated in the armed conflict of the 1960s and 1970s, a war of liberation that ended with Zimbabwe's independence in 1980. The 1990s were marked by economic decline and the rise of opposition politics. In 1999, Mugabe and his party embarked on a violent and chaotic land reform program that disrupted the country's prosperous agricultural sector and plunged the nation's economy into a downward spiral. Political violence and human rights violations made Zimbabwe an international pariah state, with struggles continuing to this day. This book is targeted primarily at students of Zimbabwean history, but will be useful to both scholars of Zimbabwean history and those unfamiliar with the country's past.

Alois S. Mlambo is Head of the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. He has published numerous articles on Zimbabwe's social and economic history and has authored and edited several books on Zimbabwe. He is on the advisory board of the *Journal of Southern African Studies*.

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107684799

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First published 2014

Printed in the United States of America

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Mlambo, A. S.

A history of Zimbabwe / Alois S. Mlambo.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-02170-9 (hardback) –

ISBN 978-1-107-68479-9 (paperback)

1. Zimbabwe – History. I. Title.

DT2925.M55 2014

968.91-dc23 2013049916

ISBN 978-1-107-02170-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-68479-9 Paperback

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*To my family, friends and the hundreds of students who have
helped shape some of the ideas presented in this book through
their searching questions, thought-provoking challenges
and debates*

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Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all the colleagues and friends who contributed to this book directly and indirectly as well as the hundreds of students who have sharpened my understanding of the complex forces that shaped the Zimbabwean historical experience. I am also grateful to the various scholarly journals where portions of this book were originally published for allowing me to use the material here and, through them, the many faceless readers who evaluated and commented on these studies as part of the publishing process. Lastly, I wish to thank Cambridge University Press for publishing this work.

Timeline

- 850–1150 – The Leopard Kopje Tradition emerges in south-western Zimbabwe.
- 1100–1280 – The rise and decline of the Mapungubwe state on the Limpopo River in southern Zimbabwe.
- 1270–1550 – Rise and decline of the Great Zimbabwe state.
- 1450–1830 – Rise and decline of the Mutapa, Torwa and Rozvi states.
- 1830s – Ndebele people fleeing the Mfecane and Boer migration in present-day South Africa move north and settle in what becomes Matabeleland.
- 1888 – Lobengula, the ruler of the AmaNdebele, is tricked into signing the Rudd Concession, a document that virtually surrendered his powers to Cecil John Rhodes and his partners.
- 1889 – Cecil John Rhodes uses the Rudd Concession as the legal basis to secure a charter from the British Government for his newly established British South Africa Company (BSAC) to occupy Zimbabwe. The company was granted rights to occupy and administer land, raise its own police force and establish settlements within its own boundaries.
- 1890 – The Pioneer Column of white settlers funded by mining magnet Cecil John Rhodes arrived from the south at Fort Salisbury, the site of future capital Harare.
- 1893 – Ndebele uprising against BSA rule is crushed.

Timeline constructed from ‘BBC News: Zimbabwe profile – Timeline’ www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14113618 (accessed 10 September 2012); ‘Timeline of Zimbabwe’, <http://www.history-timelines.org.uk/places-timelines/46-timeline-of-zimbabwe.htm> (accessed 10 September 2012); ‘Timeline Zimbabwe’, <http://timelines.ws/countries/ZIMBABWE.HTML> (accessed 10 September 2012).

- 1902 – Cecil John Rhodes dies at age forty-eight.
- 1922 – The BSA Company administration ends and the white minority opts for self-government.
- 1923 – Southern Rhodesia becomes a self-governing British Colony following a whites-only referendum on the future status of the country in which the majority opt for self-government.
- 1930 – Land Apportionment Act allocates land according to race and restricts black access to land, forcing many into wage labour.
- 1930–1960s – Black opposition to colonial rule grows. Emergence in the 1960s of nationalist groups – the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU).
- 1953 – Britain creates the Central African Federation, made up of Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and Nyasaland (Malawi).
- 1963 – Federation breaks up when Zambia and Malawi gain independence.
- 1964 – Ian Smith of the Rhodesia Front (RF) becomes prime minister and tries to persuade Britain to grant independence.
- 1965 – Smith unilaterally declares independence under white minority rule, sparking international outrage and economic sanctions.
- 1966 – The United Nations imposes sanctions on Rhodesia.
- 1972 – Guerrilla war against white rule intensifies, with ZANU and ZAPU operating out of Mozambique and Zambia, respectively.
- 1978 – Smith and internal black leaders Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Ndabaningi Sithole and others sign the Internal Settlement Agreement creating Zimbabwe-Rhodesia and black participation in government. Subsequent general elections are boycotted by the Patriotic Front (PF) made up of ZANU and ZAPU. The new government of Zimbabwe Rhodesia, led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, fails to gain international recognition. Civil war continues.
- 1979 – The British-brokered all-party talks at Lancaster House in London lead to a peace agreement and new constitution, which guarantees minority rights.
- 1980 – Robert Mugabe and his ZANU-PF party wins British-supervised independence elections and Mugabe becomes prime minister of independent Zimbabwe.
- 1982 – Mugabe sacks ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo from Cabinet, accusing him of preparing to overthrow the government. North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade is deployed to crush rebellion by pro-Nkomo ex-guerrillas

in Midlands and Matabeleland provinces. Government forces are accused of killing thousands of civilians over the next few years.

1982–1987 – The Matabeleland *Gukurahundi* atrocities perpetrated by Mugabe's North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade in these years only end with the 1987 Unity Agreement when Mugabe and Nkomo merge their parties to form ZANU-PF.

1987 – Zimbabwe amends the constitution to introduce an executive presidency, and Mugabe becomes executive president.

1997 – On November 14 in Zimbabwe the dollar, stock market and economy all crash over concerns about payoffs to former guerrillas. Zimbabwe's currency plunges a record 72 per cent.

1998 – In Harare, Zimbabweans riot over soaring food prices. The price of corn meal, the staple food, has risen 21 per cent, the third increase in four months. Army troops are deployed to quell two days of unrest. There are also numerous riots and strikes.

1998 – Zimbabwe sends 600 troops to support President Kabila in the Congo.

1999 – Opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) is formed.

2000 – In February, President Mugabe suffers defeat in referendum on draft constitution. Squatters seize hundreds of white-owned farms in an ongoing and violent campaign to reclaim what they see as stolen by settlers.

2000 – In June parliamentary elections, Zanu-PF narrowly fights off a challenge from the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) led by Morgan Tsvangirai, but loses its power to change the constitution.

2002 – In March, Mugabe is re-elected in presidential elections condemned as seriously flawed by the opposition and foreign observers. The Commonwealth suspends Zimbabwe from its councils for a year after concluding that elections were marred by high levels of violence.

2003 – In December, Zimbabwe pulls out of the Commonwealth after organisation decides to extend suspension of the country indefinitely.

2005 – Between May and July, tens of thousands of shanty dwellings and illegal street stalls are destroyed as part of a 'clean-up' programme called Operation Murambatsvina. The UN estimates that the drive has left about 700,000 people homeless.

2006 – In May, year-on-year inflation exceeds 1,000 per cent.

- 2008 – In March, presidential and parliamentary elections are held. A month later, the country's electoral body says Tsvangirai won most votes in the presidential poll, but not enough to avoid a run-off against Mugabe.
- 2008 – In June, the run-off takes place. Mugabe is declared winner. Tsvangirai pulled out days before the poll, complaining of intimidation.
- 2008 – In September, Mugabe and Tsvangirai sign a power-sharing agreement.
- 2009 – In February, Tsvangirai is sworn in as prime minister, after protracted talks over formation of government.

Notable Figures in Zimbabwean History

Banana, Canaan (1936–2003) – a Methodist minister, Banana was the first (non-executive) president of Zimbabwe from 18 April 1980 to 31 December 1987, with Robert Mugabe as prime minister. He helped to broker the 1987 Unity Agreement which ended the Gukurahundi armed conflict of the early 1980s in Matebeleland and brought rival political parties, the Zimbabwe African Peoples' Union (ZAPU) and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), together into one party called the Zimbabwe African National Union–Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF). He died soon after release from a term in prison for sexual impropriety.

Burombo, Benjamin (1909–59) – founder and president of the British African National Voice Association (BANVA) of Rhodesia, a trade union association with strong political overtones. In 1948, he was involved in the national workers strike that led to an urgent examination of wages by the Native Labour Board. He campaigned strongly against the 1951 Native Land Husbandry Act.

Chikerema, James (1925–2006) – became active in African nationalist politics during his sojourn in South Africa as a young man before returning to Rhodesia to help to found the Southern Rhodesia National Youth League (NYL) of which he became president (1956–57). In 1956, the NYL led a successful African bus boycott to protest a recent fare raise. Later he helped to establish the Southern Rhodesia African National Congress (SRANC) of which he became vice president under Joshua Nkomo from 1957 to 1959. He was also a leading member of the next party, the National Democratic Party (NDP). When NDP was banned,

Chikerema became a founding member of the Zimbabwe African Peoples' Union (ZAPU) in 1960 and was voted into the party's executive even though he was in detention at the time of its formation. Following ZAPU's ban, Chikerema moved to Lusaka, Zambia, where he served as ZAPU's vice president. In 1971, he left ZAPU and established the Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe (FROLIZI) with Nathan Shamuyarira. He became part of the African National Council (ANC) led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa in 1974, returned to Rhodesia in 1977 and became part of the Internal Settlement which Muzorewa signed with Ian Smith to set up the short-lived Zimbabwe-Rhodesia Government.

Chitepo, Herbert Wiltshire (1923–75) was chairman of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) until he was assassinated by unknown persons on 18 March 1975. In 1954, he became the first African barrister in Rhodesia. He served as a legal adviser to Joshua Nkomo and ZAPU at the 1961 Southern Rhodesia Constitutional Conference in London. When ZAPU was banned in May 1962, Chitepo went into exile to Tanganyika where he was appointed the country's first African Director of Public Prosecutions. He was elected chairman of ZANU from its foundation in 1963. In January 1966, Chitepo moved to Zambia to concentrate on the armed struggle. He was killed by a car bomb at his house in Lusaka, Zambia.

Coghlan, Charles (1863–1927) was the first prime minister of Southern Rhodesia from 1 October 1923 until his death on 28 August 1927. A lawyer by profession, he was elected to the Legislative Council in 1908 and was in the House for the next nineteen years. He was prime minister when Southern Rhodesia decided in favour of self-government rather than amalgamation with South Africa and became a self-governing territory in 1923.

Dabengwa, Dumiso (1939–) – nicknamed the 'Black Russian' by the Rhodesians against whom he was fighting during the liberation struggle years because he was trained in Russia, Dabengwa was the head of intelligence of ZAPU's armed wing the Zimbabwe Peoples' Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA). Two years after independence, he and General Lookout of ZIPRA were charged with treason by the Zimbabwe government following the discovery of arms on a number of ZAPU-owned farms and other properties. Upon release in 1983 for lack of evidence, he and Masuku were detained for four years. In 1987, he became a member of the joint ZANU-PF Party and served later as a member of the ZANU-PF

Politburo. From 1992 to 2000, he was the Zimbabwe Minister of Home Affairs. He later resigned from ZANU-PF and became the leader of the revived ZAPU-PF.

Huggins, Godfrey (1883–1971) – prime minister of Southern Rhodesia and prime minister of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, leader of United Rhodesia Party, Huggins, 1st Viscount Malvern, was a Rhodesian politician and physician. He was Rhodesia's fourth prime minister between 1933 and 1953 and then became prime minister of the Federation until 1956. He was the longest-serving prime minister in the British Commonwealth. He was one of the staunch supporters of the establishment of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland hoping that this would pave the way for independence from Britain under white rule, and he was instrumental in its creation in 1953. He was succeeded as prime minister by Sir Raphael Roy Welensky.

Kaguvi (d. 1898) – also known as Gumboreshumba, he was a precolonial anti-colonial leader who was believed to be possessed by the spirit of Kaguvi, an earlier leader of the Rozvi Empire which had been destroyed in the mid-nineteenth century by the Ndebele under Mzilikazi. Together with other spirit mediums such as Nehanda and Mkwati, he is credited with helping to organise and coordinate the First Chimurenga of 1896–7. He was eventually captured by the settler forces and later tried and hanged in Salisbury in 1898.

Lobengula, Khumalo (1845–94) – the son of the Ndebele nation's founder, Mzilikazi, he was the second and last king of the Ndebele people. In October 1888, he was tricked by Cecil John Rhodes' envoys led by John Rudd into signing a document called the Rudd Concession that handed his territory and people over to Rhodes. Despite subsequent efforts to repudiate this document, Lobengula lost to Rhodes whose British South Africa Company (BSAC) used the document to obtain a royal charter authorising it to occupy the land that later became Southern Rhodesia. In 1893, Lobengula led his people in the Anglo-Ndebele War and was defeated. He and his court fled northward from his capital of Bulawayo to die under unknown circumstances thereafter. His burial place is unknown.

Mangena, Nikita (d. 1978) – born Alfred Mangena, he commanded the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA), the military branch of the Zimbabwe African People's Union, in the liberation war. Mangena led a ZIPRA uprising against ZAPU moderates in 1977, and with the

support of hundreds of followers in camps in Zambia, he attacked ZAPU's headquarters in Lusaka. While Mangena did not intend to lead a coup against Joshua Nkomo, he wished to reassert his power over the organization's militant activities. Soon after the uprising he was assassinated by unknown persons.

Mnangagwa, Emmerson (1946–) – a leading member of ZANU-PF, he received military training in China and participated in the first armed guerrilla attacks on Rhodesia in the mid-1960s. He was arrested but was saved from the gallows by his youth. Upon release from prison, he went to Zambia where he obtained a law degree and participated in ZANU's anti-colonial struggle. At independence, he became the Minister of State for Security from 1980 to 1988 and, thereafter, Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs (1989–2000). He held several other key ministerial positions thereafter, including the post of Minister of Defence from 2009. Within ZANU-PF he held the positions of Secretary of Administration from July 2000 to December 2004 and Secretary for Legal Affairs from December 2004.

Mugabe, Robert Gabriel (1924–) – educated at mission schools in Zimbabwe, he later attended the University at Fort Hare in South Africa where he met African National Congress activists such as Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki, and Oliver Tambo. In the late 1950s, he taught in Ghana, where he became interested in Marxism and African nationalism. After returning to Southern Rhodesia in 1960, he became publicity secretary for the National Democratic Party (NDP), a nationalist party led by Joshua Nkomo. After the NDP was banned in 1961, Mugabe became secretary general of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), which was also soon banned. Mugabe broke with Nkomo and ZAPU in 1963 and helped to form the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) of which he became secretary general. In 1961, Mugabe married a fellow teacher, Ghanaian Sally Hayfron, whom he had met during his stay in her home country. She died in 1992. Meanwhile, in 1964, he had been arrested for his political activities and detained by the Rhodesian authorities for ten years. Studying law during his time in prison through distance education, Mugabe obtained degrees from the University of South Africa and the University of London. He displaced ZANU founding President Ndabaningi Sithole to become the party's leader while both of them were still in prison. After his release, he went to neighbouring Mozambique in 1974 and, subsequently, led ZANLA liberation forces in a protracted and bloody war against the Rhodesian Front government of Ian Smith.

Mugabe joined forces with Nkomo in the Patriotic Front to negotiate the transfer of power at the 1979 Lancaster House negotiations, and he became the first black prime minister of Zimbabwe at independence in 1980. Soon afterwards, his government's North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade wreaked terror in Matebeleland in the so-called dissident war, killing thousands of civilians in the process. Following the Unity Agreement of 1987, which ended the conflict in Matebeleland and saw ZAPU being swallowed up by ZANU-PF, the position of prime minister was abolished and Mugabe became Executive President of Zimbabwe. As leader of ZANU, now known as the Zimbabwe African National Union–Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), he was re-elected in all subsequent general elections.

One of the undoubted achievements of Mugabe's twenty-seven years in power was the expansion of education. At 90 per cent of the population, Zimbabwe has the highest literacy rate in Africa. However, in 1990, a struggling economy forced Zimbabwe to adopt a World Bank Structural Adjustment Program, which called for the Mugabe government to move away from Marxism in favour of a freer economy. In 2000, a controversial land resettlement process began whereby 10 million hectares of white-owned farmland were effectively seized by the state and turned over to settlers who ranged from peasant farmers to members of the political elite. In 2008, Zimbabwe held very controversial parliamentary and presidential elections which saw the MDC winning a majority in parliament and MDC president Morgan Tsvangirai winning the presidential race marginally, thus necessitating a run-off. The violence that was unleashed by ZANU-PF at this point was such that Tsvangirai withdrew from the race, leaving Mugabe to claim victory. The political stalemate which followed was only resolved when the Southern African Development Community (SADC) brokered a power-sharing agreement between ZANU-PF and the two MDC parties, which was meant to provide an opportunity for the parties to negotiate and implement certain reforms that would enable the country to hold peaceful and fair elections in the future.

Mujuru, Joyce (aka Teurayi Ropa Nhongo) (1960–) – she joined the liberation war as a teenage girl and rose through the ranks to become a member of the ZANU Central Committee as the Secretary for Women's Affairs in 1977. She was also Commander of ZANLA in a ZANU Camp in Chimoio, Mozambique. At independence in 1980, Mujuru became the youngest minister in Mugabe's cabinet. She later held the position of Minister of Community Development and Women's Affairs from 1980 to

1985 before serving in other ministerial capacities until she rose to the positions of ZANU-PF and national vice-president in 2004. She was married to Solomon Mujuru until his death in 2011.

Mujuru, Solomon (aka Rex Nhongo) (1949–2011) – member of the Zimbabwe African People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) in the 1960s, he joined the Zimbabwe National Liberation Army (ZANLA) in 1971 and rose to the position of acting Commander-in-Chief of ZANLA in 1975. Mujuru became a joint leader of Zimbabwe People's Army (ZIPA), a united force of ZIPRA and ZANLA in 1976, Deputy Secretary of Defence for Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) in 1977, Commander, Zimbabwe National Army in 1981, and was promoted to full general in 1992. He was a member of parliament from 1994 to 2000. Mujuru died in a fire at his farmhouse south of Harare on 15 August 2011.

Musodzi Ayema, Elizabeth Maria (Mai) (c. 1885–1952) – popularly known as Mai Musodzi or Mrs. Frank, she was a pioneer feminist and social worker in Salisbury who did much to advance the cause of women in colonial Rhodesia, particularly those in urban areas, and progressively challenged the traditional boundaries about women's place in society. She devoted much of her energy to the Harare African Women's Club which she helped to found in 1938 and led until her death. The Club was engaged in a variety of activities, including charity, community service, recreation and mutual aid, and offered sewing and knitting classes and Red Cross classes. It also helped women to secure marriage accommodation and lobbied successfully for a maternity clinic staffed by women trained in the Red Cross classes. The Harare African Women's Club and the many women's clubs that were established throughout the country and modelled after it did much to provide women with a sense of self-confidence and independence.

In addition, Mai Musodzi served on the African committee of the Native Welfare Society and on the Native Advisory Board, where she actively defended women's rights with regard to the arbitrary arrest of women in the city, their eviction from urban accommodation and their subjection to humiliating medical examinations for sexually transmitted diseases. She died on 21 July 1952 and had a recreational hall in then Harari (now Mbare) named after her.

Muzenda, Simon (1922–2003) – former vice-president of Zimbabwe under President Robert Mugabe, he was born of peasant parents in Gutu District and studied carpentry at Marianhill Mission in Natal,

South Africa. On his return to Rhodesia in 1950, he became involved with Benjamin Burombo in the fight against discriminatory laws. He later became Administrative Secretary of ZANU and was imprisoned for two years for his political activity. He was imprisoned two times after that, remaining in prison until 1971. Upon release, he went into exile to Zambia and later moved to Mozambique. Muzenda became deputy prime minister in 1980 and vice-president of the country in 1987, when the position of prime minister was abolished and replaced by an executive presidency.

Muzorewa, Abel Tendekayi (1925–2010) – Methodist bishop and a moderate leader of the anti-colonial struggle, Bishop Abel Tendekayi Muzorewa was prime minister of the short-lived coalition government called Zimbabwe-Rhodesia from June to December 1979, which failed in its attempt to create a biracial government to end the civil war in formerly white-controlled Rhodesia. He was elected the first African Bishop of the Methodist Church in Rhodesia in 1968 and soon came into conflict with the Smith regime, which banned him from ‘Tribal Trust Lands’, where most of the black Methodists lived, because of his criticism of the racist policies of the government. In 1971, he led the campaign against a British-Rhodesian government deal known as the Pearce Proposals, which the African majority opposed. In 1978, Muzorewa and Sithole (who had lost control of ZANU to Mugabe) signed an agreement with Smith to install a majority government within a year. He was voted prime minister of the renamed Zimbabwe-Rhodesia and took office in June, only to lose power to Robert Mugabe in the 1980 general elections. Muzorewa died on 8 April 2010 at age eighty-four.

Mzilikazi, Khumalo (c. 1790–1868) – founder of the Ndebele Kingdom in what became Rhodesia and is now Zimbabwe, he was born in Zululand, South Africa. He was the son of Matshobana of the Khumalo Clan and became the clan’s chief after his father’s death. A fearless warrior, he soon became one of Shaka’s advisers, but had a falling-out with him when, in 1822, Mzilikazi did not hand over all the booty he had obtained from a military raid and had to flee from Shaka’s wrath. He and his followers moved north and north-west, incorporating conquered people, such as the Sotho and Tswana, into his group as he went. After staying in various parts of present-day northern South Africa, and clashing with the Boer Trekkers in 1836, Mzilikazi led his group into south-western Zimbabwe in 1838 to establish the Ndebele state in Matebeleland.

Nehanda (c. 1840–1898) – Nehanda Charwe Nyakasikana was a *svikiro* or spirit medium of the Zezuru Shona people. She inspired the Hwata Dynasty of the Shona to revolt against British colonial rule in the 1896–7 Chimurenga uprisings and worked closely with other spirit mediums, including Kaguvi. She was arrested, tried and hanged by the colonial government in 1898 for her role in the Chimurenga uprisings.

Nkala, Enos (1932–) – he was secretary general of the National Democratic Party (NDP) in 1960, assistant to the Zimbabwe African Peoples' Union (ZAPU) President Joshua Nkomo in 1961, member of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) Central Committee in 1974 and minister of finance at independence in 1980. He later fell out with the party and resigned from government and the party. It was in his house in then Salisbury that ZANU was founded.

Nkomo, Joshua (aka 'Father of Zimbabwe') (1918–1999) – educated at Adams College and the Jan Hofmeyer School of Social Science in South Africa, he returned to Rhodesia in 1947 to work for the Rhodesia Railways as a social worker. In 1951, he became secretary of the Railway Workers' Union (later Railway African Workers' Union – RAWU). Nkomo was president of the African National Congress (ANC) from 1952 to 1959, of the National Democratic Party (NDP) in 1960–1, of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) in 1961–2, of the African National Congress in 1975 and of ZAPU–Patriotic Front from 1976 onwards. He was detained by the Rhodesian government from April 1964 to 1974. He lost the independence general elections of 1980 to Mugabe of ZANU and was appointed Minister of Home Affairs in the first independence government, but was later forced to resign and was hounded out of the country in the early 1980s. He went into exile to the United Kingdom after being accused of anti-government activities associated with the dissidents of Matebeleland at the time. Nkomo signed a peace agreement with ZANU in 1987, agreeing to his party, ZAPU, being swallowed up by the former in a unity government. Thereafter, he served as one of Zimbabwe's two vice-presidents until his death on 4 July 1999.

Nyagumbo, Maurice (1924–1989) – in his youth, he worked in South Africa where he was a member of the South African Communist Party until it was banned in 1948. On returning to Rhodesia, he became one of the founding members of the African National Youth League (ANYL) and, subsequently, a leading member of the African National Congress (ANC) between 1957 and 1959 and ZANU Organising Secretary in 1963.

He was detained and imprisoned for political activism for varying periods between 1959 and 1979. In 1980, he was elected ZANU-PF MP for Manicaland in the eastern part of the country and appointed Minister of Mines in the first independence government. He later committed suicide following his implication in a scandal known as the Willowgate Scandal, involving the buying and resale of new vehicles.

Nyandoro, George (1926–1994) – after training as a bookkeeper, he became involved in the trade union and independence movements. In the mid-1950s, he was secretary-general of the British African National Voice Association, founding vice-president of the African National Youth League and, later, secretary general of the Southern Rhodesian African National Congress (SRANC). Thereafter, he became the general secretary of Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). In February 1959, he was detained for his political activities and was released only in 1963. In 1964, he moved to Zambia, where he worked for the banned Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). Nyandoro later quit ZAPU to help to form the breakaway Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe (FROLIZI) (1971). He returned home to take a ministerial post in Bishop Abel Muzorewa's transitional government of 1979. After independence, he retired from active politics and became a businessman.

Parirenyatwa, Tichafa (1927–1962) – Zimbabwe's first black medical doctor, Dr. Parirenyatwa graduated in medicine from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1957. He was appointed medical officer of Antelope Mine Hospital in Matabeleland but had to resign from government service when some whites complained about a black doctor attending to their wives. In 1961, he entered politics full time and was appointed deputy president of ZAPU in 1962. On 14 August of that year, he reportedly died in a car crash on the Gweru-Bulawayo road.

Rhodes, Cecil John (1853–1902) – Arch-imperialist, successful businessman and South African statesman, Rhodes moved to South Africa from his home country, Britain, for health reasons in 1870 and subsequently made his fortune in diamond mining in Kimberley. Together with C. D. Rudd and others, he established the De Beers Mining Company. In 1877, he was elected to the Cape House of Assembly and in 1890 became prime minister of the Cape Colony. In 1895, he supported an attack on the Transvaal led by his friend, the Administrator of Rhodesia, Leander Starr Jameson, which sought to overthrow the Boer government and to install a British colonial government which would support the interests