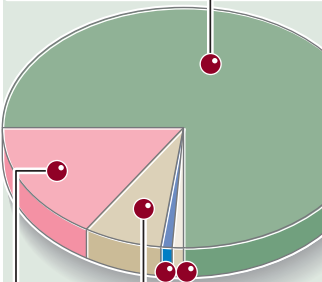


Zimbabwe's ethnic timebomb

Zimbabwe is made up of two great tribes, the Shona and the Ndebele, but the struggle about to explode within President Robert Mugabe's ruling Zanu-PF party pits his own clan – the Zezuru – against fellow clans within the Shona. Mugabe now faces renewed opposition from the vast majority of the population

Population 11.5 million

Shona tribe: 75%
Clans – Karanga: 35%
Zezuru: 25%
Manyika: 12%
Ndau and Korekore: 3%



Ndebele: 16%
White: 1%
Asian: 1%

Other – Bantu-speaking tribes from Mozambique: 7%

Unemployment (2007): 80%

Inflation rate: 1,700%

White farmers: 100-200
 (down from 4,000 in 2000)

Maize harvest: 0.6m tonnes
 (down from 2m tonnes in 2000)

Life expectancy: 37 years
 (down from 60 years in 1990)

1972-80: Second Chimurenga. Zanu, backed by China, and Soviet-backed Zapu wage guerrilla war that brings white Rhodesia to brink of economic and military collapse. **Karanga clan provides bulk of fighters but Mugabe and his Zezuru colleagues claim success for liberation war**

1979: British Government, led by **Margaret Thatcher**, brokers all-party talks at Lancaster House, London. Three-month conference results in end of UDI, peace agreement and guarantees **Willing seller, willing buyer** clause to redistribute land to blacks

1980: Zanu wins British-supervised independence election. Country renamed **Republic of Zimbabwe**



1982: Matabeleland atrocities

1982: Mugabe accuses Nkomo of plot to overthrow government. Mugabe sends notorious North Korea-trained **Fifth Brigade** to crush pro-Nkomo supporters in Matabeleland – more than 20,000 Ndebele civilians killed

1987: In bid to end violence, Nkomo allows Zapu to be absorbed into new Zanu-PF. Mugabe changes constitution, becoming executive president. Nkomo appointed one of two vice presidents, but he is effectively sidelined

1992: Land Acquisition Act scraps Willing seller, willing buyer clause, allowing government to buy land compulsorily for redistribution. Hundreds of white farms end up in hands of Mugabe's colleagues and supporters

1997-8: Government names 1,471 farms it plans to buy. Steep food price rises lead to riots, 800 arrested



1999: Draft constitution includes clause to compulsorily seize white-owned land without compensation. Opposition **Movement for Democratic Change (MDC)**, led by **Morgan Tsvangirai** (above) of **Manyika** clan formed to fight new constitution

2000: Constitution defeated in referendum. Shocked Mugabe unleashes **War Veterans Association** which seizes hundreds of white farms. Zanu-PF narrowly fights off challenge from MDC in parliamentary elections

2002: Mugabe re-elected as president but Commonwealth suspends Zimbabwe for vote rigging. Food shortages threaten famine. 2,900 white farmers ordered to leave their land, 10 murdered since 2000



2004: Mugabe appoints **Joyce Mujuru** (above left), a prominent Zezuru woman, to vice presidency. Regional chairmen of non-Zezuru provinces – mostly Karangas, Manyikas and Ndebeles – oppose move and call for **Emmerson Mnangagwa** (above right), a popular Karanga, to get post. Mugabe fires them, also sacks Ndebele information minister **Jonathan Moyo** (right)

2005: Clan differences re-emerge when Mugabe fills top positions in government with members of Zezuru and pushes out Karangas. His **Operation Murambatsvina** (Sweep Out the Rubbish) destroys tens of thousands of shanty dwellings, leaving 700,000 people – mostly MDC supporters – homeless, unemployed and starving

March 2007: Beating of MDC leaders by police at rally triggers international outrage. **Zanu-PF central committee expected to block Mugabe's bid to stand again when his term of office ends next year**

1888: Region becomes British protectorate. **Cecil Rhodes' British South Africa Company** (BSAC) seizes land from indigenous **Shona** and **Ndebele** people

1895: Named **Rhodesia**

1896: BSAC crushes Shona and Ndebele rebellion – **First Chimurenga** or fight for liberation – and secures settlement of white Europeans

1923: Referendum rejects union with South Africa

1930: White minority government passes **Land Apportionment Act** which restricts black access to land. 4,500 white farmers own 70% of best arable land. Opposition to colonial rule grows

1953-58: Liberal Prime minister **Garfield Todd** promotes rights of black community but is forced from office over his support for an increase in black voting rights



Nkomo (left) and Mugabe (right)

1960s: Nationalist **Zapu** (Zimbabwe African People's Union) led by **Joshua Nkomo** of **Ndebele** tribe, and **Zanu** (Zimbabwe African National Union) led by **Robert Mugabe** of **Zezuru** clan, emerge to fight white resistance to majority rule. **Parties banned, both leaders imprisoned**

1964: Northern Rhodesia granted independence by Britain – renamed **Zambia**. **Ian Smith** – new Prime Minister of **Southern Rhodesia** – campaigns for independence. **UK insists on greater equality for black majority**

1965: Smith rejects equality conditions and unilaterally declares independence (**UDI**) under white minority rule. **Move sparks first official UN Security Council sanctions**