

TOPIC : THE ARMED STRUGGLE IN ZIMBABWE

SUBTOPIC: THE ARMED STRUGGLE (THE SECOND CHIMURENGA)

OBJECTIVES

BY THE END OF THE SUBTOPIC, LEARNERS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- ✓ Identify the causes of the armed struggle.
- ✓ Discuss the role of the war collaborators in the armed struggle
- ✓ Outline the main events in the armed struggle.
- ✓ Explain the role played by other countries in the armed struggle.
- ✓ Analyse attempts to bring settlements during the Second Chimurenga.

Introduction

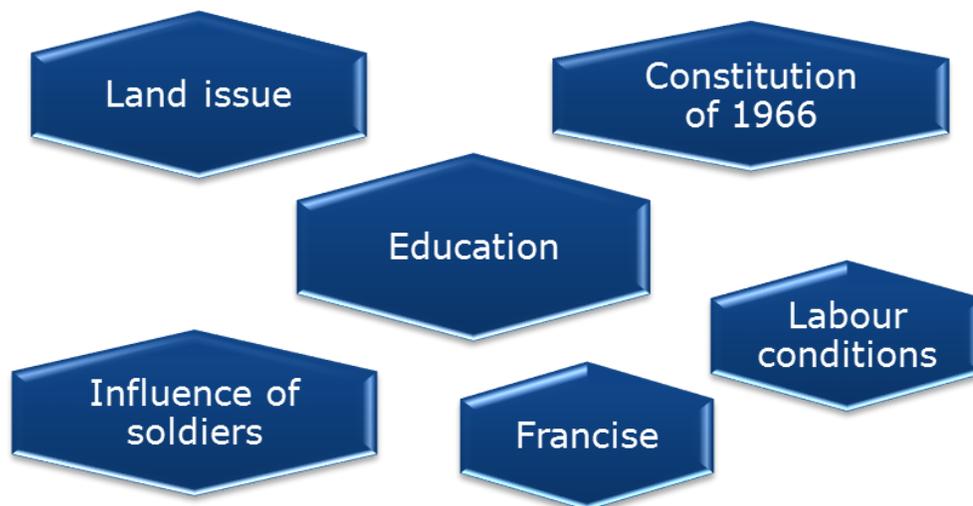


Map of Zimbabwe

- The colonial history of Africans in Southern Rhodesia was one of the protracted struggles against white minority rule from as early as 1895.

- Defeat in the early resistance led to many years of passive acceptance to new way of life by Africans as they failed to devise effective means to rid themselves of colonial rule.
- The struggle for independence in Rhodesia, was a struggle through association, unions and societies (1900-40).
- They demanded for "one man one vote" (1966-65) and finally armed struggle in (1966-1980).
- Throughout the struggle efforts were made to bring belligerent parties together to resolve crisis through negotiations.
- Independence constitution was won at the conference table (the Lancaster house conference in 1979).
- Chimurenga 2 was the struggle by Africans to regain birth right by any means including violence.

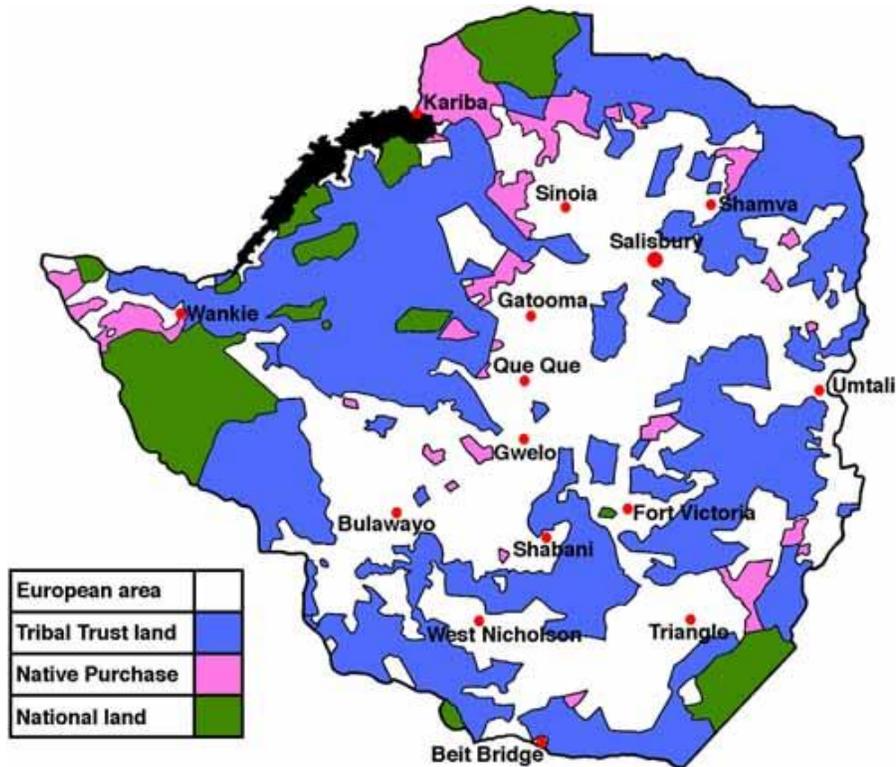
Causes of second Chimurenga



Causes of the second Chimurenga

- The causes of the armed struggle were fuelled by a number of political, economic and social factors that deprived Africans (Zimbabweans) of their rights.
- Africans lost independence and became subjects to deliberate policies of discrimination, land deprivation and denial of political rights.

(a) Land

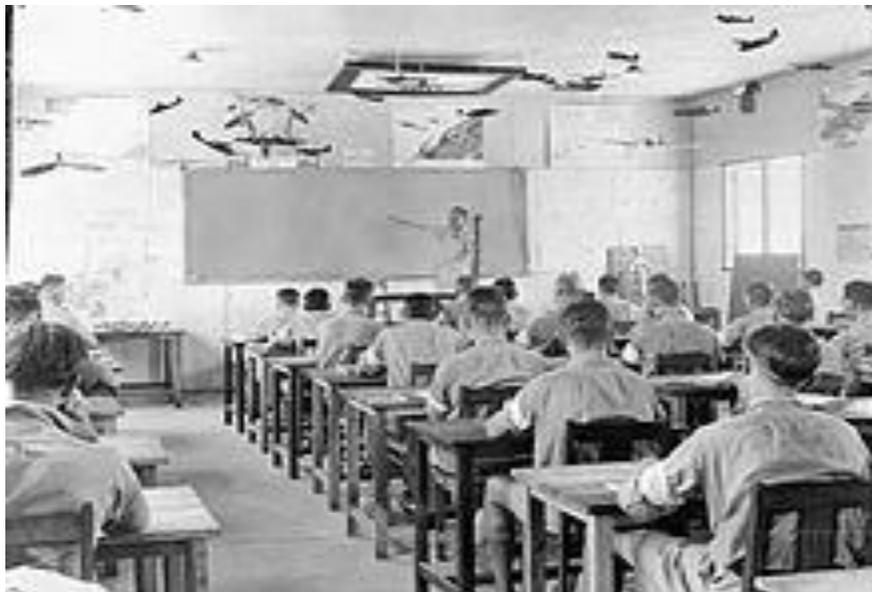


Land apportionment Act

- They were racial division of land and all Rhodesian Prime ministers were farmers.
- After the institution of racial division of land by the 1931 Land Apportionment Act, the eviction of Africans from land designated as white land to the infertile reserves which were intensified.
- Unfair land distribution impoverished the Africans.

- The Amendment act in 1951, that put in place the native land husbandry act contributed immensely to the African resentment of colonial rule particularly in the reserves.
- Natives were required to perform labour for conserving natural resources and the law drastically reduced ownership of cattle to five head per family and eight acres of land.
- Excess cattle were sold to the white settlers at very low prices which Africans were aware of further enriching of white.
- The division of land between Europeans was finalized and yet the reserves or tribal trust lands were over populated with many Africans being landless.
- The white farms were under-utilized and many of them belonged to absentee landlords.

(b) Education Policy



White colonial education

- Education deprivation was the second major grievance of Africans.

- In 1930 education had become compulsory only for the whites and the basic right had not been extended to include Africans.
- Neglect of Africans was evidenced by the fact that the responsibility of African education was left to missionaries and the Africans themselves.
- In 1946 first Government secondary school in Southern Rhodesia was built in Goromonzi and this was attributed by the policies of Garfield Todd's Government (1953-58).
- His progressive policies in the education included the separation of African education from the African affairs department putting it under a unit of its own with the secretary of education.
- It increased a number of Government schools, giving missionary schools grants to introduce four year secondary courses.
- Ian smith resulted in setbacks of African advancement in all spheres of life particularly in education.
- Enrolment in teacher training was reduced, white budget out blacks and high schools fees decreased for school intakes.
- Bottle necks at grade five and seven were created to control the number of those who got to the top of their pyramids.
- There was great discrepancy between the amount of money spent on Africans and European education.
- Through the acts of the Europeans, Africans were eager to oppose colonial legacies such as the education colour bar.

(c) Labour conditions and low quality of life

- The 3rd discrimination concerned labour conditions and job opportunities which resulted in low standards of living for Africans.
- Africans were exploited, tortured by the whites at work places and were exposed to poor working and housing conditions as well as low wages.

- The discriminatory legislations as the Masters and Servants Act (1901) and Industrial Conciliation Act (1934) were instituted to ensure that Africans were not fully recognised as employees thus they had no say in their wages and conditions of service.
- The right to strike was constrained by such legislation as the Law, Order Maintenance act (1960) and the emergency power act which replaced the public order.
- Under Law and Order Maintenance act, strike action in 'essential services' became a criminal offence punishable by life imprisonment or death.
- Wages were appalling low for Africans and the wages gap between the two racial groups became a sources of greater anger.
- For example in 1974 the average earning for Africans were 266 a year compared to 3580 for Europeans Asian and coloured employees.
- African poverty was also reflected on other areas too numerous to list e.g. in housing, health care, social welfare (unemployment benefits), pension and also in business opportunities and access to loans.

(d) Franchise

- Africans had no political voice and few Africans qualified to be on the voters roll since qualifications were based on property and educational level.
- Once Africans appeared to have enough wealth to qualify for the franchise the qualification were raised.
- The Africans were forced to take arms against the Europeans and they fought for 'one man one vote'.

(e) The constitution of 1966

- There were no equal rights between Africans and Whites in the voters roll and the constitution favoured the whites.

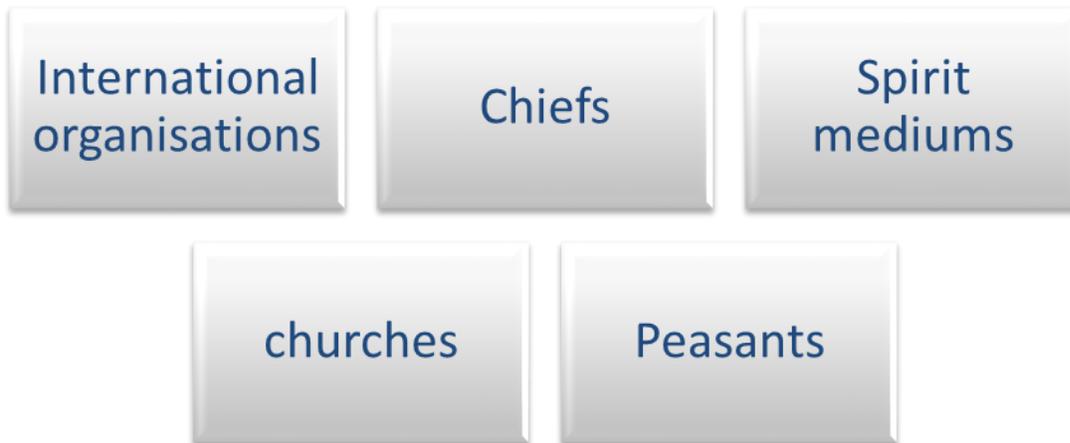
- The black people wanted to be involved in the governing of the country.
- The struggle was fuelled by the declaration of Unilateral Declaration of independence by Ian and Africans saw the use of violence inevitable.
- The rejection of the 1966 Constitution meant that Ian Smith did not want to share the powers with Africans.

(f) Influence of soldiers

- The influence of the ex-servicemen from the Second World War who spread doctrines of liberty, equality, justice, freedom and nationalism.
- Soldiers fought and died as equals alongside of whites and this meant that whites were people like Africans.
- Back home soldiers were not treated as equals by the settler government hence this angered the soldiers leading to the armed struggle.
- Influence of other African countries that had already attained their independence also meant that it was possible for Africans to defeat white settlers.

Role played by war collaborators in the armed struggle

- War collaborators were different groups of people who assisted Africans in the war of liberation.
- These war collaborators included chiefs, spirit mediums, churches, peasants and international organisations.



Second Chimurenga War Collaborators

(a) Churches/ religious groups

- Churches played a fundamental role in spreading the gospel of liberation and managed to resist the colonial rule.
- Africans preferred to join churches such as African Methodist Episcopal church which opposed settler policies, Africans realised that the values of equality, brotherhood and love were not practised by the European settlers.
- Most missionaries did not forcibly oppose racism, tax regulation, pass laws, land alienation and other discriminatory practices of the settlers.
- Africans preferred to join or form their own indigenous churches with teachings based on the bible but tolerant to African cultural values and in which they were in charge.
- One such religion movement in Rhodesia was the Jehovah's Witness brought by the immigrant labourers from Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia.

- Watch Tower became very popular for its teaching against the oppression of African workers in mines.
- Strikes in Shamva mine in 1927, involved 3500 workers and Jehovah's Witness did not take part although it had much support in the area.
- Indigenous African churches were also formed example Zionist and the Apostolic Faith or Vapostori.
- These African churches interpreted the bible in the African way.
- They preached message that praised Africans and gave them hope of gaining independence.
- These churches resisted the Government tax collectors, opposed implementation of the land and sometimes circulated information that was against Government.

(b) Peasants

- The war of liberation received support from peasants.
- Peasants played a pivotal role in the success of the liberation struggle.
- Freedom fighters obtained help from the peasants as they assisted them with food, shelter, clothing, information and moral support.
- The peasants also gave information and spied on the whereabouts of the enemy.
- They treated the sick injured or wounded.
- The Chibwidos (women) cooked for the guerrillas and washed their clothes whilst Mujibhas (men) carried food, ammunition for the guerrillas.
- The guerrillas held pungwes to educate the masses thus they gained support from the people.

(c) Spirit mediums

- These were used by the guerrillas to get the support of the masses.
- The guerrillas were able to obtain their cooperation thereby realised their aims.
- The masses believed prophesy of the spirit mediums and so supported the war effort.
- Furthermore the second Chimurenga still re-echoed the message of Nehanda that is the need to return the land to the African children.
- Spirit mediums joined the guerrillas and they had tremendous influence on people for example Nyamhita who was possessed by the spirit of Mbuya Nehanda.

(d) Chiefs

- Chiefs also played a significant role in supporting the liberation struggle.
- At first the chief lay low as the collaborators of the liberation and they then raised their heads again the Land husbandry act of 1951 in collusion with the African National Congress.
- Through the land husbandry act the chiefs lost their powers of distributing land among the natives.
- The chiefs communally resisted and boycotted any application for the special farming and grazing permits.

(e) Role of other countries in the liberation struggle

- The liberation struggle in Zimbabwe was also supported by international countries such as Romania, Yugoslavia, Cuba, China, Russia and East German.
- Among these countries were regional countries such as Mozambique, Tanzania, Angola, Zambia, Libya and Botswana.

- Some of these countries supported with the weapons used during the war of liberation struggle in Zimbabwe which included the following:
 - Assault rifles
 - Machine guns
 - Mortars
 - Artillery
 - Surface to Air Missiles (SAM)
 - Bombs
 - Grenades

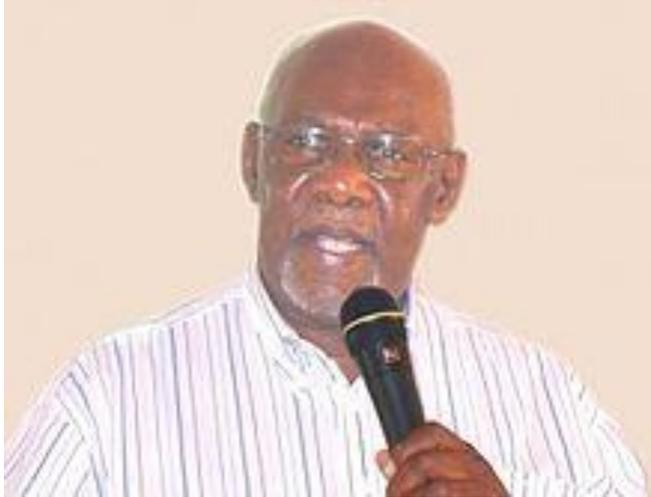
- ZANU and ZAPU sent cadres for military training abroad.
- ZANU established bases in Mozambique and Tanzania where guerrillas received military training.
- In Mozambique and Tanzania ZANLA got material, psychological and moral support.
- ZANU also sent most of its men to get military training in China and in China guerrillas were trained in the art of guerrilla warfare,
- In China guerrillas were trained in the art of guerrilla warfare, intelligence and training of high command such as Maoist teachings.
- Emphasis was on hit and run tactics, surprise night tactics, ambush, dependence on peasants for supplies.
- This training brought about efficiency in strategy and operations among the ZANLA forces.
- China also financially funded the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe.
- The training in China, Yugoslavia, Romania and Cuba produced many commanders of great expertise and high intellect such as Josiah Tungamirai, Perence Shiri, Solomon Mujuru and Josiah Magamba Tongogara.

- The OAU Liberation Committee provided training facilities and arms and these teachings led to the oil destruction of oil depot in Harare.



Guerrilla warfare Zimbabwe

- The military wing of ZAPU received training and military support from Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and Libya.
- Countries like Russia trained the ZIPRA intelligent wing, financially supported the struggle and it also trained the ZIPRA commanders such as Lookout Masuku, Emmerson Mnangagwa and Dumiso Dabengwa.
- ZIPRA used the strategy of conventional warfare as well as discipline.



Dumiso Dabengwa

Events in the armed struggle

- On **28 April 1966**, ZANU freedom fighters fought the first battle of Chinhoyi against the Rhodesia forces.
- In the battle of Chinhoyi seven freedom fighters were killed by the Rhodesian front among them was Simon Chinasha, Christopher Chatambudza, and Godfrey Dube.
- The Chinhoyi battle marked the beginning of the armed struggle, the defeat of the three freedom fighters was caused by the weapons that they used which was the AK 47 compared to jet bombers, Helicopters and machine guns.
- The **Battle of Chinhoyi** was followed by the Hwange (wankie) battle which was initiated by ZAPU freedom fighters together with African National Congress.
- ZAPU fought the war in Matabeleland, Mberengwa, Hurungwe and Guruve.
- Jason Moyo was exiled in Zambia and he believed in the armed struggle and the unity of fighters.

- Young boys and girls were recruited for training by the freedom fighters in both regional and international.
- The Mujibhas and Chibwidos were recruited for providing the guerrillas with information.
- Weapons were smuggled secretly into Zimbabwe through unprotected spots and distributed to guerrillas and some of the weapons were hidden in caves and dugouts.



Freedom fighters during the war

- Freedom fighters educated and mobilised the masses about the need to go to war and importance of attaining independence.
- This was done to win the support of the masses in the fight against the colonial regime.

ZANU and ZAPU military strategies

- ZANU followed the Chinese strategy of guerrillas mixing with the people (the fish and water strategy).
- ZAPU followed the USSR conventional warfare strategy which involved the creation of mass urban political party based on secret cells.
- In 1972 ZAPU and ZANU formed the join military command led by Jason Ziyaphapha Moyo and Herbert Chitepo.

- Herbert Chitepo was the chairman of the ZANU council of the liberation whose role was to direct the war.
- Other members of the council included Edgar Tekere, Kumbirai Kangai, Rugare Gumbo, Rex Nhongo, Josiah Tongogara and Emmerson Mnangagwa.

United States intervention

- The western world in 1974 realised that Smith would not win the war.
- They came as peace makers but their aim was to protect their interest and prevent guerrilla victory.
- Using USA intelligence information, Kissinger told Smith that he would not win the war.
- With South African support, Kissinger persuaded Smith to accept the principle of majority but Smith refused.
- Kissinger made several diplomatic shuttles (trips) to Rhodesia.

Escalation of the armed struggle

- Many young Zimbabwean left the country to join the guerrillas.
- A new army called the Zimbabwe people's army (ZIPA) was created and it consisted of 18 committee members (9 members from ZANLA and 9 from ZIPRA).
- In 1976 ZAPU and ZANU formed the Patriotic Front (PF) to coordinate the war effort.

Rhodesia declares war on civilians

- Smith believed that there could not be a black majority rule and waged war against the civilian population.
- There were power struggles in both ZANU and ZAPU, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique and other OAU leaders failed to unite guerrilla forces through ZIPA.

- The war stopped after the death of Herbert Chitepo in 1975.
- At the Victoria Falls train bridge meeting, President Kaunda and Prime Minister Vorster begged Smith to accept the idea of majority rule but Smith refused to accept their request.
- Smith continued to work with those nationalists he had released from prison.
- Young boys and girls left school to join the war and some became refugees in Angola, Mozambique and Zambia.
- From 1976 to 1979 many trained guerrillas entered the country from Zambia, Botswana, and Tete, Manica and Gaza provinces of Mozambique.
- Guerrillas fought the enemy and destroyed the enemy war planes, vehicles and also destroyed the Harare fuel tanks in 1978.
- The Rhodesians began to attack civilians accusing them of supporting the guerrillas.

Measures taken by the Rhodesians to attack the guerrillas

- They deliberately misinformed the people and described the guerrillas as cruel people who cut off people lips, legs, arms, private parts, rapists and murders who wanted to spread communism.
- They described communism as a system where people share everything.
- Rhodesian soldiers dressed like guerrillas killed civilians.
- The Smith regime created many armies for example the Grey scouts, Selous scouts and the guard forces who manned the protected villages.
- They created protected villages and people left these villages to work in their fields at sunrise and were locked at sunset.

- Rhodesian forces went on to neighbouring countries and massacred refugees and the trainees in camps for example Chimoio and Nyadzonya.
- These are mass graves where the people buried.



Chimoio massacre

- They made use propaganda, the radio, newspapers, magazines and flies were used to spread falsehoods about the guerrillas.
- The African times distributed freely to the people in the rural areas.
- They also poisoned clothes that were to be worn by guerrillas.

Role of women in the struggle

- Fighting alongside men soldiers or guerrillas.
- Trained women guerrillas worked as nurses, teachers and engineers such Teurai Ropa Nhongo (Joyce Mujuru), Oppah Muchinguri, Margret Dongo and Fay Chung.

- Cooking.
- Transporting war material.
- Disseminating propaganda.

Peace settlements

- Measures were taken to bring about peace and to end the second Chimurenga war.

A. The Geneva Conference

- This was a conference that was organised by the British so as to stop the war and it was chaired by Ivor Richard, who was the British Ambassador to the United Nations.
- This conference was held in August 1976 in Geneva.
- It did not succeed due Ian Smith's refusal to leave the Kissinger proposals.
- He was of the idea that he would win the war

B. The birth of Zimbabwe –Rhodesian (March 3, 1978)

- Smith signed agreement with Sithole, Muzorewa and chief Chirawu in 1978 forming a transitional government.
- This was called **Internal Settlement** meant to pave way for majority rule.
- In 1979, referendum for the white endorsed a new Zimbabwe-Rhodesia constitution.
- Muzorewa won the election and became the Prime minister of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia and Sithole did not accept the election results.
- The internal settlement was meaningless because it did not represent the African majority.
- The guerrillas boycotted it and so the war continued and they disowned Sithole, Muzorewa and Chirau.

- Muzorewa had no control over major ministries of foreign affairs, defence, finance, home affairs and justice while Smith remained in power.
- Muzorewa as the Prime minister offered an amnesty to guerrillas but they rejected the offer and the war continued.
- A summit of common wealth heads of state was held in 1979.
- No country recognised the internal settlement.
- Common wealth leaders persuaded Margret Thatcher to call for a constitutional conference in Zimbabwe.

C. [The Lancaster house conference](#)

- A constitutional conference was held at Lancaster House in October 1979 in London.
- Three candidates attended the conference: British delegation led by Lord Carrington; Zimbabwe Rhodesia delegation of Muzorewa ANC and Smith's RF; PF delegation (ZANU and ZAPU) led by Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo, respectively.



Lancaster conference

- Smith walked out of the conference because he was losing to PF.
- An agreement was reached in December, 1979.
- A system of willing-buyer and willing-seller was agreed on to solve the land issue.
- A ceasefire followed in 1979.
- General election followed in February, and independence in April, 1980.

The 1980 general elections

- ZANU and ZAPU contested the elections separately as ZANU (PF) and (PF) ZAPU.
- ZANU (PF) won 57 seats, (PF) ZAPU won twenty seats, and Muzorewa's UANC won three seats of the eighty seats reserved for the majority.
- Smith's RF won all twenty seats reserved for whites.
- The parties of Sithole, Chikerema and Chirau got nothing each.

Independence



Independence Day in Zimbabwe

- At midnight on 17th April, 1980, the British flag, union jack, was lowered and it was replaced by the Zimbabwean flag.
- Zimbabwe became an independent sovereign state on 18th April 1980.
- Robert Mugabe became the first Prime minister and Reverend Canaan Banana became the first president of the Republic of Zimbabwe.



Zimbabwean flag