

AFRICA REVIEW

AN UP-TO-DATE GEOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUMMARY OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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ZIMBABWE

1. Official name: Republic of Zimbabwe

2. Geography:

2.1. Situation: in the south east of Africa within the southern tropic, between 15°S and 22°S, 26°E and 34°E.

2.2. Total area: 390.580 km².

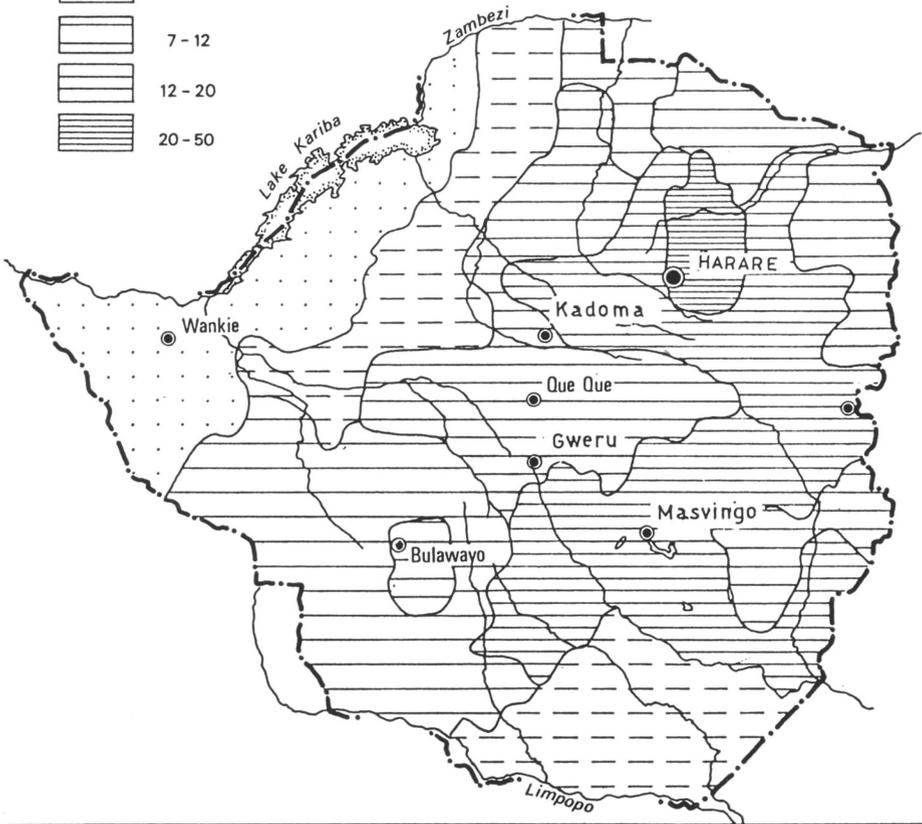
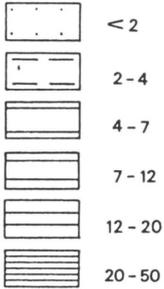
2.3. Natural regions: a belt of a generally high level land above 1200 m is found throughout the country from the northeast to the southwest. This area is known as the highveld. From this region the land drops off through a broad more heavily eroded middleveld to the lowveld of the Zambesi valley in the northwest and of the Limpopo and Sabi basins in the southeast.

2.4. Climate: dry tropical climate with 4 seasons: a rainy season from November to March, a transitional season from late March to mid-May with falling temperatures and decreasing rainfall, the cool dry season from mid-May to mid-August and the warm dry season from mid-August to the onset of the rains.

ZIMBABWE

POPULATION DENSITY

persons per km²



3. Population:

3.1. Total population: 9.1 mln (1989), urban population: 27%.

3.2. Population density: 23.3 per km² (1989).

3.3. Population growth rate: 2.9% (1987).

3.4. Capital: HARARE, 681 000 inh. (mid 1983).

3.5. Official Languages: English, Ndebele, Shona,

3.6. Religion: traditional beliefs, Christianity (20%)

4. History:

According to scientific investigation, the precolonial history can be divided in three main periods : 1° the pre-Monomotapa-period; 2° the Monomotapa or first Shona-period and 3° the Mambo- or Changamire-period, also called second Shona-period or Rozwi-period. Around the twelfth century, the Shona ruled the Monomotapa kingdom till 1450. When the Portuguese took control over the coast and Sofala at the beginning of the sixteenth century, the leading power of the interior was that of the Vakaranga, a branch of the Shona, whose ruler was known by the title of 'Mwene Mutapa' (Monomotapa). In all probability, the Monomotapa dynasty was in some sense the successor of that which had occupied the earliest stone-built royal village at 'Great-Zimbabwe' which historians today attribute to a period from about the eleventh till about the fifteenth century.

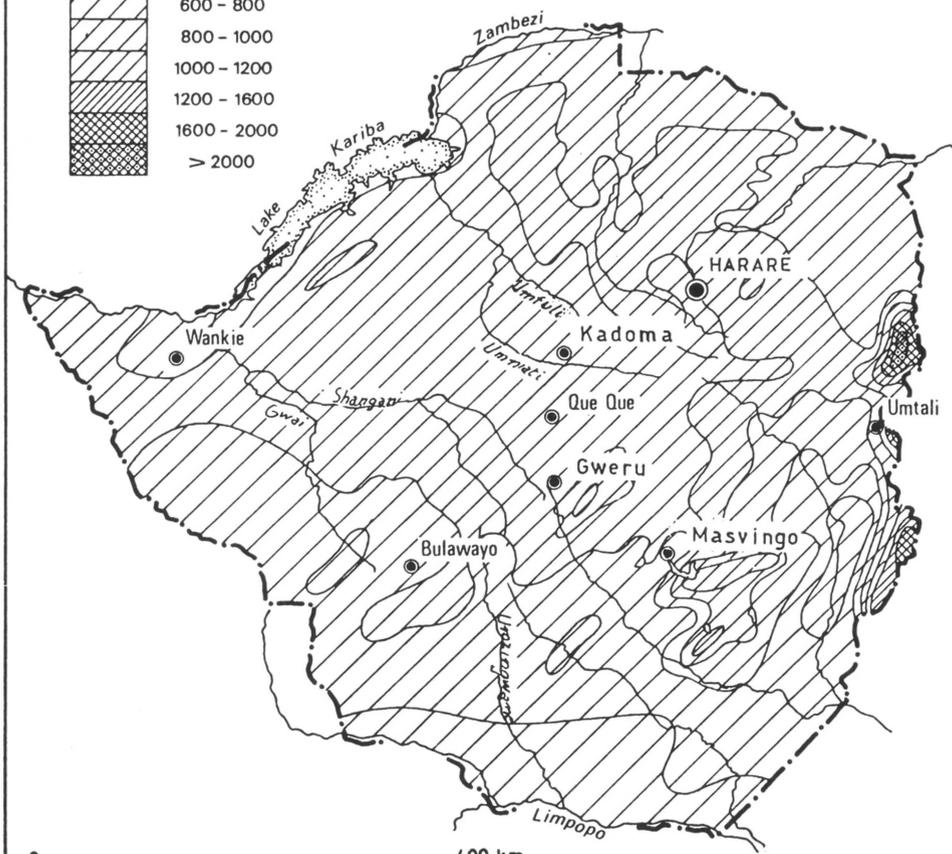
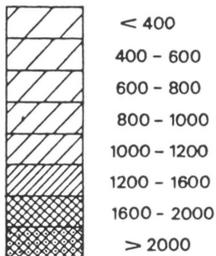
Around 1600 some chiefs of the south claimed independence and founded a rival state under rulers bearing the dynastic title of Changamire or Mambo. The Changamire state was brought to an end by the great Nguni emigration from Natal during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The Nguni founded two major kingdoms: one in the vicinity of Bulawayo, known as the kingdom of Mzilikazi and another known as the kingdom of the Ndebele and ruled by Soshangane.

In the mid of the nineteenth century the British were interested in that part of Africa. They invaded the Ndebele kingdom in 1890 and made an end to it's independence in 1896 after a generalized anti-British rebellion from Ndebele and allied Shona.

ZIMBABWE

R A I N F A L L

in millimetres



From 1890 till 1923 both Southern and Northern Rhodesia were governed by the British South African Company. From 1923 till 1951 South Rhodesia was granted a responsible government as a British colony. In 1953 the Rhodesia-Nyassaland Federation was formed. Northern Rhodesia became independent as Zambia in 1964.

A unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) was proclaimed in 1965 by the Rhodesian Front, an amalgamation of white groups led by Ian Smith. This started a guerilla-war between the government and the African nationalist parties ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) and ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union). After the failure of an 'internal settlement' - a form of black rule that excluded ZANU and ZAPU, by then in coalition as the Patriotic Front (PF) - negotiations at Lancaster House led in December 1979 to an agreement on the provisions for ceasefire, the arrangements for the transition to independence and a new constitution.

Elections held in Februari and March 1980 were won by the ZANU-PF of Robert Mugabe. Zimbabwe became independent on 01/04/1980. Tensions between ZANU-PF en ZAPU-PF came to an end with the merger of both parties under the name ZANU-PF, following the 22 December 1987 Unity Accord. President Mugabe's ambition to introduce a one-party state is facing growing opposition from his colleagues in the Politburo and the Central Committee of the ruling ZANU-PF as well as from the new opposition party ZUM (Zimbabwe Unity Movement) formed in May 1989 and led by Edgar Tekere. President Mugabe has indicated that the establishment of a one-party state might take place after a referendum has been held.

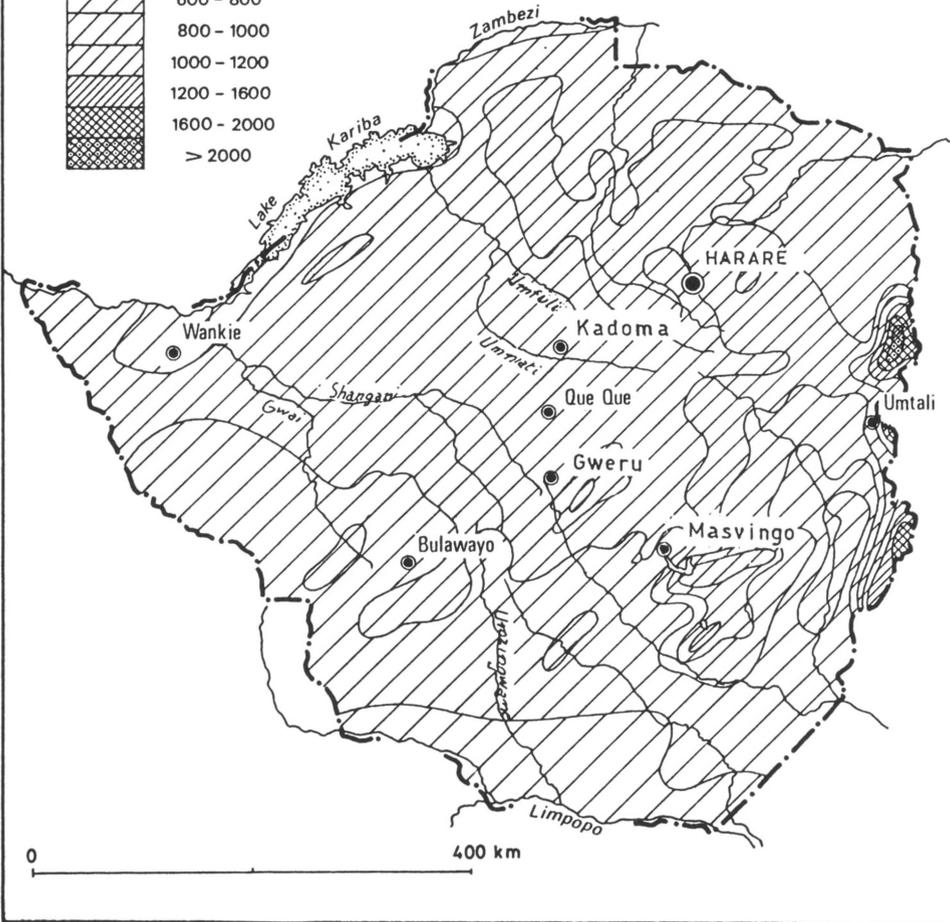
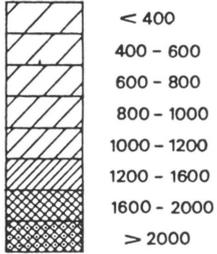
5. Nature of political system:

Although the Constitution allocates executive power to the President (elected by Parliament for six years and eligible for re-election) he acts on the advice of the Cabinet, appointing as the leader of which, and as Prime Minister, the person considered able to command a majority in Parliament who is in effect the executive leader. In October 1987 Parliament approved a constitutional amendment whereby the Presidency became an executive post, incorporating the former post of Prime-Minister. Members of the Cabinet are appointed by the President. The House of Assembly has 100 members from "common roll" and "white roll" constituencies. The Senate is chosen (on an electoral college system) by members of the House of Assembly, into 14 "common roll" members, 10 "white roll" members together with 10 chosen by the traditional House of Chiefs and six Presidential nominees. A constitutional amendment of September 1987 abolished the seats in both House and Senate reserved for election by voters on the "white roll". The House of Assembly itself elected the remaining 20 seats and the so-formed new House elected the remaining 10 seats in the Senate.

ZIMBABWE

RAINFALL

in millimetres



Since 18 April 1990, the tenth anniversary of independence, Zimbabwe is no longer bound to the restrictions of the Lancaster House Agreement, namely a two thirds vote instead of the previous unanimity to abolish sections of the bill of rights, to introduce a one party state, or to expropriate land without compensation.

In December 1989 the Government already approved the abolition of the Senate. The unicameral Parliament will count 140 members of which 120 are chosen by direct elections and 20 appointed by the President. Voting qualifications : universal adult suffrage over 18.

6. Economy:

GDP: Primary Sector (Agriculture/Mining) : 18%; Secondary Sector (Manufacturing/Construction) : 31%; Tertiary Sector (Transport and distribution/Public administration/etc.) : 51%.

6.1. Mining:

Several minerals are exploited. 1982 figures show: asbestos 194 400 t, chrome ore 431 600 t, copper 24 800 t, nickel 13 300 t (metal content).

6.2. Agriculture:

7% of the total area is arable land or cultivated with permanent crops (1984). Main food crops are cereals: maize, wheat, millet and sorghum. Cash crops are cotton, tea, sugar cane, coffee and tobacco.

6.3. Livestock:

12.5% of the total area is permanent pasture (1984). Main cattle breeds are improved indigenous stocks of crossbreds with Hereford and Sussex. Dairy cattle, localized near urban markets, are mostly Friesland. Sheep, goats, pigs and poultry are not particularly numerous. Mules and donkeys assist in local transport.

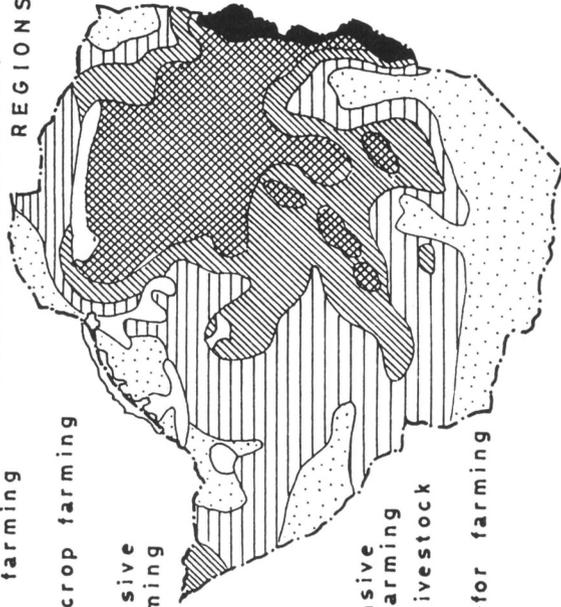
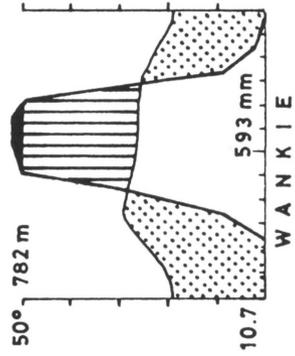
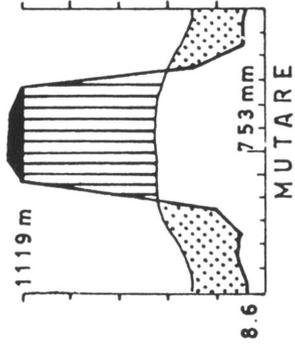
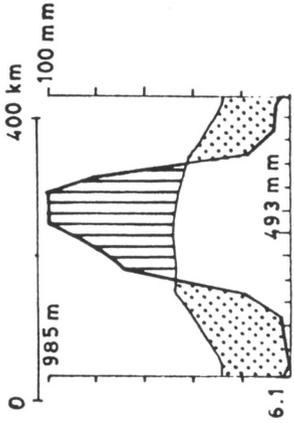
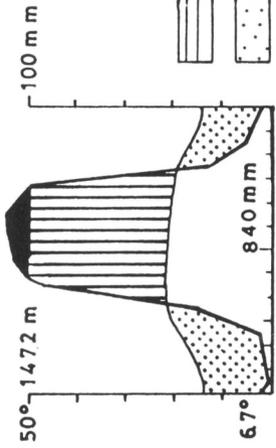
6.4. Forestry and woodland:

61% of the total area (1984). Zimbabwe's forestry output comes mainly from reforested areas. Reforestation with exotic conifers, eucalyptus and wattle is of

NATURAL FARMING REGIONS

- specialized farming
- ▨ intensive crop farming
- ▧ semi intensive mixed farming
- ▩ semi extensive livestock farming
- extensive livestock farming
- unsuitable for farming

R A I N F A L L



increasing importance. In the northwestern parts, extensive reserves of indigenous hardwood are developed and exploited by the Forestry Commission.

6.5. Fishery:

Annual (freshwater) catch is increasing (16 500 t in 1981). Catch is small scale, coming mainly from thousands of fish ponds.

6.6. Industry:

Zimbabwe has a well developed industry: metal industry, textile, clothing, paper, chemicals, cement, food, tobacco, etc.

6.7. Weights, measures and currency:

kg, meter

1 Dollar (ZW \$) = 100 cents

1 US \$ = 2.010 ZW \$ (31 March 1989)

7. Trade:

Total exports amount to 1428 mln US \$ (1987), mainly gold (265 mln US \$), tobacco (256 US \$), ferroalloys (150 mln US \$), cotton (73 mln US \$) and nickel (56 mln US \$).

Main clients (1987) are the UK (12.9%), West Germany (10.2%), South Africa (9.8%) and the USA (6.8%).

Total imports amount to 1209 mln US \$ (1987), mainly machinery and transport equipment (383 mln US \$), manufactures (242 mln US \$), chemicals (187 mln US \$) and petroleum products and electricity (144 mln US \$).

Main suppliers (1987) are South Africa (20.8%), the UK (11.5%), the USA (9.4%) and West Germany (8.7%).

8. Miscellaneous:

Literacy: 76.7% of the adult population (1982).

World Bank classification: Zimbabwe belongs to the middle- income economies with a GDP per capita of 680 US \$ (1985).

Membership of international organisations:

ILO, IMF, OAU, UN, WHO, African Development Bank, Economic Commission for Africa, Commonwealth, Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, World Bank.

Zimbabwe is a signatory to the Lomé Convention (EEC-ACP)

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