

PLACE-NAMES, CURRENCY, AND ACRONYMS

The convention of historical writing of the country this book is about is to include a list of place-names in the front matter, with Rhodesian names on one side and the Zimbabwean names on the other. I will not do that here. The country I write about had four names between 1960 and 1980; what these were and how they changed are discussed at the start of the first chapter. I avoid such lists because of my concerns about a notion of before-and-after in history: a list of place-names and their changes suggests a too pat transformation from colony to nation, from bad to good, from minority to majority rule. Such a list also suggests that transitions are instantaneous, that a threshold has been crossed. For the record, however, Rhodesia became Southern Rhodesia from mid-December 1979 to April 1980, when it became Zimbabwe. Salisbury, the capital, became Harare only in 1982. More common and never part of any list has been the tendency to use “Rhodesian” to mean white and “Zimbabwean” to mean African. I have tried to avoid this as often as I could throughout this book.

With the breakup of the Central African Federation, Rhodesia named its currency the pound (£). Cast out of the sterling zone shortly after the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI), Rhodesia valued its pound at US\$2. In 1970, Rhodesia adopted the dollar as its currency. It was designed to be valued at half a British pound and between 1970 and 1980 hovered at about US\$1.50. This currency—most often written as R\$—was not convertible outside of Rhodesia, however, so most foreign trade took place in South African rand (ZAR) or European or African currencies.

It also is a convention of Zimbabwean historiography to provide a list of acronyms at the start of the book. Parties and armies and factions and policies are often known by their initials, which take on a life of their own in politics and academic studies. I have avoided listing these acronyms in my other work: doing so gives all organizations an equivalency that they did not have. Such lists are also not very helpful. They obscure the ways that white political parties changed their names because they were very fluid coalitions and African political parties changed their names because

they had been banned and had to create a new one. Thus, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) was the new name for the banned National Democratic Party (NDP), which itself was the new name for the banned Southern Rhodesia African National Congress (SRANC). In 1963 the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) was formed by dissidents in ZAPU. A list of acronyms and what each one stands for does not do justice to the complexities of party names. In 1976, for example, ZANU and ZAPU formed a united front with which to negotiate at all-party conferences. This was the Patriotic Front that negotiated both at Geneva in 1976 and at Lancaster House in 1979. In preparation for the 1980 elections, ZANU left the Patriotic Front but kept the name in parentheses. This may have been a convenience for the ballot, so as to distinguish itself from the ZANU led by Ndabaningi Sithole, which had been part of the internal settlement. The party is still known as ZANU(PF). ZAPU was left with the name Patriotic Front under which it contested the election. After the election it returned to ZAPU. The following list is of the acronyms I use in this book:

ANC	African National Congress (South Africa and Northern Rhodesia)
ANC	African National Council (in Rhodesia)
AP	Associated Press
ARC	Armored Car Regiment
BSAC	British South Africa Company
BSAP	British South African Police
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency (US)
CID	Criminal Investigation Department (of BSAP)
CIO	Central Intelligence Office (Rhodesia)
FNLA	Frente Nacional de Libertação de Angola
FRELIMO	Frente de Libertação Moçambique
FROLIZI	Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe
IDAF	International Defence and Aid Fund
INTAF	Internal Affairs
JOC	Joint Operations Command
MPLA	Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola
NDP	National Democratic Party
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OCC	Operations Coordinating Council
PAC	Pan African Congress (South Africa)

PATU	Police Anti-Terrorist Unit
PCC	People's Caretaker Council
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
PsyAc	Psychological Action
RAF	Royal Air Force
RAR	Rhodesian African Rifles
RDR	Rhodesian Defence Regiment
RENAMO	Resistência Nacional Moçambicana
RF	Rhodesian Front
RhAF	Rhodesian Air Force
RLI	Rhodesian Light Infantry
RR	Rhodesia Regiment
SADF	South Africa Defence Force
SAP	South African Police
SAS	Special Air Services
SASOL	South Africa Synthetic Oil Ltd.
SFA	Security Force Auxiliaries
SRANC	Southern Rhodesia African National Congress
SRP	Safe Return Program
UANC	United African National Council
UDI	Unilateral Declaration of Independence
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission on Refugees
UNITA	União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola
ZANLA	Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army
ZANU	Zimbabwe African National Union
ZAPU	Zimbabwe African People's Union
ZIPA	Zimbabwe People's Army
ZIPRA	Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army
ZUPO	Zimbabwe United People's Organization

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