mbabwe: A Brief History

British company led by Cecil B. Rhodes defeats the Shona and Ndebele people and establishes the colony of Southern Rhodesia (later to become Zimbabwe).

Southern Rhodesia becomes a self-governing colony in which white settlers have a monopoly on political and economic power.

ZANU and **ZAPU**, win their protracted fight against the white settler army and the nation of Zimbabwe is established with *Robert Mugabe*, as prime minister, having won the first independent national election. A wave of mass emigration of white settlers takes place, largely relocating to neighboring South Africa.

1990s-2000s

The U.K. receives more asylum seekers, than any other nation. Applicants from Zimbabwe represent one of the largest groups, second only to Iraq.

1990s

Mugabe's government policies include land redistribution that results in another wave of white emigration. Due to mismanagement the land falls into disuse. Zimbabweans suffer from famine and unemployment, leading to the first wave of Zimbabwean emigrants who leave Zimbabwe for neighboring South Africa.

2000s

Members of the MDC are subjected to extreme violence, most likely at the hands of Zimbabwe's Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO).

MDC's Tsvangirai and Mugabe come to a power sharing agreement and Tsvangirai becomes Zimbabwe's prime minister after Mugabe agrees to reinstate the position. Zimbabwe abandons its currency due to hyperinflation and adopts the U.S. Dollar, bringing temporary stability to Zimbabwe's

Despite old age, Mugabe's autocratic rule continues. 93 year-old Mugabe's wife Grace Mugabe urges supporters to write his name on ballots for an upcoming election even if he should die beforehand, saying it would be better for him to "run as a corpse" than not to run at all.

EARLY 1900s

White settlers from the UK and neighboring South Africa begin migrating to Zimbabwe, claiming large areas of farmland and controlling the mining industry.

In response to the wave of independence movements throughout Africa, the white settler minority declares independence from the United Kingdom and establishes the "Republic of Rhodesia." A decade of guerrilla warfare between Ian Smith's settler army and different factions of freedom fighters ensues.

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1983-1985

Fearing the rise of rivals among the Ndebele people, Mugabe orders the *Fifth Brigade* of the army to occupy Matabelelan where they begin attacks on Ndebele civilians. Tens of thousands of civilians are killed.

Mugabe eliminates the power sharing position of prime minister and begins serving as the country's President. The Ndebele party ZAPU is absorbed by the Shona ZANU.

South Africa introduces immigration restrictions allowing only highly skilled African migrants to relocate within its borders. Zimbabweans, both legal and undocumented, begin settling in the UK (mostly London and Leeds), Australia, Canada, Botswana, and the U.S.

Morgan Tsvangirai, a trade unionist, establishes the Movement for Democratic that challenges Mugabe's ZANU party in subsequent elections.

2005

Due to domestic pressures and rising antiimmigration sentiment, The U.K. discontinues granting refugees lifelong rights to live in the U.K., Change (MDC)₅, a political party that challenges Mugabe's ZANU and introduces a policy giving refugees a 5-year grace period after which they must return to their country if the U.K. government deems it safe for return, or apply for British residency through other means.

the play.

Mugabe once again eliminates the office of prime minister and the power sharing agreement Events of with the MDC ends.



1. Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) Militant organization and political party mainly comprised of majority ethnic group Shona people. Served as the hardline group against Ian Smith's

white government, they were unwilling to establish an exile government outside of Zimbabwe during the civil war. Led by Robert Mugabe since 1975, the party has been in power since 1980.

1. Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU)

Militant organization mainly comprised of minority ethnic group Ndebele people. Worked from a more moderate platform than ZANU and, though collaborators with ZANU, they were also victims of ZANU's violent tactics.



2. Robert Mugabe

Zimbabwe's ruling president since 1980 to present times. Began his career as a school teacher and was exposed to Marxist-Leninist ideologies when studying in Ghana and South Africa where he was also exposed to Pan-African nationalism. From 1963-1975 he was imprisoned and tortured by the white led government of the then Republic of Rhodesia. He became the first president of Zimbabwe and has stayed in power ever since. His time in power has been characterized by autocracy, intimidation, and economic mismanagement.



A region in Southern Zimbabwe that is the indigenous home of the minority ethnic group Ndebele. Residents of the region have described the events in the early 1980s as a genocide and have been pursuing a trial of Mugabe at the International Criminal Court.



4. Perence Shiri: Black Jesus Perence Shiri was the commander of the Fifth brigade and a cousin of Mugabe's. "Black Jesus" was a name he gave himself because of the control he had over whether someone lived or died. He is currently commander of

Zimbabwe's air force and is not allowed entry to the U.S. or U.K.



5. Movement for Democratic Change

The Movement for Democratic Change emerged in opposition to Mugabe's attempts to gain more power through governmental immunity and land control. In 1999 MDC successfully led a campaign among voters to reject a referendum Mugabe proposed on these issues, however further progress has been prevented by ongoing state-sponsored violence against MDC members.



6. Asylum Seeker

A recent arrival in the UK who has issued a claim for refugee status that is pending. They are not allowed to work, are afforded no choice in where they live, and receive a stipend of less than 50 pounds per week.



An individual with an accepted application for refugee status who has legally proven that they risk persecution and/or death if they return to their home country. In the UK they have no restrictions on their right to work but often work menial jobs regardless of training and capability. Currently, refugees are granted the right to live in the UK for 5 years before a mandatory safe review takes place to determine if they are still at risk if they return to their home country.



7. The Home Office

The division of the British government in charge of immigration, security, and counterterrorism, much like the American Dept. of Homeland Security. Three Home Offices are set up for the processing of asylum seekers--Cardiff, Glasgow, and Liverpool. Asylum seekers are sent to one of these three offices upon arrival in the UK.