

# Zimbabwe

- **1965:** At the time known as Southern Rhodesia, the colony was part of Britain's overseas empire. The 220,000 white settlers in **Rhodesia** (later **Zimbabwe**), decide to ignore the wishes of the 4,000,000 black Africans and declare independence. Ian Smith rules the country for the whites and does not allow the blacks to vote. The UK imposes sanctions that are ignored by multinational companies, Portugal controlled Mozambique, and apartheid South Africa.
- **1965-1979: Civil War**
- **1970s:** the US military and CIA colluded with *Soldier of Fortune* magazine and others to send white mercenaries to fight for the Ian Smith regime in Rhodesia, fighting against Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). The war and its subsequent settlement ultimately led to the implementation of universal suffrage, the end of the white minority ruled Rhodesia and the short-lived government of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, and resulted in the creation of the Republic of Zimbabwe under the leadership of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe.
- **1971 – 1978:** United Nations sanctions placed on Rhodesia. Three countries violated the sanctions: The US, Portugal (under a Fascist regime), and South Africa (under apartheid). US military and CIA colluded with *Soldier of Fortune* magazine and others to send white mercenaries to fight for the Ian Smith regime in Rhodesia.
- **1979:** Civil War ends, coalition government set up
- **1980:** Mugabe and his ZANU win a landslide victory.
- **1982:** Reagan administration added Zimbabwe to its list of countries eligible to receive US military aid.
- **2003:** Zimbabwe has one of the highest torture rates in the world. Mugabe has undermined a once independent judiciary; destroyed the country's agricultural infrastructure; closed down its free press; expelled the critical foreign press; arrests and tortures supporters of the opposition party, persecuted the minority Ndebele-speaking people from Matabeleland; and driven the general population into poverty and starvation. Yet South Africa lobbies other African nations to prevent a vote condemning Zimbabwe within the United Nations Human Rights Commission and the UK continues to trade with the regime.
- **2009:** President Obama supports an unprecedented, US-led diplomatic push to get tough new UN sanctions imposed against the Zimbabwe regime.