

## ZIMBABWE

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**Note:** Passages marked in yellow are updates added between 1 January 2002 (publication date of the book) and 1 March 2005.

## Southern Rhodesia

After the emergence of the Rhodesia Front government in 1962, several historians went into exile and others were deported or imprisoned. A federal project to write the history of Southern Rhodesia, Zambia, and Nyasaland (Malawi) collapsed. The publications of the Central African Historical Association were exposed to censorship and history books from abroad were banned. Much material relating to African history and to the activities of Africans was removed from the files open to the public at the National Archives, an interference glossed over by recataloging. Fieldwork became nearly impossible. Archeologists who supported the thesis of the African origin of the Great Zimbabwe ruins ran a risk.

- 1957– **(John) Richard Gray** (1929–), historian, research fellow (1961–63), reader (1963–72) and professor (1972–89) at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, attempted to follow up Donald Abraham's work on Shona oral history but was prevented from entering the African areas and eventually from revisiting Southern Rhodesia. In 1957 he had not been appointed as history lecturer at the newly-established University College of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland because of his nationalist sympathies; Ranger [q.v. 1961–63] was appointed in his stead. Later Gray became the editor of *The Cambridge History of Africa*, vol.4, 1600–1790 (Cambridge 1975).
- 1961–63 In September 1961 some lay members of the Council of the University College of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland insisted on taking action against British historian **Terence Ranger** (1929–), who was history lecturer there (1957–63), after he had been involved in sit-in campaigns against the color bar in the capital, Salisbury. As a National Democratic Party member, Ranger actively supported African nationalism. According to Ranger, the government began to censor his publications and sent spies to his classes. In [September] 1962 he was served with a restriction order. He was barred from entering the African rural areas (which partly prevented his historical research). In March 1963 he was deported. He pursued his career at University College, Dar-es-Salaam, in the newly independent Tanganyika/Tanzania (1963–69), at the University of California, Los Angeles (1969–74), and at the universities of Manchester (1974–87) and Oxford (1987–97). His 1967 history of the ChiMurenga (the Shona name for the 1896–97 uprisings), *Revolt in Southern Rhodesia 1896–97: A Study in African Resistance*, reportedly inspired the blacks to compare the revolt with their own uprising against the Rhodesian regime after its 1965 Unilateral Declaration of Independence. Consequently, the book could not be reprinted until after 1980, when a black government came to rule the country, renamed Zimbabwe, and Ranger was again allowed to visit it. In addition, the book was reportedly used as a textbook in counterinsurgency by the Rhodesian army. Some of the files at the National Archives of Southern Rhodesia that Ranger used were removed from open access.
- 1962– Among the group of historians who either could not or did not wish to return after 1962 were **Lewis Gann** (1924–), in 1978 senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University; **Ian Henderson** (1934–), in 1978 principal lecturer in history and politics, Lancaster Polytechnic, United Kingdom; **Robin Palmer** (1940–), in 1978 senior history lecturer, University of Zambia; Ranger [q.v. 1961–63]; **David Kwidini**; and Samkange [q.v. Rhodesia 1968–].

## Rhodesia

- 1965– On the list of banned publications, based on the 1965 Censorship and Entertainments Control Act was the work of historian **Walter Rodney** (1942–80). Sociological and historical studies of sexuality were also banned, and remained so after independence.
- 1968– In 1968 historian **Stanlake Samkange** (1922–88), journalist, novelist, publisher, politician, and Secretary-General of the African National Congress for many years, who obtained a doctoral degree at Indiana University, Bloomington, United States, had his book *Origins of Rhodesia* banned. While in exile he taught African history at various American universities. In 1978 he was professor of African-American Studies at Northeastern University, Boston.
- 1970– Two archeologists, **Roger Summers**, employed by the National Museum (1947–70), and **Peter Garlake**

- (1934–), senior inspector of monuments for Rhodesia (1964–70), resigned and left Rhodesia because they could reportedly no longer work under the Rhodesian regime and sustain their intellectual integrity. In 1968 Garlake had supervised the excavations of a newly discovered group of ruins at Bindura and supported the view that these and such other ruins as Great Zimbabwe were erected by indigenous people, a view shared by all professional archeologists since 1914. State employees, however, were told by secret government order that they would be dismissed if they credited Africans with the monuments, that they should not discuss the ruins' radiocarbon dates and that they should distribute guidebooks censored by the minister of internal affairs. Raymond Inskeep, archeology professor at Cape Town, joined in the protest against this governmental intervention. In 1978 Garlake was a lecturer in anthropology at University College, London University.
- pre-[1974] Historian **Stan Mudenge** (1941–) was detained at the concentration camp of Gonakudzingwa for an unspecified period. He taught history at various African universities, among them Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, Freetown (1971–73); the University of Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland, Roma, Lesotho (1973–75); and the National University of Lesotho, Roma, Lesotho (1975–78). He was the founding director of the Institute of Southern African Studies, National University of Lesotho and served as the president of the Central African Historical Association. He was Zimbabwe's permanent representative at the United Nations, New York (1988), minister of education and culture (1992–95) and minister of foreign affairs (1995–). Mudenge was educated at Goromonzi High School, University of Zimbabwe, where he had been expelled for protesting the 1965 Unilateral Declaration of Independence.
- 1976 A book by British historian, biographer, former diplomat (1952–66), and publisher (1966–) **Philip Ziegler** (1929–), *The Black Death* (London 1969), about the plague that ravaged fourteenth-century Europe, was on the Suspect List of the Board of Censors, presumably because of the “misleading” title. The list detailed publications which could not be sold without official permission.
- 1979–80 The Rhodesian government destroyed documents produced by the Central Intelligence Organization, the Police Special Branch, the Special Courts, and the Selous Scouts army unit.

### Zimbabwe

- 1996 In January the film *Flame*, a fictional account of the struggle of two women against white minority rule in Rhodesia by scriptwriter and film director **Ingrid Sinclair**, was almost banned before its completion after attacks by the director of information and the War Veterans' Association (strongly linked to the Zimbabwe African National Union government), because of a short scene in which one of the women was raped by her commander in the freedom fighters camps in Zambia and Mozambique. The film was based on seven years' research into the fate of women ex-fighters.
- 1999– Since the publication of *Breaking the Silence: Building True Peace*, a 1999 report describing the 1983 government-instigated killings in Matabeleland with an estimated 20,000 victims, **Shari Eppel**, co-author and collaborator of the Amani Trust, an NGO engaged in community rehabilitation, has had her telephone tapped and e-mail censored.
- [2000] In 2000 human-rights organizations brought a High Court action to force the disclosure of the Dumbutshena and Chihambakwe reports. Both reports were the result of commissions of inquiry, the first into clashes between guerrillas of the two former liberation armies in Bulawayo in 1981, the second into the 1983 killings in Matabeleland. Neither report had ever been published. The government's response concerning the first report was that the only copy that had ever existed was lost.

*Also see* Guyana (1974–96: Rodney), South Africa (1953–: Davidson; 1960–: Thompson).

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