ZIMBABWE

INTRODUCTION
A series of trading states developed in the area of Zimbabwe prior to the arrival of Europeans. The largest of these was the Kingdom of Zimbabwe (ca. 1220-1450). UK colonization in the late 1800s led to the creation of Southern Rhodesia in 1923. In 1965, the government declared independence, but the UK did not recognize the act and demanded more rights for the black African majority in the country (then called Rhodesia). UN sanctions and a guerrilla uprising led to free elections in 1979 and independence (as Zimbabwe) in 1980.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Emmerson Dambudzo MNANGAGWA
Head of Government
President Emmerson Dambudzo MNANGAGWA
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Harare
Legislature
bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (80 seats) and the National Assembly (270 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 390,757 sq km
Land: 386,847 sq km
Water: 3,910 sq km
Climate
tropical; moderated by altitude; rainy season (November to March)
Natural Resources
coal, chromium ore, asbestos, gold, nickel, copper, iron ore, vanadium, lithium, tin
as of October 2021

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
low income Sub-Saharan economy; political instability, protest crackdowns, and COVID-19 have damaged economic potential; reliant on natural resource extraction and agriculture; endemic corruption; ongoing hyperinflation
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $40.79 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $2,700 (2020 est.)
Industries - mining, diamonds, clay, steel, wood products, cement, chemicals, fertilizer, clothing, footwear, foodstuffs, beverages
Agricultural products - sugarcane, maize, milk, tobacco, cassava, vegetables, bananas, beef, cotton, oranges
Exports $4.422 billion (2018 est.)
gold, tobacco, iron alloys, nickel, diamonds, jewelry (2019)
partners: UAE 40%, South Africa 23%, Mozambique 9% (2019)
Imports $7.215 billion (2018 est.)
refined petroleum, delivery trucks, packaged medicines, fertilizers, tractors (2019)
partners: South Africa 41%, Singapore 23%, China 8% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
14.8 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.94% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
African 99.4% (predominantly Shona; Ndebele is the second largest ethnic group), other 0.4%, unspecified 0.2% (2012 est.)
Language
Shona (official; most widely spoken), Ndebele (official, second most widely spoken), English (official; traditionally used for official business), 13 minority languages
Religion
Protestant 74.8% (includes Apostolic 37.5%, Pentecostal 21.8%, other 15.5%), Roman Catholic 7.3%, other Christian 5.3%, traditional 1.5%, Muslim 0.5%, other 0.1%, none 10.5% (2015 est.)