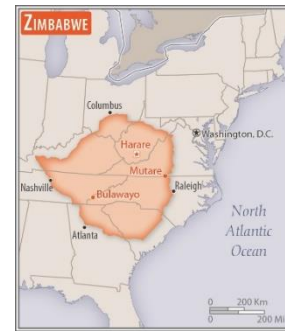




ZIMBABWE



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

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.)

