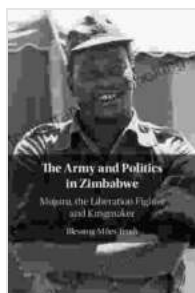


The Army And Politics In Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe, a nation nestled in Southern Africa, has witnessed a profound and enduring relationship between its military and political spheres. The army has played a pivotal role in shaping the country's political landscape, often acting as a kingmaker or arbiter in moments of political transition. This article delves into the intricate web of connections between the army and politics in Zimbabwe, exploring their historical origins, manifestations, and consequences.



The Army and Politics in Zimbabwe: Mujuru, the Liberation Fighter and Kingmaker by Blessing-Miles Tendi

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 5518 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 342 pages



Historical Roots

The roots of the army's involvement in politics can be traced back to the pre-independence era. During the struggle against British colonial rule, guerrilla movements such as the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) and the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) were formed. These movements were not only military organizations but

also had political objectives, aiming to overthrow the white-minority government and establish a democratic Zimbabwe.

After independence in 1980, the army, then known as the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA), was tasked with maintaining internal security and defending the nation's sovereignty. However, the ZNA's political role did not diminish. The post-independence government, led by President Robert Mugabe, sought to consolidate its power and control over the military. This led to the establishment of a parallel security force, the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO), which was tasked with monitoring and suppressing dissent within the army and the general population.



Political Intervention

The ZNA's political interventionism became increasingly evident during the 2000s. Amidst a deepening economic crisis and growing political opposition to Mugabe's rule, the army emerged as a key player in suppressing dissent

and maintaining the status quo. In 2008, the ZNA played a decisive role in ensuring Mugabe's victory in a highly contested presidential election. The army's actions, including the use of violence and intimidation, drew widespread condemnation from the international community.

The ZNA's continued involvement in politics culminated in the 2017 military coup that toppled Mugabe from power. The coup was led by General Constantino Chiwenga, who had been a close ally of Mugabe for many years. The army's intervention was justified on the grounds of Mugabe's alleged corruption, mismanagement, and human rights abuses. The coup marked a significant shift in the balance of power between the military and civilian authorities.

Consequences and Implications

The army's involvement in politics has had profound consequences for Zimbabwe's political and social landscape. The military's interventionism has undermined the country's democratic institutions and eroded public trust in the government. The army's close association with the ruling party, ZANU-PF, has also raised concerns about the politicization of the security sector.

Furthermore, the army's political role has contributed to a climate of fear and repression. The use of violence and intimidation by the security forces has stifled dissent and prevented the emergence of a genuine opposition. The army's involvement in politics has also hindered economic development and investment, as potential investors are wary of the country's political instability.

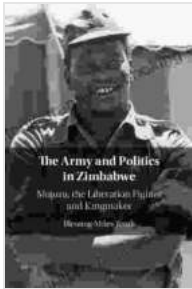


The army's involvement in politics has undermined democratic institutions and eroded public trust.

The relationship between the army and politics in Zimbabwe is a complex and ever-evolving one. The military's historical involvement in the liberation struggle and its subsequent role in maintaining internal security have contributed to its political influence. However, the army's interventionism has had negative consequences for the country's democratic development and economic stability.

'The Army and Politics in Zimbabwe' offers a comprehensive analysis of this intricate relationship, shedding light on its historical origins, manifestations, and consequences. It is a valuable resource for

understanding the political dynamics of Zimbabwe and the challenges it faces in building a truly democratic and prosperous society.



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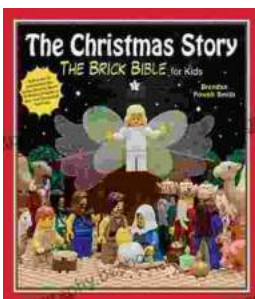
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