

**The Politics of Economic Reform in Zimbabwe:
Continuity and Change in Development**

Tor Skaines

St. Martin's Press, New York. 1995

The success of the leftist guerilla forces in their struggle to seize control in Rhodesia from the white government, aided by the full weight of the international community and the rapid explosion of the black population as a result of Western medicine and prosperity resulting from the success of the white-owned farms and mining operations, at first led many to fear that Zimbabwe, as Rhodesia was renamed, would reach the same economic and political fate as Zambia, the former Northern Rhodesia – near-total collapse. However, the history of Zimbabwe has more closely followed that of Kenya. Just as in Kenya a bloody terrorist faction won control of the new independent government, and then had the sense to recognize that the prosperity of the country depended upon retaining the white advisors and farmers who alone were qualified to preserve the prosperity of the economy, so Zimbabwe, politically committed as its new leaders appeared to be to far-left doctrines, chose to maintain an atmosphere in which the white farmers and industrialists would remain and continue to operate, while suppressing disruptive Leftist forces which demanded aggressive workers' unions and major reallocation of land to the inefficient but exploding black population.

Initially there was some turmoil, but in 1990 Zimbabwe embarked on economic liberalization. The country's economic associations, notably that erstwhile proponent of protectionism, the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries, had successfully lobbied for gradual reform. While state-dictated economic programs have in most self-governing black African countries often been regarded as a vital condition for reform, in Zimbabwe societal groups have induced the initially socialist-committed government to reconsider its basic ideologies. After independence the government restricted political competition, but because of the perceived need for white industry and commerce, it had the sense to maintain a dialogue with white entrepreneurs along the pattern of societal corporatism established in the 1930s. By contrast, African associations, particularly the labor unions, which would have promoted courses of action which would have brought ruin to the country were strongly regimented. The

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government, however, faces political difficulties in the agricultural sector due to the demands of the burgeoning population for the redistribution of land away from the efficient white farmers and into the hands of less efficient and undercapitalized blacks. In Zimbabwe key urban groups support economic liberalization while key rural groups do not.

Just as Kenya was successful in maintaining prosperity under the dictatorial management of former terrorist leader Jomo Kenyatta, but has more recently suffered severe economic reversals because of the political instability which followed his demise, so one wonders how long Zimbabwe, rich though it is in natural resources, will be able to manage the problems of population pressure once the authoritarian government of the ex-terrorist factions is replaced by more truly democratic political institutions.

The Andean Cocaine Industry

Patrick L. Clawson and Rensselaer W. Lee III
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The Andean nations of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia are the international centers of cocaine production. Every day we read reports of murders, seizures by U.S. customs, and sophisticated drug trafficking schemes, but how much do we really know about the international cocaine industry? Clawson and Lee examine the local politics that drive the world's cocaine industry. They uncover the economic and political factors that make the cocaine industry so lucrative, but also the most dangerous occupation in the world.

Finally, the authors ask, what can be done to shrink the Andean cocaine industry? The drug industry not only destroys the lives of untold numbers of individuals, but it also weakens the well-being of entire nations. At the same time the profits made from this industry place control over ever-increasing mountains of wealth in the hands of totally unscrupulous individuals, so that ownership of even legitimate industry and commerce is likely to fall progressively into the hands of persons who are deeply dishonest.

The effectiveness of the U.S. war on drugs is considered, and in conclusion the authors offer suggestions for improving the U.S. campaign against cocaine trafficking.

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