

## AUTHOR'S FOREWORD

The Chimurenga Protocol is a searing indictment of colonialism and its dark practitioners. They seek to undermine Zimbabwe's remarkable social and economic revolution. It also serves as a timely reminder to patriotic Zimbabweans that our wars of liberation were not fought in vain but for the greater good of the indigenous man, woman and child in this blessed country.

To date, the events in Zimbabwe have made the country the battleground of the war between good (economic liberation) and evil (imperialist influence over land and its resources). The book is a factual narrative based on true events in Zimbabwe's rich history. The long-running socio-economic, technical, political, diplomatic and cultural dispute between Zimbabwe and Great Britain has its roots in several defining moments.

Firstly, the First Chimurenga of 1896-1897 ignited and fanned the burning desire for the right to self-determination for the highly nationalistic indigenous people of Zimbabwe. They sought relief from the yoke of Cecil John Rhodes' racist-inspired invasion of the territories beyond the Limpopo River. At that time, Rhodes was the acknowledged agent and impresario of British imperialism in Africa.

Secondly, the passage of the Land Apportionment Act (and its successor, the Land Tenure Act) in colonial Southern Rhodesia laid the basis for the protracted struggle for land between 1967 and 1979. In 1980, the Second Chimurenga ended with a convincing victory over Smith's illegal regime. Consequently, Zimbabwe was born under the Lancaster House constitution.

In uncompromising language, the Lancaster House Agreement set out very clearly the obligations of the former colonial power (Britain) towards the newly independent nation of Zimbabwe. The British Foreign Secretary (Chair of the Lancaster House talks) Lord

Carrington, specifically pledged to fund land reform in an independent Zimbabwe.

Then, in late 1997, the British government in a cack-handed act of diplomatic lunacy committed the ultimate act of treachery. From its seat of officialdom in Whitehall, Britain outlined in a letter to Harare an extraordinary declaration of intent. Written by Claire Short, the letter was both startling and outrageous in content. The letter declared that forthwith, Britain felt that it was not legally obliged to pay for the costs of land resettlement in an independent Zimbabwe.

Taking full cognisance of the fact that land has always been the spiritual nexus of life for the indigenous Zimbabwean, the British government wilfully departed from the letter and spirit of the 1979 Lancaster House Agreement. Under the terms of this agreement, Britain's obligations to the sovereign state of Zimbabwe were set out explicitly. Specifically, and of immediate relevance to today's events, Whitehall and Washington agreed to meet the costs of land reform in an independent Zimbabwe.

This breach of colonial responsibilities and obligations by a so-called "great" power led directly to the momentous events of 2000. Negotiating in bad faith, lies, double standards and plain hypocrisy remain the hallmark of Anglo-Saxon foreign policy around the world, whether it is in the Middle East, Africa, the Far East or on the Indian sub-continent.

Thus, the Land Acquisition Act of 2001 is an act of retributive justice to redress past injustices in land distribution. It is certainly not a senseless action as portrayed by hostile Western governments and their ill-informed, relentless propaganda machinery. Indeed, the self-serving lies spewed out by the Western media and their surrogates around the world are part and parcel of a single-minded imperialist agenda, i.e. the wish to retain control over Zimbabwe's attractive array of mineral and agricultural resources.

Therefore, one fact cannot be disputed. The Land Acquisition Act is a heroic piece of legislation that effectively and permanently addresses the generations-old injustice fostered by the Land Apportionment Act of the colonial era.

At independence in 1980, 90% of the fertile land lay in the hands of a mere 5% of the population (the settlers). This state of affairs was untenable. The supreme irony for the arthritic Empire is that poor British foresight in its foreign policy led directly to

the wholly acceptable fast tracking of the return of the people's heritage. In short, the fast tracking process led to the return of the land to its rightful black owners and the tangible fulfilment of the people's dreams and aspirations.

Furthermore, it is undeniable that the Western imposition of punitive economic sanctions against sovereign Zimbabwe is a textbook example of gross human rights abuse by imperialist forces; it has caused untold human suffering and distress, economically and socially, of the black indigenous people of Zimbabwe.

Dripping with unadulterated racism and malicious intent, the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act was enacted in the US Congress on 21 December, 2001 following its approval by Mr George W. Bush. Also known as Senate Law 494, there is no better example today of a racist foreign policy instrument designed to sabotage the economy of sovereign Zimbabwe. The existence of this country-targeted sanctions bill remains wilfully and studiously ignored by the Western media in pursuit of the imperialist agenda.

Simultaneously, Britain and the US have been pulling the wool over the world's eyes. Charges of abuse of the rule of law and other issues are red herrings to distract the world at large from the true intent of Britain and its partners in a human rights crime against the people of Zimbabwe.

Despite the economic challenges, the nation of Zimbabwe remains a stable democratic country that needs no lectures from Western countries that practise the outsourcing of torture (also known as extraordinary rendition) and keep innocent civilians in legal limbo (Guantanamo Bay, Cuba). Rule of law, indeed. We remain mindful of the role that these two rogue Western nations have played in brutalising the citizens of Iraq, under cover firstly of dubious United Nations sanctions and secondly, of an illegal invasion in 2003.

Having created a stifling economic environment through the imposition of illegal economic sanctions, Britain and the US have no concern for the suffering of the black indigenous Zimbabwean whose economic plight is a direct result of sanctions against the country of Zimbabwe.

Britain claims to be the champion of poverty alleviation in the Third World. In the same breath, however, the former colonial power has set out to impoverish the sovereign state of Zimbabwe with astonishing ruthlessness and extreme cynicism. British and American efforts to derail the land reform process in Zimbabwe

have failed spectacularly, at the expense of the ordinary black indigenous citizen of Zimbabwe.

The Western nations' ongoing tactics to undermine Zimbabwe's sovereignty and to effect regime change are futile efforts to reverse the people's gains. Britain, the US and their proxies have fought tooth-and-nail to preserve settler privilege in Zimbabwe and their efforts will come to naught.

Twenty-seven years after grudgingly accepting the independence of the state of Zimbabwe, Britain seeks to re-create the pre-independence serfdom of the African people on their own land. As in the late nineteenth century during which colonialism was the dominant ideology, unbridled greed and unreconstructed bigotry are the chief vices that spur the imperialist dream.

Conversely, the success of the land reform programme in the state of Zimbabwe is an existential threat to the vaunted "New World Order". It is time that Western countries accept that their efforts to determine the destinies of ex-colonies have met their Waterloo on the sovereign territory of Zimbabwe. In essence, the African Renaissance has begun in the Republic of Zimbabwe.

For patriotic Zimbabweans, these are heady days in which the new cry of victory is "Nyika yava yedu", courtesy of our committed and inspired leadership.

Thanks to the visionary political leadership of Zimbabwe, "there is no going back" on land reform.