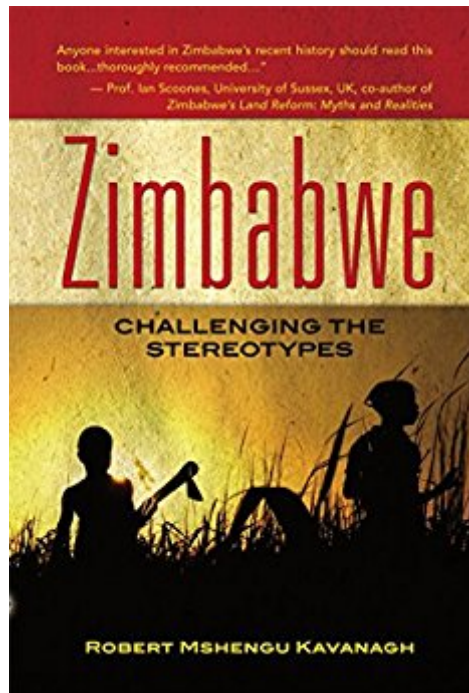




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Zimbabwe: Challenging The Stereotypes



Synopsis

"Zimbabwe: Challenging the Stereotypes" brings the story of Zimbabwe up-to-date (2014) in a dramatic, readable, firsthand description of thirty four years of Zimbabwe's history by a South African academic, writer and arts educationist who went through it all " from Independence to the present. While it confirms some of the West's criticisms, it offers a unique alternative viewpoint and questions a number of long-held and seldom challenged beliefs, including the almost universal cliché that at Independence Zimbabwe had everything going for it and threw it all away through bad government. It offers a fresh assessment of Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's military involvement in the Congo, the Gukurahundi massacres in Matebeleland, sanctions, human rights, the rule of law, the media and culture in Zimbabwe and builds on recent research which demonstrates that the reality of the Land Reform and other aspects of the country's recent history belie the unquestioned and widely-propagated myths. Extracts from pre-publication previews: "Anyone interested in Zimbabwe's recent history should read this book...thoroughly recommended" • Prof. Ian Scoones, University of Sussex, UK, co-author of Zimbabwe's Land Reform: Myths and Realities "Refreshingly daring, original, inventive and captivating,...highly controversial and likely to stir heated debate" • Prof. Micere Githae Mugo, Syracuse University, US, Kenyan poet, playwright and essayist, author of Writing and Speaking from the Heart of My Mind "Told with brutal honesty. A book all South Africans " and indeed all who wish to learn " must read" • Maishe Maponya, South African playwright and poet, author of The Hungry Earth and Gangsters.

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Customer Reviews

As a South African whose lived through the major democratic changes of my country and will be here to see through the next 3-4decades, this is a scary book to read. What Zimbabwe has experienced over the last 4 decades, South Africa has seen the same over two. What is scary is we are heading straight into the next two decades without realizing that we are reliving Zimbabwe's history. This is a timely book, told with passion and sometimes frustrated anger at the misinformation perpetrated by the western media, their allies within Zimbabwe and all other African countries recently liberated from colonialism. For any South African with an opinion on Zimbabwe, but either has never been there or bothered to interrogate the details of its challenges, this is a "must read"! I felt embarrassed at times at what I took at face values to be the problems in Zimbabwe; I read without enquiry what the media (international and South African) were dishing out as facts. I noticed though that whenever I spoke personally to Zimbabweans, I never got the same sense as I got from the media. I met people who were very comfortable in who they were and very happy to return to the hell pit that the media was continuously painting. I never sat back to question the contradiction! Unless we heed the call that Kavanagh is making, South Africa should brace itself for a decade of strife and brutal hardship. The Lancaster Agreements of Zimbabwe remind me of the CODESA Agreements of South Africa - back then the "dragon's teeth" were sown in South African politics, we are now slowly reaching reaping stage as frustrations and decent start to mount.

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