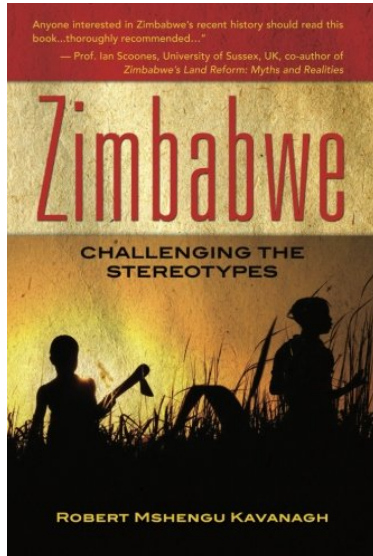


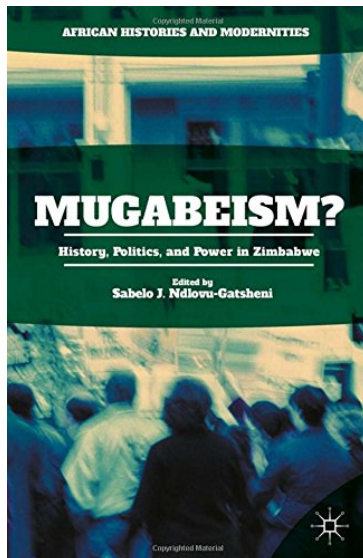
# Books of Interest



Kavanagh, Robert Mshengu. *Zimbabwe: Challenging the Stereotypes*. Seattle, WA: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2014, pp.508, ISBN: 1500186244.

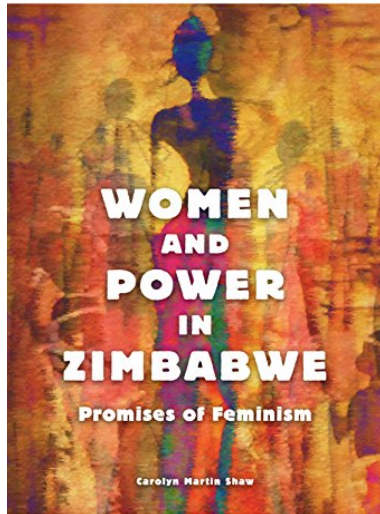
This book brings the story of Zimbabwe up-to-date (2014) in a dramatic firsthand description of thirty four years of Zimbabwe's history by a South African academic, writer and arts educationist who went through it all – from Independence to the present. While it confirms some of the West's criticisms, 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 an 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 land reform and other aspects of the country's recent history belie the unquestioned and widely-propagated myths.



Ndlovu-Gatsheni, Sabelo J., ed. *Mugabeism?: History, Politics, and Power in Zimbabwe*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2015, pp.320, ISBN: 1137543442.

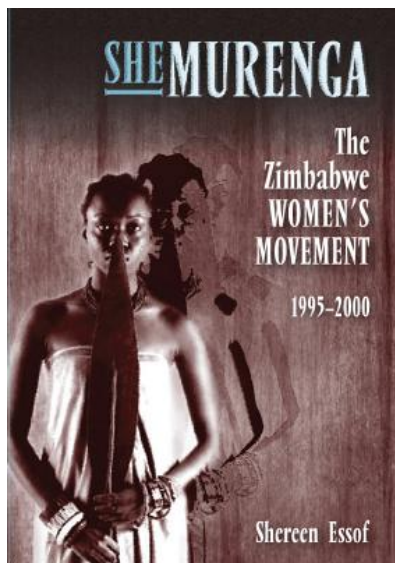
This work argues that President Robert Gabriel Mugabe of Zimbabwe is an enigmatic figure who has been in power for over three decades, and thus, he is a difficult subject to understand because his political life has attracted both admirers and critics. Nevertheless, this book try and make sense of the meaning of Mugabe from an interdisciplinary vantage point to poses questions of what Mugabeism means, and Mugabe as colonial, nationalist and postcolonial subject manifesting complex ambivalences, ambiguities, and contradictions (a liberator, Machiavellian dictator, champion of socio-economic justice, patriarch, pan-Africanist, anti-democrat, and an anti-imperialist revolutionary).



Shaw, Carolyn Martin. *Women and Power in Zimbabwe: Promises of Feminism*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2015, pp. 216, ISBN: 0252081137.

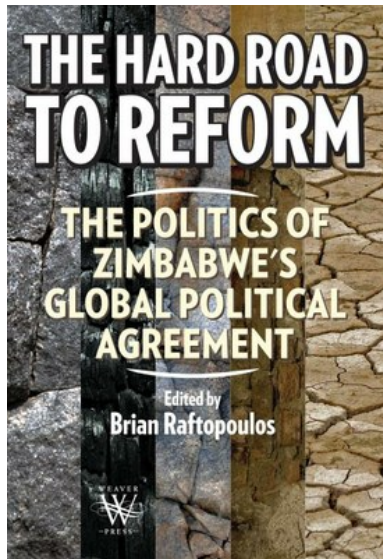
This presentation argues that the revolt against white rule in Rhodesia nurtured incipient local feminisms in women who imagined independence as a road to gender equity and economic justice, however, the country's rebirth as Zimbabwe and Robert Mugabe's rise to power dashed these hopes in this survey of Zimbabwean feminisms from the colonial era to today. Hence, the author (professor emerita of anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz) examines how actions as seemingly disparate as an ability to bake scones during the revolution and achieving power within a marriage in fact represent complex

sources of female empowerment. She also presents the ways women across Zimbabwean society--rural and urban, professional and domestic--accommodated or confronted post-independence setbacks. And finally, she offers perspectives on how contemporary Zimbabwean women depart from the prevailing view that feminism is a Western imposition having little to do with African women.



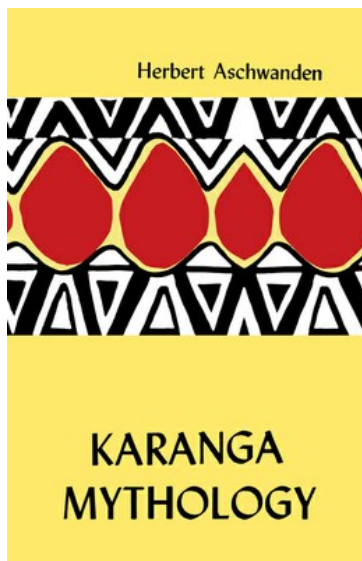
Essof, Shereen. *Shemurenga: The Zimbabwean Women's Movement 1995-2000*. Harare, Zimbabwe: Weaver Press, 2013, pp.112, ISBN: 9781779222145.

This book reports on the place of women's movements during a defining period of contemporary Zimbabwe. Hence, the author shows how Zimbabwean women crafted responses and other events aimed for a feminist agenda that would prioritize the interests of the rural and urban poor. Rejecting both the strictures of patriarchy and the orthodoxies of established feminism, the author demands that Zimbabwe's women be heard in their own voices and in their own contexts.



Raftopoulos, Brian, ed. *The Hard Road to Reform: The Politics of Zimbabwe's Global Political Agreement*. Harare, Zimbabwe: Weaver Press, 2013, pp.282, ISBN: 1779222165.

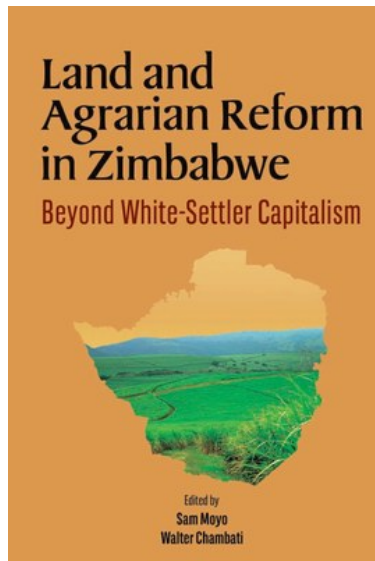
This book presents a penetrating analysis of developments since the Government of National Unity coalition government was established in 2009, and thus, it reviews political history from a range of perspectives - political, economic, social and historical. Hence, the book is an attempt to analyze and assess both the hopes and frustrations and to confront the harsh challenges of Zimbabwe. The editor is a Mellon Senior Research Mentor at the Centre for Humanities Research at the University of the Western Cape and a former professor at the University of Zimbabwe.



Aschwanden, Herbert. *Karanga Mythology: An Analysis of the Consciousness of the Karanga in Zimbabwe*. Gweru, Zimbabwe: Mambo Press, 1989, pp.288, ISBN: 9780869224502.

This book reports on a rare work on the systems of interpretation and meaning, mythological traditions and realities of the Karanga people in Zimbabwe. The author considers the Karanga's cosmology, as a system of psychological and biological expressions, and in relation to mythological feeling and thinking. Topics covered include: creation myths; mythologies of the symbols of life and death; incest and marriage problems; forbidden sexual intercourse; pregnancy and birth; mythology as experienced reality; the mythology of an image of god; and the mythology of the night. Further cultural sources drawn on are Shona proverbs, which are to some extent included in the work. Throughout the study, the author aims to apply appropriate African, rather than narrowly

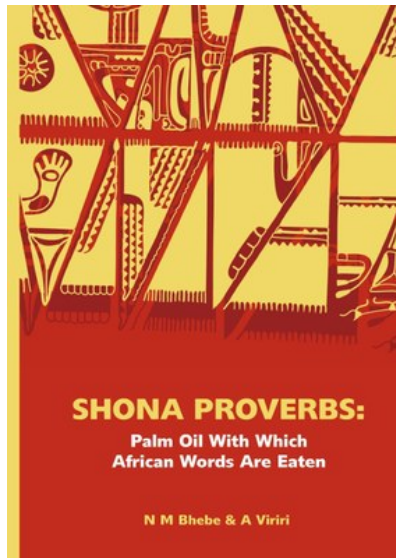
Western, systems of interpretation and analysis to his material.



Moyo, Sam and Walter Chambati, eds. *Land and Agrarian Reform in Zimbabwe: Beyond White-Settler Capitalism*. Dakar, Senegal: Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), 2013, pp.372, ISBN: 9782869785533.

This book comes to a conclusion that the Zimbabwe land reform represents a new form of resistance with distinct and innovative characteristics when compared to other cases of radicalization, reform and resistance. The process of reform and resistance has entailed the deliberate creation of a tri-modal agrarian structure to accommodate and balance the interests of various domestic classes, the progressive restructuring of labor relations and agrarian markets, the continuing pressures for radical reforms (through the indigenization of mining and other sectors), and the rise of extensive, albeit relatively weak, producer cooperative structures. The book also highlights some of the resonances

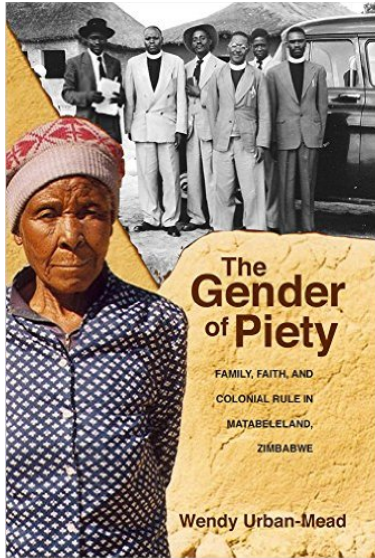
between the Zimbabwean land struggles and those on the continent, as well as in the South in general, arguing that there are some convergences and divergences worthy of intellectual attention. The book thus calls for greater endogenous empirical research which overcomes the pre-occupation with failed interpretations of the nature of the state and agency in Africa.



Bhebe, Ngwabi and Advice Viriri, eds. *Shona Proverbs: Palm Oil with Which African Words are Eaten*. Zimbabwe: Booklovers Publishers, 2012, pp.820, ISBN: 9780797448254.

Highlighting both the range of philosophical issues that Shona proverbs raise and the shared concerns emanating from them, this book is the outcome of 40 years work by Taperesa Mutematemi Samaita, a teacher at Mnene Boys Central Primary School in Mberengwa District from 1946 to 1949. Shona proverbs teaching formed part of his Shona lessons and he encouraged his pupils to collect as many Shona proverbs as possible. When collected, these were first analytically dealt with orally, followed by written exercises. From its beginning at Mnene Boys Central Primary School the project continued until 1986. The proverbs contained in this book were gathered from across Zimbabwe covering Midlands, Masvingo, Manicaland

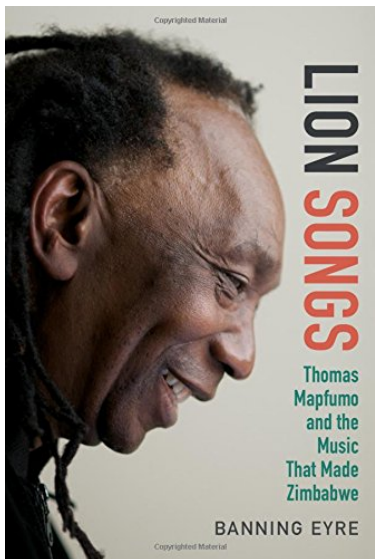
and Mashonal and West Provinces. Of the 5240 Shona proverbs, Taperesa Mutematemi Samaita collected 2736 which are included in this book, and thus, adds to the existing inventory of proverbs by including modern proverbs that earlier collections have not included.



Urban-Mead, Wendy. *Gender of Piety: Family, Faith, and Colonial Rule in Matabeleland, Zimbabwe*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2015, pp.298, ISBN: 0821421581.

This contribution is a history of the Brethren in Christ Church in Zimbabwe as related through six individual life histories that extend from the early colonial years through the first decade after independence. Taken together, these six lives show how men and women experienced and sequenced their piety in different ways. Women usually remained tied to the church throughout their lives, while men often had a more strained relationship with it. Church doctrine was not always flexible enough to accommodate expected masculine gender roles, particularly male membership in political and economic institutions or participation in important male communal practices. The study is based on more than fifteen years of extensive oral history research supported by archival work in

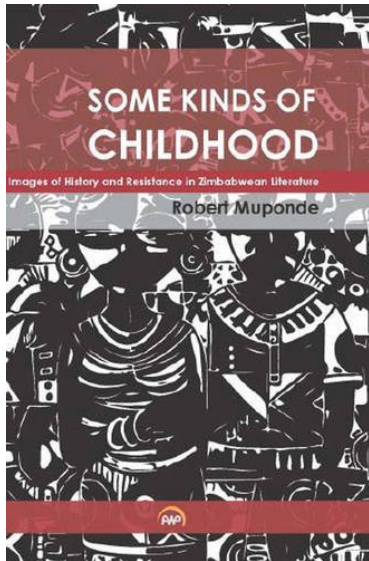
Zimbabwe, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Thus, the book illustrates how the tension of gender roles both within and without the church manifested itself in sometimes unexpected ways: for example, how a single family could produce both a legendary woman pastor credited with mediating multiple miracles and a man—her son—who joined the armed wing of the Zimbabwe African People's Union nationalist political party and fought in Zimbabwe's liberation war in the 1970s.



Eyre, Banning. *Lion Songs: Thomas Mapfumo and the Music That Made Zimbabwe*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2015, pp.416, ISBN: 978-0822359081.

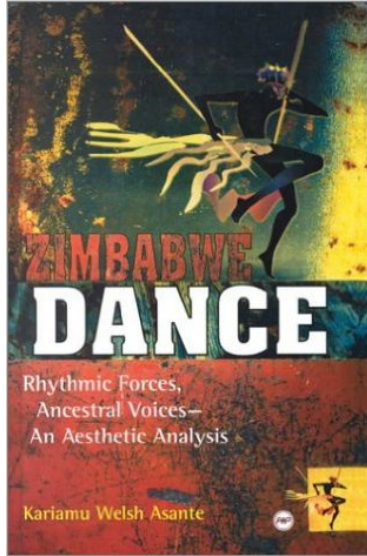
Singer, composer, and bandleader Thomas Mapfumo and his music came to represent Zimbabwe's anticolonial struggle and cultural identity. The trajectory of his career—from early performances of rock 'n' roll tunes to later creating a new genre based on traditional Zimbabwean music, including the sacred mbira, and African and Western pop is a metaphor for Zimbabwe's evolution from colony to independent nation. Hence, this authoritative biography narrates a life and career of a creative, complex, iconic figure, and the genre Mapfumo created in the 1970s called *chimurenga* ("struggle" music) which challenged the Rhodesian government (they banned his music and jailed him). In the 1980s and 1990s Mapfumo's international profile grew along with his opposition to Robert

Mugabe's government which led authorities and loyalists to turn on the singer with threats and intimidation. Beginning in 2000, Mapfumo and key band and family members left Zimbabwe. This work is the product of a twenty-five-year friendship and professional relationship between the author and Mapfumo.



Muponde, Robert. *Some Kinds of Childhood: Images of History and Resistance in Zimbabwean Literature*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2015, pp.196, ISBN: 1592219969.

This book explores how childhood is constructed and represented in a wide range of Zimbabwean novels and short stories written in English from 1972 to 2013. In particular, it considers how representations of childhood bear upon questions of history, politics and resistance. By drawing on a range of global theories on childhood, the argument is advanced that, instead of merely seeing childhood in romantic or idyllic terms, it is possible to appreciate it as a contested terrain, one in which the larger tensions and conflicts of the society manifest themselves. Childhood is accorded by Zimbabwean writers represented in this book as a central role in social, political, and cultural concerns by being depicted not only as a matter of focalization and characterization, but as a tool for the construction of a wide range of culturally and historically specific sets of ideas and philosophies. They include, inter alia, how childhood is constructed as a powerful sentimental mythology of a culture's original beauty; the political trope of children of resistance; the uses of girlhoods as counter-memory; the innovative deployment of dystopian childhoods as counter-strategy; and the emerging post-national moment as post-childhood. Zimbabwean writers considered in this study include: Charles Mungoshi; Shimmer Chinodya; Geoffrey Ndhlala; Wilson Katiyo; Yvonne Vera; Chenjerai Hove; Tsitsi Dangarembga; Dambudzo Marechera; NoViolet Bulawayo; Memory Chirere; and Christopher Mlalazi. Cogently argued with a rare theoretical nuance, the book radically revises the staple grammar of reading childhood narratives in African literature. It is indispensable in understanding the complex nexus of childhood. The author is an Associate Professor of English in the School of Languages, Literature and Media at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.



Welsh-Asante, Kariamu. *Zimbabwe Dance: Rhythmic Forces, Ancestral Voices, An Aesthetic Analysis*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2000, pp.140, ISBN: 978-0865434929.

In this book the author engages information on two specific ethnic groups, the Ndebele and the Shona, and their traditional dances, the Muchongoyo and the Jerusarema in a descriptive analysis of indigenous cultural motifs, myths, and symbols provides us with a "living text" on music, song, and rhythm that radiates--and replenishes--the spirit, the values, and the worldview distinctive to African society. Also, the book examines and celebrates the survival and endurance of the Zimbabwean national character (i.e., the cultural unity of Zimbabwe) by highlighting the significant role played in modern African civilization by developments in the southern half of the continent, where the former colonial governments had directly affected and inhibited the indigenous cultures via new laws imposing new educational and religious customs on whole societies. The author is a dance choreographer and scholar, and creator of the *Umfundalai* dance technique, a Pan African contemporary technique that has been in existence for over thirty-three years.