

ZIMBABWE

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
1X	ZIM	4	3	4	18	1980	3	8	1983	7	5	6
1O	ZIM	1	5	3	9	1983	12	22	1987	7	4	3
1Oa	ZIM	-6	12	12	23	1987	9	10	1999	3	3	2
2X	ZIM	-3	2	9	11	1999	7	26	2001	3	3	6
2Xa	ZIM	-4	8	7	27	2001	2	10	2009	3	2	6
2Xb	ZIM	1	4	2	11	2009	5	21	2013	7	3	6
2Xc	ZIM	4	6	5	22	2013	99	99	9999	7	5	6

PITF Problem Events:

- 1) 12/72-12/87 (REV 12/72-12/79; ETH 6/81-12/87; ARC 12/87)

The European-controlled region of Southern Rhodesia was originally administered as part of the British South Africa Company. With the expiration of the BSA charter in October 1923, the white minority in Southern Rhodesia was allowed to form a self-ruling colony rather than come under British direct rule. In 1953, this self-governing territory came under the administration of the British Central African Federation, along with Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and Nyasaland (Malawi) which remained under direct rule. The Federation was dissolved on December 31, 1963, in preparation for independence; however, white-rule in Southern Rhodesia was rejected by both Britain and the UN. On November 11, 1965, Prime Minister Ian Smith issued a Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) for Southern Rhodesia but the UDI was rejected by Britain and the UN as unlawful. International sanctions were imposed and a civil war between the white-controlled regime and black-nationalists ensued, beginning in December 1972.

Revolutionary War: December 1972 – December 1979

Beginning in December 1972 black nationalists, led by ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union) and ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), engaged the white-dominated European government in armed conflict. An "internal settlement" was reached on March 3, 1978 that established universal suffrage and a transitional power-sharing government, but this agreement was rejected by both the black nationalist forces and the international community. The conflict was eventually settled by the Lancaster House agreement in December 1979, which established a black majority government and paved the way for independence.

1X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic: April 18, 1980 (independence)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

On December 21, 1979, the Lancaster House agreement was signed by representatives of the British Government, the transitional government of Southern Rhodesia, and the leaders of the two sub-groups of the Patriotic Front (ZAPU, Joshua Nkomo, and ZANU, Robert Mugabe). This agreement called for a four-month, interim British administration to prepare for elections leading to Black rule in a newly independent Zimbabwe. Elections were won by the Patriotic Front and Zimbabwe achieved independence on April 18, 1980.

Identify Main Factions:

- *White-Rhodesians* — The ethnic-white minority in Southern Rhodesia comprises mainly Europeans (from Britain and South Africa) and was represented almost exclusively by the

Rhodesian Front. Following independence, the political role of the Rhodesian Front diminished substantially; however, their economic dominance continued mostly unchanged.

- *Black-nationalists* — The ethnic-Black nationalists were organized into two main groups: the largest being the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), led by Robert Mugabe, and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), led by Joshua Nkomo (the Zapu was drawn largely from the ethnic-Ndebele). ZANU and ZAPU allied as the Patriotic Front for a brief period prior to Zimbabwe independence. Following independence, Robert Mugabe and ZANU moved very quickly and forcefully to consolidate their power and neutralize the influence of ZAPU.

- Other Minor factions:

Other ethnic-Black political organizations that signed the 1979 “internal agreement” and formed a brief power-sharing government with the Rhodesian Front included the United African National Council, led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Zimbabwe United People's Organization, led by Chief Jeremiah Chirau, and African National Council-Sithole, led by Ndabaningi Sithole. These groups were branded as collaborators by the Patriotic Front.

Ethnic War: June 1981 – December 1987

Beginning in June 1981 and lasting through December 1987, the Ndebele people engaged in rioting and local rebellions against the Shona-dominated ZANU governing coalition.

10) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic: March 9, 1983 (consolidation of one-party rule)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

Following the dismissal from government of ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo in February 1982, opposition to the ZANU-controlled government increased dramatically in the main ZAPU region of Matabeleland. An army offensive was launched against the opposition stronghold in May 1982 and by early 1983 it had crushed the opposition forces. Nkomo fled the country on March 8, 1983, thus signaling the ZAPU defeat and the consolidation of ZANU control of the government.

Changes within Autocratic Period:

10a) December 22, 1987 (formation of one-party state)

Adverse Regime Change: December 1987

Ethnic tensions and a crackdown on political opposition weakened Zimbabwe's fragile democratic institutions throughout the 1980s. On December 22, 1987, the leading black nationalist parties ZAPU and ZANU merged into ZANU-PF, effectively establishing a one-party state under a Marxist-Leninist ideology. Robert Mugabe, prime minister and leader of ZANU, was elected to the newly created post of executive president on December 30.

2X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic: September 11, 1999 (end of one-party rule; formation of opposition party)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

On February 11, 1997, the Supreme Court ruled the 1995 Private Voluntary Organizations Act, which had allowed the government to arbitrarily remove the leader of any organization, unconstitutional due to violations of freedom of association and speech. Other court rulings further lessened the government's ability to control opposition. On January 19, 1998, food price riots broke out in response to a 21% hike in the price of staple maize meal. Strikes and student demonstrations occurred through the year and, on November 28, 1998, President Mugabe decreed a ban on strikes and other mass action. On February 18, 1999, the legal committee of the legislature ruled that ban on strikes was unconstitutional and, on the same day, the opposition rejected an offer to participate in drafting a new constitution. On September 11, 1999, the Zimbabwean Congress of Trade Unions joined with a number of civic groups to form the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). In legislative elections held on June 24, 2000, the MDC gained 57 seats and reduced the ruling ZANU-PF party to a bare majority in the 120-seat assembly.

Identify Main Factions:

- *Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF)* — Robert Mugabe was first elected chief executive of Zimbabwe in the April 1980 elections that heralded its independence from white rule and he used the power of his office to ensure that his party became and remained the dominant party. Increasing factionalism within ZANU-PF has led the legislative and judicial branches to implement decisions that have eased restrictions on political participation despite President Mugabe's professed desire to maintain a one-party state. There was a major purge of the party in late 2004.
- *Opposition to the ruling ZANU-PF regime* — Opposition to the ZANU one-party regime was originally centered in the Zimbabwean Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU); political parties were generally weak and disorganized due largely to systematic exclusion and harassment by the government. In September 1999, the ZCTU joined with several civic groups to form an opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), led by former ZCTU leader Morgan Tsvangirai. The MDC nearly unseated ZANU in June 2000 legislative elections. In the run up to March 2005 legislative elections, the MDC was divided over whether to participate or boycott the elections. While Tsvangirai, who was under arrest for treason, urged a boycott, the MDC national council voted for participation on February 3, 2005, just prior to the election even though it was clear that the election process would not be fair nor open. As a result, ZANU regained a sizeable majority and the MDC split in the aftermath.
- Other minor factions:

In order to bolster his rural-populist appeal in the face of increasing challenge by the largely urban-based (and white-supported) MDC, President Mugabe initiated a campaign of land seizures against white-owned farms, thus creating a backlash among the white community and censure by the international community.

Changes within Factional-Autocratic Period:

2Xa) July 27, 2001 (packing of the Supreme Court) – On July 27, 2001, Robert Mugabe’s government announced that it was increasing the size of the Supreme Court from five to eight justices. Opposition parties alleged that this action was undertaken in response to independence on the part of the court, and was aimed at increasing judicial compliance with government preferences.

2Xb) February 11, 2009 (new power-sharing government) – Following years of internal tensions and international pressure, including severe economic sanctions which were particularly strong following the flawed elections of March 29, 2008, President Robert Mugabe and the ruling party (ZANU-PF) finally accepted a power-sharing agreement with the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) on January 30, 2009. Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of the main branch on the MDC, was sworn in to the newly created post of prime minister on February 11, 2009. Despite the arrangement, Mugabe and the entrenched ZANU-PF leadership continued to harass and intimidate the opposition.

2Xc) May 22, 2013 (new constitution) – Voters overwhelmingly approved a new constitution on March 16, 2013, in a largely peaceful referendum; the new constitution was supported by the country's two main political parties: Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) led by President Robert Mugabe and the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) led by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. The constitution was signed into law on May 22, 2013. The constitution includes executive term limits and reduces presidential authority with greater authority devolved to the country's ten provinces, signaling an end to the country's very tense experiment with power-sharing. In general elections held on July 31, 2013, President Mugabe secured a seventh term in office; ZANU-PF captured over 70% of seats in the National Assembly.