2002-2003: Mugabe clings to power after a disputed election, then forces nearly all remaining whites off their farms. Western countries impose sanctions on Zimbabwe.

2000: The government decides to take white farmers’ lands and give them to blacks. Thousands of whites flee the country.

1999-2003: Economic crisis leads to high food prices, sparking riots and strikes in cities. Mugabe asks Britain and other donors to reinstate funding for land reform.

ZIMBABWE


1972: Sporadic black guerrilla attacks develop into a full-scale civil war.

1964: Malawi and Zambia become independent black-ruled states.

1965: Refusing to give up minority white rule, Prime Minister Ian Smith unilaterally declares Rhodesia’s independence from Britain.

1953-1963: Britain unites Southern Rhodesia (present-day Zimbabwe), Northern Rhodesia (Zambia), and Nyasaland (Malawi).

1930: A new law divides the colony into European- and African-occupied areas, consolidating whites’ hold on the best land.

1896-1897: The BSAC crushes uprisings by the Ndebele and Shona.

1894: Reserves are created for Africans on drier, less fertile areas as whites occupy the best land.

1890: Politician and entrepreneur Cecil Rhodes creates the British South Africa Company (BSAC) to colonize what will become Zimbabwe. European settlers arrive in search of gold.

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