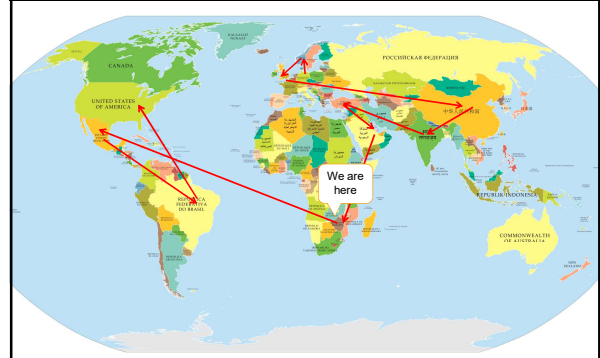


Zimbabwe

Osher class, Feb 2021
J. N. Hooker

Travel Plan



Africa



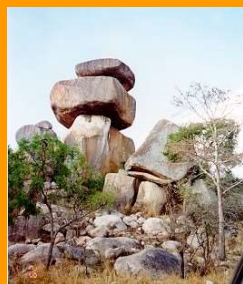
Zimbabwe



Geography

- Relatively dry climate, especially in the south.

Balancing rocks are a common sight



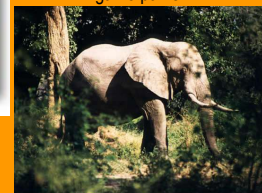
Geography

Large mammals ranged the savanna as recently as 1940s, now thrive only in game parks.




Victoria Falls

Big event on the Zambeze River




Geography




Baobab trees, common in southern Zimbabwe.

Key to survival of rural people.



Demographics


- Ethnic makeup
 - Shona - 71%
 - Ndebele - 16%
 - Other African - 11%
 - White - 1%
 - Mixed - 1%



Traditional Ndebele costume


Demographics

- Shona culture is relatively intact.
 - Less disturbed by colonial boundaries.



Bantu-speaking Peoples

- Focus on Shona culture
 - Other Bantu-speaking peoples (Zulu, Xhosa) are somewhat similar.
- Different from African-American subcultures.



Bantu-speaking regions in orange

Demographics

- Religious Makeup
 - Syncretic (Christian/indigenous) - 50%
 - Christian - 25%
 - Indigenous - 24%
 - Muslim, etc. - 1%



Demographics

Country village with *mamusha* (singular *kumusha*)



Demographics

Harare
(capital city)
with
jacaranda trees



Demographics

- English language literacy - 85%



Economy

- Commercial farms provided world's second most efficient agricultural production, until 2000.
- Tourism.
 - Game parks
 - Western fascination for animals.
 - Victoria Falls, Zambeze rafting.
- Limited industry



Economy

Village farms are usually tended by women.

Men worked on white-owned commercial farms (until 2000). Now miners, security guards, etc.



History

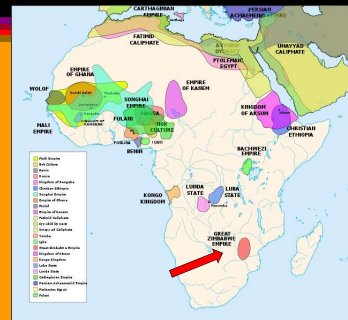
- East Africa is believed to be the birthplace of humanity.
- Cultures are sustainable, or else our species would be extinct.



Rift Valley, Kenya

History

Africa before European colonization, 600-1500 ce



History

- Shona people entered what is now Zimbabwe about 70 ce.
- Built the Great Zimbabwe about 1100 ce.

Aerial view of the Enclosure, Great Zimbabwe



History

An entrance to the Enclosure, Great Zimbabwe



History

Inside the Enclosure.



History

- Colonialism began with Cecil Rhodes.

- Rhodes couldn't find gold and so took land
- Founded Rhodesia.

Mutare area



History

- By the 1960s U.K. was considering independence for Southern Rhodesia.
- To preserve white rule, Ian Smith declared unilateral independence in 1965.
- Smith wrote a column in Harare newspaper until shortly before his death in 2007.



History

- Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe led a civil war.
- Independence in 1980.
- Mugabe took power in 1987.



Robert Mugabe, 1924-2019

History

- Mugabe encouraged takeover of white-owned farms in late 1990s.
 - Tried to stir up resentment of whites.
 - Destroyed economy.






History

- Occupation of white-owned farms misunderstood by Western media.
 - Concern with war veterans.
 - Divert attention from economic failure.
 - Rising expectations due to universal education.
 - Small white minority tolerated for management skills.
 - No resentment for colonial period.
 - No widespread desire for land reform.

Recent Politics

- 2008-2013: Power sharing agreement
 - Mugabe as President, Morgan Tsvangirai as Prime Minister.
- 2013: Mugabe re-elected
- 2017: Bloodless coup.
 - Emmerson Mnangagwa installed as president.



Recent Politics

- 2018: Mnangagwa elected



Economy

- November 2008: Inflation rate of 516,000,000,000,000,000,000,000%
- Prices doubling every 1.3 days.

100 trillion Zim dollars, issued January 2009.



Economy

- February 2009: 12 zeros knocked off currency.
- Foreign currencies often used.



Economy

- Today's economy based on:
 - Platinum, gold
 - **Diamonds** – discovered 2006.
 - Tourism – declining.
 - Small farms – slowly recovering.



Cultural Background

- The original human culture
 - Finely-tuned human relationships and coexistence with nature.
- Sustainability
 - Social complexity rather than consumption.
 - Totems.
 - Collectivism increases efficiency.



Cultural Background

- Relationship-based
 - Concern for others is reflected even in the greeting ritual:
 - *Maswera sei? Ndiswera maswerawo.*
 - *Hwakadii hupenyu? Hupenyu hwakanaka.*
 - *Kwakadii kumusha? Kumusha kwakanaka.*
 - Group solidarity is paramount.
 - *Kunzi munhu vamwe.*



Cultural Background

- Polychronic
 - When activity stops, time stops.
 - No sense of deadline or urgency.
 - Watches may not be set.



Cultural Background


- The boss is a "big man" (anthropological term)
 - Employees may ask for a loan, help, etc.
 - You must oblige, judiciously.
 - Patronage system is corrupting in the West but functional in many African cultures.
 - But groups demand accountability from leaders.
 - Leaders are judged by their generosity.
 - Employees will ask boss for favors.
 - Textbooks, computers.

Cultural Background

- Collectivist
 - Ethic of sharing.
 - Every employed worker supports extended family.
 - Foreign aid accepted without loss of pride.
 - This offends Western sense of self-reliance.
 - All bets are off for inter-ethnic relations.

Cultural Background

- Low uncertainty tolerance.
 - Traditional importance of ritual.
 - Graduation robes.
 - Bureaucracy: visa stories.



Cultural Background

- Feminine/masculine culture.
 - Feminine: no competition.
 - Production course.
 - Masculine: male domination.
 - Men speak softly.
 - Rural customs.

Cultural Background

- Stress management
 - Group solidarity
 - Religion
 - Music
 - Laughter

Cultural Background

- Religious practices
 - Ancestors return as *vadzimu*.
 - Assistance from *n'anga* possessed by spirits.
 - Today, religion often takes Christian form (syncretism).
 - Jesus Christ as *n'anga*.



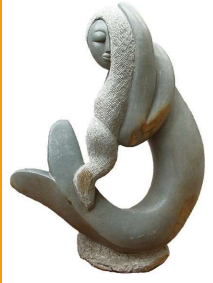
Cultural Background

- Honde Valley (Zimbabwe/Mozambique)
 - Sanctuary for traditional Shona culture.
 - *N'anga* story.



Cultural Background

- Funeral in Honde Valley.
 - Depart before dawn.
 - Funeral on holy mountain.
 - Role of "mermaids."
 - Breakfast for guests afterwards.
 - Gift for visitors.



Diet

- The staple is *sadza*, or thick corn mush.
 - British call it mealy meal porridge.
 - Often eaten with gravy or stew (*sadza ne nyama*).
 - Or with hot sauce.



Employees

- Every employed person supports an extended family, perhaps live-in maids, etc.

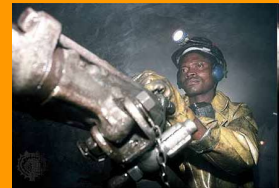


Employees

- Labor movement is strong.
 - Outgrowth of group solidarity, "big man" system.
 - Individuals won't confront the boss, but a group will.
 - Class "president."
 - Frequent strikes.
 - Must convince strikers that no one else could be more generous.

Employees

- Many Shona prefer European managers.
 - Viewed as more distant from people and therefore able to make more objective decisions.
 - Viewed as better at controlling witchcraft, because they don't believe in it.



The Arts

- The arts play an integral part of everyday life.
 - Attractive homemade clothing, sculpture.
 - Music is a key stress control mechanism.
 - Everyone can sing for hours from memory.
 - Discos popular in city. No interest in African-American music.
 - People are less alienated from the arts than in industrial society.

The Arts

Shona sculpture.

Influence on Western art is evident.

Mother and Child



The Arts

Ukama
(Family)



The Arts

Rufaro
(Happiness)



The Arts

Good dreams



The Arts

Rhawavi
(Chameleon)




The Arts

Dancing Family



The Arts

Mbira



The Arts

Marimba



The Language

- 21 noun classes.
 - *Vangani vana vanoenda kuchikoro?*
 - *Vana* is a class 2 noun.
- Complex negative formation
 - *Ndinoda nyama.*
 - *Handidi nyama.*

The Language

- Common expressions.
 - Good morning – *mangwanani*
 - Hi – *kwaziwai, mhoroi*
 - Thanks – *Ndatenda*
 - Mr. – *Va*, as in *VaSvosve*
 - Mrs. – *Amai*, as in *Amai Marufu*
 - Mrs. – *Mai* (mother of) followed by name of firstborn, *Mai Abisai*.