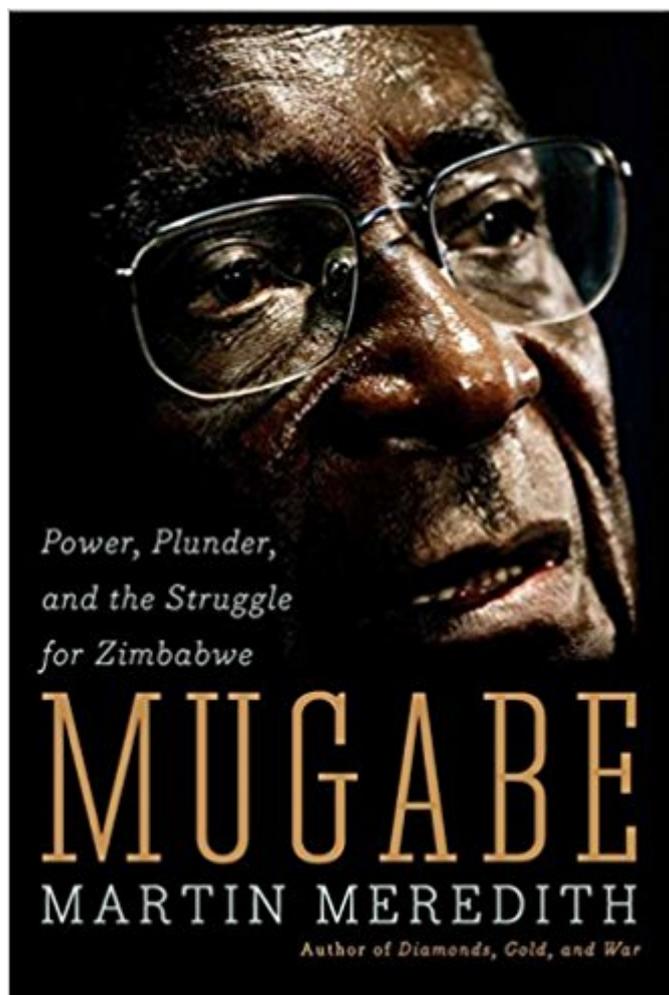


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Mugabe: Power, Plunder, And The Struggle For Zimbabwe's Future



Synopsis

Robert Mugabe came to power in Zimbabwe in 1980 after a long civil war in Rhodesia. The white minority government had become an international outcast in refusing to give in to the inevitability of black majority rule. Finally the defiant white prime minister Ian Smith was forced to step down and Mugabe was elected president. Initially he promised reconciliation between white and blacks, encouraged Zimbabwe's economic and social development, and was admired throughout the world as one of the leaders of the emerging nations and as a model for a transition from colonial leadership. But as Martin Meredith shows in this history of Mugabe's rule, Mugabe from the beginning was sacrificing his purported ideals and Zimbabwe's potential to the goal of extending and cementing his autocratic leadership. Over time, Mugabe has become ever more dictatorial, and seemingly less and less interested in the welfare of his people, treating Zimbabwe's wealth and resources as spoils of war for his inner circle. In recent years he has unleashed a reign of terror and corruption in his country. Like the Congo, Angola, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Liberia, Zimbabwe has been on a steady slide to disaster. Now for the first time the whole story is told in detail by an expert. It is a riveting and tragic political story, a morality tale, and an essential text for understanding today's Africa.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...the best argued and best written indictment yet of the man Nelson Mandela mockingly calls Comrade Bob." *The Economist* "This book is highly readable, clear and fast-moving. It is excellent on Mugabe's early life and the way he became drawn into the struggle of Zimbabwe." *Financial*

Times "As a well-written chronicle of Zimbabwe's degradation, this book is of great value." Sunday Telegraph "Martin Meredith's account of the pursuit of power and plunder is especially good on the early years of Mugabe..." Daily Telegraph "Martin Meredith's book is not so much a biography as a brief gallop through the unfolding moral fable of independent Zimbabwe to the present day. As such it is a useful short guide..." Sunday Times"

Martin Meredith has spent much of his life writing about Africa: first as a foreign correspondent for the London Observer and Sunday Times, then as a research fellow at St. Antony's College, Oxford, and now as an independent author and commentator. He is the author of *In the Name of Apartheid: South Africa's New Era*, *The Past is Another Country*, *The First Dance of Freedom*, *Nelson Mandela*, and *Coming to Terms: South Africa's Search for Truth*.

A good history of Mugabe and his rise and control in Zimbabwe. Gives a picture of just how bad a guy he is and how he has destroyed the economy of the country.

The book grabs you by the collar and takes you on a roller coaster ride, which is saying a lot for a non-fiction book. It paints a sad story of a country of great potential, and much as the African in me wants to resist the undeniable narrative that Mugabe is a crackpot dictator, the facts and their presentation bear the author out. This, for me, was the most compelling of Meredith's books on Africa!

This slim paperback delivers a fairly concise, brief and dispassionate review of Mugabe's life and years in power, from his early days right up to 2007. It is written in impartial journalistic style, and includes some useful anecdotes and eyewitness accounts, as well as many recycled references from other works on the subject. It reveals a changed country that is unrecognizable to anyone who left before c. 1995, and provides an entertaining recap for anyone who stayed in the country past the year 2000.

Any who are interested in Africa post II World War History should read this book to get a hint of how these today dictators have amazing backgrounds. Mugabe is just one of them but actually the older, is currently 91 years old, the oldest head of state; I highly recommend this text.

Recommended read if interested in studying history of demise of a successful country. A succinct

summary of the despot government in Zimbabwe which is not much different to many other countries in Africa. Author in telling the story reflects how us in the western world are either ignorant of the sufferings of the African people because of despot governments and corruption - and how we in the west just turn a blind eye (maybe because they have not oil?)

A chilling account of corruption and the abuse of power absolutely. A once healthy and vibrant nation sacrificed in the pursuit of a megalomaniac's belief that only he is right. The international indifference just adds to the sorry of the final outcome.

As usual with Mr Meredith, a well written and researched book. Had he written this earlier and I had read it earlier I would not have held on to living in Zimbabwe, hoping for a change. At the end of the day, the leopard Mugabe has not changed his spots but has demonstrated to the world, that whatever your opinion of him, he is still a master politician. A recommended read for anyone who wants to understand the man or even the convoluted machinations of African politics.

its well written and factually have an infinity with Zimbabwe having been mugged in Harare some years ago. It could happen anywhere and I have no feelings for or against Zimbabweans. Its a truly beautiful country. Hopefully its people will get a chance to have normal free lives when our 'friend' dies

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