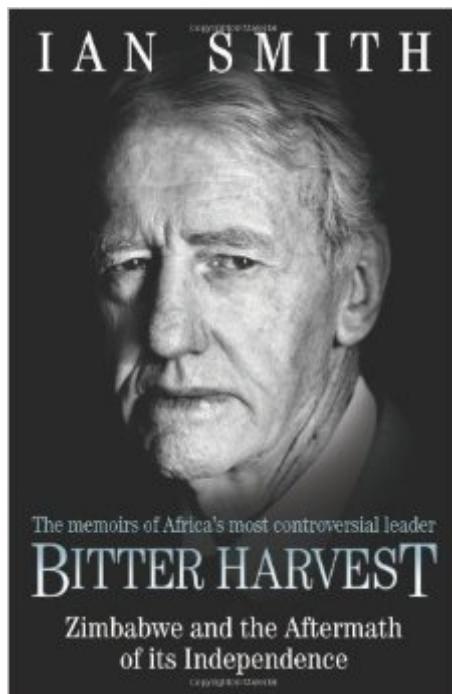


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Bitter Harvest: Zimbabwe And The Aftermath Of Its Independence



Synopsis

For more than a decade, Ian Smith served as Rhodesia's Prime Minister during the era of white minority rule. Following his death in 2007, he is still a man with the ability to excite powerful emotions. To some he is a leader whose formidable integrity led him into head-to-head confrontation with the Labor government of Britain in the 1960s. To others he is a demon best known for stating "I don't believe in black majority rule ever, not in a thousand years," for staunchly opposing Britain's insistence that majority rule be implemented before the nation's independence, and for imprisoning the leadership of the newly emerged black nationalist movement. In this revealing autobiography, Smith tells his own side of the story and reveals how he sought to keep Rhodesia on a path to full democracy during the West's decolonization of Africa. He tells the remarkable story behind the signing of the country's Unilateral Declaration of Independence and addresses the excesses of power that the current president, Robert Mugabe, has used to create the virtual dictatorship which exists in Zimbabwe today. This is a revealing and prescient historical document from a controversial figure charting the rise and fall of a once-great nation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ian Douglas Smith was born in 1919, the year after WWI ended. He was a relic of what "British" used to mean before socialism, before the nanny state, and before political correctness. For better or worse, he wanted to bring British rule of law, and the British way of thinking, to the Rhodesian Africans along with the resulting prosperity. He succeeded in bringing prosperity; most historians

agree the Rhodesian Africans were more prosperous than any others. Smith immediately recognized Robert Mugabe for the savage thug he has always been. The problem was numbers: 270,000 Europeans compared with five million Africans in Rhodesia. Once the AK-47 arrived from Russia in large numbers it was only a matter of time. Rhodesia was something of an embarrassment for the rest of the white world with the civil rights movement in its early years of promise. It was so easy for distant Americans or Europeans to mouth the words "Black Majority Rule" without any understanding of reality. That reality included two very different peoples that whites feel free to lump together as "black", the Shona and the Matabele. The Shona, other than Mugabe and his thugs, are known as artistic, creative, intelligent and friendly people compared with the Matabele, who are descended from the same folk as the Zulus. Both groups hated white people much LESS than they hated each other. In that sense, white rule was the Africans' second choice. Not good, but better than rule by the other African group. That fact explains why so few whites were able to rule so many Africans for so long, with the able assistance of African soldiers and police, all of whom were volunteers. Rhodesia was thrown to the wolves by South Africa in order to buy that country's Apartheid system a few more years.

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