

NDIMA NDIMA AND ZIMBABWEAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Zimbabwe is a landlocked country of Southern Africa, home to many ethnicities and cultures. The nation was brought under British colonial rule in the 1890s, and two wars were fought for its independence: the First Chimurenga War in 1896–1897, and the Second Chimurenga War in 1964–1979. These wars are also known as the Second Matabele War and the Rhodesian Bush War. After a successful campaign against British rule, negotiations were held in London between Zimbabwe Rhodesia's local government, the government of the United Kingdom, and leaders of the Patriotic Front (Robert Mugabe, and Joshua Nkomo), in December 1979. The Lancaster House Agreement was signed, to cease fire, and allowing the first multiparty general elections to be held with complete adult suffrage in 1980.

The country officially gained its independence on April 18th 1980. The country was then renamed Zimbabwe, derived from the Shona word *dzimba dza mabwe*, meaning house of stone. Many of its cities were also renamed (e.g. Salisbury became Harare).

Today, Zimbabwe's population is over 16 million. It has 16 official languages: Chewa, Chibarwe, English, Kalanga, Koisan, Nambya, Ndau, Ndebele, Shangani, Shona, Sotho, Tonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa, and Sign language. Christianity is the most dominant faith in Zimbabwe, having been introduced by British missionaries in the late 1800s, but many people of Zimbabwe still practice traditional religions or philosophies. A smaller percentage make up other religions such as Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Hinduism.

You will find many references to Zimbabwe's culture in *Ndima Ndima*, like the Mbira, a musical instrument traditional of the Shona people of Zimbabwe. It is used in ceremonial functions like weddings, funerals, and the installation of chiefs, as well as to call on ancestral spirits and seek their advice.

Sadza is one of the most popular staple foods, served with various relishes such as meat, soups, vegetables (covo, tsunga, pumpkin leaves, etc.). Rich in fiber and nutritious, the recipe for Sadza has been passed down through generations and is an extraordinary part of the nation's culture and cuisine.

Roora, or lobola or bridewealth, is a token of appreciation given by a bridegroom to his bride-to-be's family for raising her. Shona, Ndebele, Shangaan, and Venda are patrilineal societies, and after marriage, a woman moves into her husband's home. The Tonga people are matrilineal, and the husband moves to the home area of his wife.

The flame lily is the country's national flower, and the stone-carved Great Zimbabwe bird—as seen on the Zimbabwean flag, currency, and sportswear—is considered its national emblem. The African fish eagle mentioned in this story represents many things to the people of Zimbabwe, but above all, it symbolizes freedom and hope.