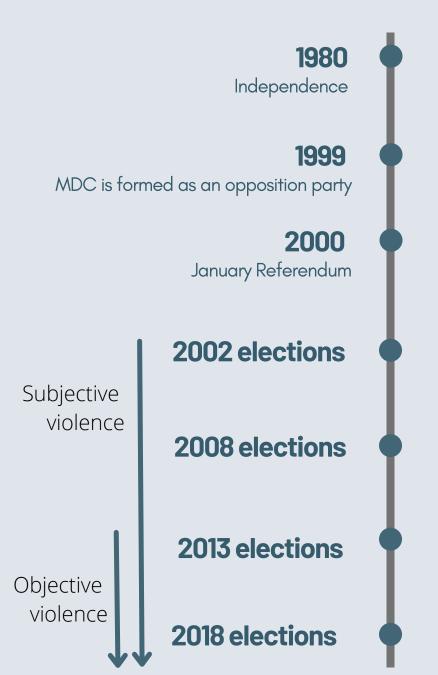


THE MAKING OF ELECTORAL CAPTURE IN ZIMBABWE: 1980-2021



Electoral capture in Zimbabwe became a key challenge in the post-2000 period

- ZANU PF was confronted with the reality of losing power to a popularly supported opposition party
- The opposition party had backing from the United Kingdom and its political allies in the international community
- ZANU PF aggressively recalibrated its electoral strategy



Political Violence to threaten both voters and candidates before, during and after elections

Context of electoral capture:

- deep political polarisation in the country
- the ruling ZANU PF party increasingly felt under siege from both internal and external political enemies who were working together to remove it from power for the compulsory acquisition of farmlands from white commercial farmers
- increased instrumentalisation of violence to influence elections in the post 2000 period

Key factors influencing electoral politics

- Subjective Violence
- Weaponisation of Essential Resources and Services
- Constituency Gerrymandering
- Voters' Roll Manipulation
- Disenfranchisement of Voters
- Unequal Campaign Opportunities
- Nature and ideology of the postcolonial state
- Military Influence
- The first-past-the-post or winner-takes-all electoral system

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ELECTORAL CAPTURE IN MOZAMBIQUE



ORIGINS, MODALITIES, AND IMPLICATIONS

KEY FEATURES OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES

- constant revision of electoral legislation
- electoral violence
- electoral fraud
- problems in voter registration
- obstruction in accreditation of observers
- systematic contestation of results
- lower voter turnout
- an exclusionary electoral process



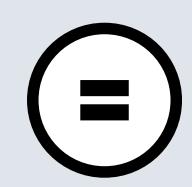


FACTORS THAT ENABLE ELECTORAL CAPTURE

- 1. The system of proportional representation
- 2. Deficient electoral administration system
- 3. Weak electoral observation
- 4. Partisanship of the police
- 5. Opposition's lack of technical capacity

IMPLICATIONS OF ELECTORAL CAPTURE

- 1. Government's weak political legitimacy
- 2. Post-electoral conflicts



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Introduce first-past-the-post system or personalised proportional representation
- 2. Introduce electronic voting
- 3. Introduce an electoral court
- 4. Approve an electoral code
- 5. De-politicise the electoral administration bodies
- 6. Approve legal instruments to make it illegal for biased public press coverage
- 7. Abolish the clause stipulating 10,000 signatures for presidential candidacy
- 8. Introduce digital mechanisms to publish electoral data

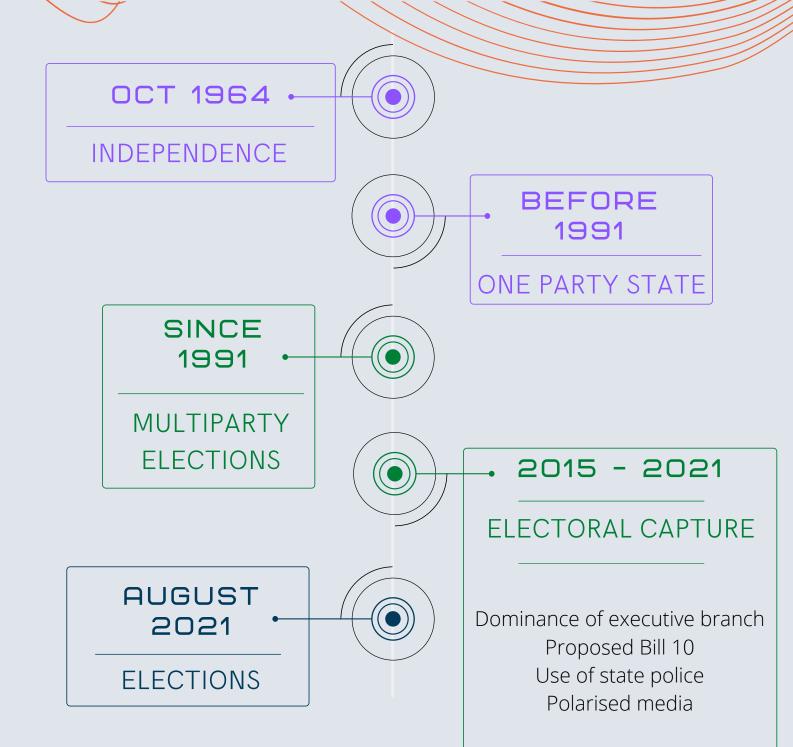
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ATTEMPTED ELECTORAL CAPTURE IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN

THE ZAMBIAN EXPERINCE



Key Features of Electoral Capture

Political Factors

- militarisation of political and youth cadre
- regional and ethnic power politics
- weak institutions

Legal and Policy Factors

• capture of state institutions

Economic Factors

- Unemployment
- Business Interests

Reasons for no electoral capture:

- The vigilance of the people and their ability to protect the integrity of the vote
- The people's ability to override attempts at capturing the institutions of governance

Priority of needs:

- 1. Reform all the institutions of state, including the civil service, which was packed with cronies and associates close to former President Lungu and his government.
- 2. Strengthen democratic and electoral processes

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