

## **Introduction**

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## **Abstract**

The chapter examines the background of the Zimbabwean political history and the underlying factors that underpin the exercise or lack thereof, of multiparty democracy after independence in 1980. It starts from the premise that meaningful, open, transparent and internationally credible political competition among political parties in Zimbabwe, a country with a vindictive colonial legacy of violence and divide-and-rule, is hard to fathom.