

The Politics of Exploitation and Oppression, British Colonization, and Chinese Involvement in Zimbabwe

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Abstract: In an analog philosophy by Lobengula of the chameleon and the fly, he unveiled the British occupation of Zimbabwe, which I equally translated or is similar to the 21st-century Chinese involvement in Zimbabwe. In understanding the exploitative nature of colonial and post-colonial politics, the research offered a comparative analysis of the British and Chinese involvement in Zimbabwe. The post-colonial economic colonization neo-colonialism, similar to dependency theory proponents, found the African continent under exploitation and oppression in her post-independence. The researcher utilized qualitative research of documentary review, online sources, and virtual ethnography to unveil and enrich the study phenomenon.

Keywords: Politics, exploitation, oppression, British colonization, Chinese involvement.

INTRODUCTION

In 1890 Zimbabwe was colonized by Britain through the British South African Company (BSAC) led by Cecil John Rhodes, which raised the union Jack Flag in 1890 at Fort Salisbury (Mlambo, 2014; Oliver and Oliver, 2017). It couldn't take long for the Ndebele and Shona people's resistance to failed uprisings in the first decade of 1890 colonial rule against the white settlers South Rhodesian government under Cecil John Rhodes (Ndlovu-Gatsheni, 2009; Sithole 1979). The British government cheated and maneuvered its way into the Zimbabwean plateau by signing multiple treaties with Lobengula of Ndebele state, including the Moffat treaty and the Rudd Concession (Noth, 1993: 54-63). During the colonial period, the colonial settler government promulgated restrictive socio-economic and political laws decimating the black men (ibid). A successful armed struggle resistance by ZAPU and ZANLA forces against the British white settler bureaucratic government system marked the war's end (second liberation struggle or second Chimurenga). Leading to a consensus among the three main parties of ZAPU, ZANU, and CAZ in the 1979 Lancaster House Conference (Melber, 2003; Stapleton, 2011). In the Lancaster House Conference, land became the main agenda of the meeting, they agreed on the 10-year willing buyer willing seller, and several agreements were reached in the 1990s, which failed, leading to the Fast Track Land Reform Program (FTLRP) of 2000 (Chilunjika and Uwizeyimana, 2015). I will examine the colonial South Rhodesian government structure of 1965 and Zimbabwe's post-independence period from 1980 to 2000 white settlers' involvement. The third phase will be the Zimbabwe-Sino relations in

the 21st-century, the research shall as well examine the Chinese involvement in Zimbabwe during the 1979 colonial period second liberation struggle. Hence, this research aims to unveil the dynamics of Zimbabwean politics' colonial and post-colonial exploitative and oppressive nature. At the same time, I will critically examine the Chinese involvement in the country's socio-economic and politics compared to the colonial white settler regime. In this regard, I will use Kwame Nkrumah's observation and prophecy of neo-colonialism as the highest stage of imperialism in Africa, particularly Zimbabwe.

Tied on above, to unveil the exploitative politics in Zimbabwe, the research used examples from other African countries, including South Africa and Tanzania. Yet, Zimbabwean politics has its peculiar course from independence 1980, although they are some elements to be captured that are similar to other African state politics. Neo-colonialism politics carries aspects of economic exploitation and oppression. China has emerged as a global superpower in the 21st-century which the Covid 19 propagated her firmness economically and politically. There is war and prospects of war between global powerhouses competing for resources which was the history and causes of the first and second world wars. The scramble for Africa is underway towards neo-colonialism or complete colonization of the continent. The purpose of this article is to unveil the Zimbabwean politics oppressive and exploitative looking at a three-phase of colonial, white settlers post-independence, and the post-land reform Chinese involvement in Zimbabwe.

THE CRY OF BEING LIBERATED WHILE IN CHAINS

In most African countries, the cry has been being politically liberated but still under the colonialist's

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economic oppression or a new economic colonial master. The Pan African Nationalist founding Father Nkrumah prophesied the neo-colonialism period with capitalistic elements of oppression and exploitation (Nkrumah, 1965). The international community's economic sovereignty or global economic dominance over developing and underdeveloped countries marked a new form of colonialism in the post-independence of African states. The western global market in the 1980s initiated the Structural Adjustment Programs (SAP's) through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) (Thomson *et al.*, 2017). In short, this was a message that the African continent could not be economically independent and had to loan funds on conditionalities from the IMF and WB. The loaning conditions were conditioned on adopting the three D's democratization, devaluation of currencies, and market deregulation. The Western countries, in this regard, more or less colonized the African continent economically through the adoption of the SAP's (Mohs, 1988; Ponte, 1994). Under the then Minister of Finance Benard Chidzero, Zimbabwe adopted the SAP's in the 1990s, which created a massive discrepancy in the national debt. Post-colonial colonialism came in the force of economic sanctioned monetary-based loans. Zimbabwe could not and still cannot pay back the national debt accumulated to more than 10 billion and was refused access to funds from the IMF and WB (Leo and Moss, 2009). The capitalist war of exploiting the developing and underdeveloped countries has left most countries that adopted the SAP's with considerable debt.

I borrowed from the dependency theory to support the neo-colonial Kwame Nkrumah's research perspective in this research phenomenon, particularly in Zimbabwe. According to the dependency theory, in the value addition cycle analysis, the developing and underdeveloped countries are the source of raw materials and semi-finished products (Sauter, 1985). They then sell their raw and semi-finished products to developed nations and, in return, purchase finished products from the developed countries. The cycle is about value addition and beneficiation which the developed countries are on the benefiting side of the trading deals (Emeh, 2013). Andre Gunder Frank (1978) succinctly supports that the dependency state relations is a capitalist -exploitative, and oppressive cycle that disadvantages the developing world. It also depends on who determines the market prices in resource demand and supply chain (Carlton, 2007). The more the demand and scarcity of the product, the

higher the price according to the laws of economics. However, the developed countries finished products hold the highest market price compared to developing country's extracted raw materials. Thus the exploitative nature of politics in the dependency relations favors the global market holders and global market gatekeepers.

The white colonial settlers largely controlled the economics of Zimbabwe from the Lancaster House Conference of 1979 until the Fast Track Land Reform Program of 2000 (see, for example, Dashwood, 2002: 209-226). The series of exploitative nature of the Rhodesian government under Ian Smith emanated from the repressive socio-economic and political laws, including the Land Apportionment Act 1930, Land Husbandry Act of 1951, Vagrant Act, Emergency Powers Act, Industrial Conciliation Act of 1934, Native Affairs Amendment Act, Preventive Detention Act, Unlawful Organisation and Law and Order Maintenance Act (Magure, 2009). The abovementioned Acts decimated black men's socio-economic and political competition with the white settlers. This was further propagated by the constitution amendment no 4 of 1961 under the government of Ian Douglas Smith, South Rhodesian government. The first constitution was initiated in 1923, which marked a series of amendments. The fourth amendment was towards securing the Smith regime against the opposition revolutionary political parties movement.

It is believed that the market scaling system during the colonial settler government period was not a one size fit to all farm produce between the white and black men (see, for example, Nyandoro, 2019 on land and agricultural policies during the colonial period). The grading market system in the South Rhodesian government disadvantaged the black farmers who were cheated with no fair pricing with the settler white's British produce. The British white settlers' economic -exploitative and oppressive nature triggered several discontentments, leading to demonstrations decimated by the security operation. Tullock diminished the uprisings from within, which captured the Zimbabwean politics into riots (Congleton, 2004: 213-238). However, his analysis is firm on the ground of the proletariat uprisings disregarding the riots from within. Hence, the exploitative nature of politics is of odds looking at the Southern Rhodesian Ian Smith led-government to the Chinese involvement in Zimbabwe.

Turning to the Lancaster House Conference, the inequalities between white and black men had to be dealt with in ratified agreements' land question process

(Riddell, 2008). I once mentioned the political and economic independence differences. The 1980 period marked Zimbabwe's political independence from the white settlers. Yet, economically three-quarters of agricultural land was still in the hands of the white settlers (Mlambo, 2010). It was inevitable that the land question in Zimbabwe would soon turn into another war (Jambanja or Third Chimurenga). In this case, most white settlers sensed the danger and immigrated to South Africa and Zambia. Although others had probabilities, the vicious cycle of violence against the white settlers was inevitable. The land reform program is assessed in phases of the willing buyer willing seller 1980s, donor funding 1990s, the Fast Track Land Reform of 2000, and the post-land reform white engagement in farms with the black men (see, for example, Chilunjika and Uziweyimana, 2015). The exploitative neo-colonial politics will threaten national security because riots are inevitable.

South African politics has found an outcry from the EFF to initiate the Land Reform following Zimbabwean politics. Several contestations and lessons from the failed Zimbabwean land reform have left many not attempting the move (see NUMSA online article). Yet, it's towards empowering the black nationalities into agrarian reformist programs. After implementing the Fast Track Land Reform, Zimbabwe failed to manage the land sustainably agricultural outputs. The country, which had mainly been recognized in the African continent as the breadbasket of Africa, became the basket case itself (Ajazeera News, 2020, Johannesburg-based social and political commentator Tafi Mhaka). At the same time, economic sanctions were imposed on Zimbabwe for human rights abuses during the implementation of the 2000 land reform. Hence, this marked the isolation of Zimbabwe from the western market in socio-economic and political relations, which Mugabe and his elite allies resorted to reviving old friendship with the Chinese.

Most, if not all, sources have concurred with the observation that China is becoming a global threat economically and politically. The African continent has become a battling ground once more, from the Berlin Conference -Scramble for Africa in 1884 to a 21st-century neo-colonialism. The most dominant players are the Chinese and the Indian multi-business operations in the continent. In one of the discussions, Prof Lumumba made a striking point that the African continent will be under colonization in twenty years. Yet, China has been seen bullying western allies by economically sanctioning Australia, which foresaw a

sharp decrease in her Gross Domestic Product. She also threatened her global giant competitor America in the seas, airspace, and Taiwan attempted invasion. China is suspected to be the global giant over America, although the Assured Mutual Destruction between the two states can maintain peace but not for a while. Mugabe's interpretation of the return of the Biblical giant called Goliath was in totality misplaced to the United States of America under Donald Trump (see, for example Munhuweyi, 2022: 1-12) Republican administration, which is, however, the rising Chinese authoritarian global dynasty.

THE CHINESE INVOLVEMENT IN ZIMBABWE

It's a step too far to be judgemental about the Zimbabwe-Sino relations, yet we have experienced what Chinese involvement in any country is all about. Is it a curse or a blessing for Zimbabwe having brokered the long-forgotten friendship with the Chinese government? Zimbabwe seemingly found itself between a rock and a hard place in the international market sanctioned by its former kith and keen international trade partners. Yet, we can not deny the reality of the neo-colonial master in the post-land reform program that found the Chinese involvement in Zimbabwe. The desperation of the Zimbabwean government involved the 21st-century economic challenges that the country was undergoing during Mugabe's regime. That's why I opened with the statement too far to be judgemental, as there was no alternative to the Zimbabwean government in the quagmire of socio-economic and political challenges. Mugabe maneuvered the sanctions by engaging with the Asian nation China through the 2003 Look East Policy. Did Mugabe manage to win over the western sanctions, or was it the only move left of the party ZANU-PF? The outcry by the ZANU-PF party members blaming western sanctions, although misdirected or directed, clearly indicates the impact of sanctions on Zimbabwe.

Tied on the above, the Rhodesian government sanctions after the Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965 made no impact on the economic growth and development of the country under the leadership of Ian Douglas Smith. The South Rhodesian government maneuvered the sanctions by trading through the South African market. Although sanctions are used punitively, they are not always successful. Yet, we can not deny their success story, which Zimbabwe is not left behind as an example among other countries. Zimbabwe sanctions involved

the economic and targeted sanctions from 2001 under Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act (ZIDERA). Britain and America continually imposed sanctions on the country from 2001.

The economic and individual targeted sanctions were imposed following the white settlers' human rights abuses, including the right to life and property violations. Zimbabwe then resorted to the 2003 Look East Policy following Zimbabwe's isolation from the Western countries, including the United States of America and Britain. The China- Zimbabwe relations emerged during the second liberation struggle in 1979. ZANU party under Mugabe was rebuffed by the Soviet Union (today Russia), leading to arms support relation with Beijing China enemy to the Soviet Union. There was a division in the revolutionary movement between ZAPU funded by the Soviet Union and ZANU funded by China. The disparities in the liberation movement funding and the ethnic differences contributed to the 1980s civil war. Although Zimbabwe and China relations seemed cold in 1980 post-independence first two decades, Zimbabwe adopted the socialist ideology. The history of Mugabe being raised by the Catholic Church inspired him to be a socialist fan propagated by Chinese relations. The Chinese engagement in the African continent and global market has shifted the trading markets having a global liberalism market structure.

To some extent, the competition claimed the western countries the trading advantage they had in the 1980s. China's economic development took a sharp turn in the 21st-century, which marked it as the fast-growing global economy in terms of its annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Jacques, 2009). The Chinese global economic growth was inevitable. But the question remains, why was Zimbabwe not economically revived with Chinese involvement in the country? Is Chinese involvement in Zimbabwe a blessing or a curse? Why is Zimbabwe seeking re-engagement with western countries? The postulated questions defy the logic of China being able to sustain the development of Zimbabwe economically. Over the years, they have been costs incurred with China's involvement in Zimbabwe. Although China has loaned Zimbabwe towards its projects based on low-interest rates compared to the 1990s, SAP's WB, and IMF monetary funds, the ZANU-PF-led government faces many economic challenges. That's why Mugabe and Mnangagwa have been pleading for the upliftment of the sanctions from the western countries. Yet, most

African countries have struck deals with the Chinese government, which accumulated hundreds of billions in dollars over the years.

The Zimbabwean government has been funded in most of the projects by China, including the Zambezi water project, the construction of the parliament, the Kariba Electricity Power Plant reconstructions, construction of the National Defense College, and the currency swap agreements with more than 20 countries. As I have highlighted before, the Chinese involvement in Africa is understood either as a curse or a blessing. It always depends on who is critiquing the phenomenon of the Sino-Africa relationship. In one of the African Union Summits, Mugabe graced the meeting praising the Chinese for supporting African countries. At the same time, he despises his nemesis, the western countries, for not giving them both the Security Council and global economic equal space. In one of the documentary reviews by Aljazeera 2015, China promised 60 billion in funding, yet China is accused of plundering resources from the African continent. The funding was towards sponsoring the 5 billion interest-free loan, 35 billion towards other loans and credit facilities, and 155 million food aid (Aljazeera News, 2015). Mugabe praised Xi-Jinping as God-sent in words he said, God bless China. Chinese sweetheart financial funding deals to Africa have been outspoken towards developing the continent. Critics followed that China is towards siphoning the resources of Africa through baiting or enticing leaders through financial aid and loaning.

In the 2008 crisis, China was blamed for importing weapons in Zimbabwe, propagating military-induced human rights abuses. The 2008 Zimbabwean scenario drew international attention following the electoral human rights abuses. Yet, the international community couldn't do away with China dealing with the internal state anarchism Zimbabwe. Zimbabwean series of violence and intimidation originated from the post-independence 1980 Gukurahundi (the rain that clears the chaff). Gukurahundi was the Shona term for wiping the Mataberland dissidents aligned with the ZAPU party. This translates to 2000 Fast Track Land Reform War Veterans led human rights abuses against the white settlers. Zimbabwe, by then, was left with no other option but to resort to the Look East, having been sanctioned by the European Union on socio-economic and political aspects.

It is crucial to compare Zimbabwe under the Chinese influence and Zimbabwe then Rhodesia under

the Smith regime's exploitative and oppressive nature. Since we have seen the Chinese business establishment in Zimbabwe, the research shall unveil the consistency of labor relations with international and national labor laws. The outcry within the Chinese firms by most Zimbabweans employees is the wage rate and the working environment. The labor relations nature of the British white settlers during the colonial settler period was exploitative and oppressive. The post-independence 1980 experienced a global turn towards human rights adoption, which offered a blessed chalice to the liberated Zimbabweans. They are, however, many regrets by the Zimbabwean government following the lost relations with the western countries. We have seen the Zimbabwean economy turnaround during the GNU not because of China but because of the United Dollar adoption under Minister Tendai Biti. In this regard, the Chinese relations from 2003 until the Short Term Economic Recovery of 2009 failed six years economic revival. In less than a month, with the multi-currency adoption, Zimbabwe was equipped and stabilized until they adopted their currency Bond notes in 2016. The series of economic challenges that Zimbabwe is undergoing during the post-coup Mnangagwa era proves that China cannot revive the Zimbabwean economy but is an exploitative and oppressive deal.

In post-coup 2017, Mnangagwa traveled to Russia and China to strengthen the Sino-Zimbabwe relations. Yet, he did not forget to visit the former colonialist masters Britain and America to remove sanctions and business relations re-engagement. The road map success of Zimbabwe depends entirely on making good allies which the former colonialists cannot be left out. The exploitative nature of politics in the neo-colonialist period needs to be unveiled from one country to another African continent. The re-engagement of trade relations requires nations to put measures to mitigate exploitation and oppression. Zimbabwe has failed to deal with the Chinese exploitative and oppressive measures evidenced in their factories abusing workers from working environments to wages.

Gravitas News (2021) has presented the exploitative nature of the Chinese private business operation. To the extent that the trade union has been intimidated to represent the worker's working rights. This involves the wage rate and working conditions. Most industries require proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in their operation, which the Chinese

businesses have negated, exposing their workers to danger. In one of the reports, a worker collapsed after being exposed to gas and was carried by a forklift. The harsh conditions have left many complaining to the trade unions, which the government did not action the trade union's demands. Left with no option, the workers are working in the hazardous environment for the benefit of the Chinese, which is neo-colonialism slavery Chinese structured economic system. This is against the international and national labor laws following the working environment, working hours, and wage rate (ILO, 2014). The War Veterans in Zimbabwe have been resisting the Chinese involvement to have destroyed the country's economy and environment in the mining sector. In an interview with Chief Chiweshe, the Chief accused the Chinese of looting Zimbabwean resources and environmental degradation (New Zim Tv, 2021 interview with Chief Chiweshe). Despite the Chinese having funded ZANU with arms during the liberation struggle, the party should put measures to ensure proper channeling of resources for the country's benefit, which found Zimbabwe under the trap of Chinese imperialism.

Turning to Zambian politics, the Human Rights Watch (2011) examined that the Chinese operation in the copper mines has involved abuse of labor laws and mining regulations. In 1997 the Zambian government sold the copper mine after incurring losses. The privatization of the copper mine foresaw competition by several companies from India, Switzerland, South Africa, and Canada. The Chinese under Non-Ferrous China Africa (NFCA) purchased the Chambishi for USD 132 million in 1998, which the mining reopened in 2003, 13 years after being dormant. By 2011 the Chinese had almost three mining operations in Zambia, which employed 6 000 local employees. The complaint from workers was poor wage rate, working exceeding hours, and hazardous working environment. Most workers reported being threatened to be fired if they refused to comply with the working terms and conditions (Human Rights Watch, 2011).

THE DUMPING SITE ENSNARING AFRICAN LEADERS

In 2013 Vince Musewe noted that ZANU-PF is doing precisely what they denounced. He further states I wish I could educate Zimbabweans that they are effectively shifting jobs and employment as long as they continue to import cheap goods from China (Politicsweb, 2013). In the Marange diamond deal, the

Anjin owned 90%, and the army owned 10% (ibid). The indigenization and empowerment promotion lost its grip during Chinese involvement in Africa, particularly in Zimbabwe. Chinese brought in their expertise, which most internal experts are unemployed, as the country has experienced a high level of unemployment in the 21st-century. The Chinese dealings and trade in the African continent is a zero-sum game. They have benefited from the Africa-Sino trade relations from cheap labor, raw materials, and interest rates.

In an analysis of the Chinese involvement in South Africa in 1998, Sikhwari and Nsizwazonke (2021) analyzed the Chinese to have destroyed the local market by dumping their cheap and illegal goods. Yet, the African continent is primarily occupied by impoverished people who can afford the affordable Chinese products available on the market. In understanding the income and purchase price, the customers tend to purchase products related to their income level. Hence, the demand for quality, high-priced goods tends to have low demand. Chinese involvement in the African continent has attributed a blessing, although a curse to some extent, depending on their business operations. Yet, we cannot cast a blind eye on the exploitative nature of the colonial master's neo-colonialism in post-independence Africa. It seems there is now a scramble for Africa hidden in diplomatic trade relations. For example, Southall (2019) examined the disparities or inequalities in economic South Africans and white settlers. This inequality gap is founded in the exploitative nature of the colonial Apartheid regime, which continued in post-1994 South African independence (Wintrobe, 1998). The post-independence South Africa marked the emergence of the Gupta illicitly business operation -state capture phenomenon neo-colonialism perspective. A state cannot be captured without the influence of the elites in power, which found Zuma striking deals with the Indian Guptas in the state capture process (see, for example, Myburgh, 2017; 2019).

The chameleon fly is analog to Zimbabwe British occupation, which goes, "did you ever see a chameleon catch a fly? The chameleon gets behind the fly and remains motionless for some time, then he advances very slowly and gently, first putting forward one leg and then the other. At last, when well within reach, he darts his tongue, and the fly disappears. England is the chameleon, and I am that fly." The same goes with the Chinese involvement in Zimbabwe, in which China is the Chameleon and Zimbabwe a fly. The Chinese trapping deals can be attributed to the

British gifts to Lobengula, which entangled him into signing the treaties that found the BSAC occupation of Zimbabwe. Although the colonization of Zimbabwe without the treaties was inevitable, the treaty ratified the deal. China captured Zimbabwe and Africa into lucrative trading and credit agreement dealings.

The state capture phenomenon in Lobengula's prophecy analog of the chameleon and fly reflects the British white settlers and Chinese involvement in Zimbabwe. The Chinese have captured the strategic mineral deposits in Zimbabwe, including the Zvishavane mines, Hwange mines, and the Marange mines, among others. In this regard, the Chinese operation might soon emerge into state capture as of the Gupta's in South Africa. There will be a new form of resistance to neo-colonialism in Africa due to the economic disparities, exploitation, and oppressive measures. China has found no competition in the local African market due to its cheap products, although tainted as dumping cheap goods on the continent.

The development of the developed countries was largely dependent on the African countries, which the colonialists largely depended on raw materials and labor (slave trade) (Gareth, 2010). The neo-colonial Africa post-independence phase involves:

- Trapping lucrative credit and trade deals.
- Cheap labor.
- Poor quality cheap product made available on local markets.

According to Rodney (1972), the colonial legacies created the dependency of African states from socio-economic and political aspects. In this case, Africa cannot produce raw materials for finished goods in the local industry, which strongly depends on the global market and industries. Hence, the trade extension benefits have created an opportunity for the Chinese to take quality raw materials from Africa while selling their cheap poor, quality product on the local market.

THE ROADMAP OF FUTURE NEO-COLONIALISM RESISTANCE

The post-colonial period of Zimbabwe was marked by a lot of uncertainties following the unresolved land question from the Lancaster House Conference of 1979 (see, for example, Magure 2009 thesis; Magure, 2014). In this case, resistance to another war was inevitable following the War Veterans' land demands.

War was about liberation from colonial rule, politically and economically, which land was the heart of the resistance. Zimbabwe gained its political independence in 1980 when the economy was entirely in the hands of the colonial settlers. The post-independence neo-colonialism resistance marked the Third Chimurenga - Fast Track Land Reform Program (FTLRP) of 2000. Similarly, Southall (2019) examined the dangers of the post-colonial racial inequalities legacies in South Africa and how this can lead to democratic decay or accentuate democratic maturity. Zimbabwean scenario found the two phases of colonialism following the white settlers and the Chinese involvement in post-independence.

The 21st-century Chinese Zimbabwe relations might potentially mark another neo-colonial democratic resistance with constitutional proceedings. A good example is the Gupta state capture inquiry in South Africa. Zuma had to appear before the court to be answerable for his involvement in the state capture process and illicit business and financial transactions deals. The neo-colonial resistance can be in the form of uprisings or constitutional court proceedings. Another case is the land question in South Africa. The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) opposition political party has been fighting for black empowerment (see a presentation by Malema available at Oxford Union Youtube Channel 2016). Yet, the possibility to fully embrace independence has not been reached by the African states who strongly depend on technology and expertise from the developed world. The Pan-Africanist utopianism towards the liberation of the African continent needs decades, if not centuries, to be attained following the underdeveloped countries in Africa and the division or polarity among its leadership.

In this regard, the government might promulgate strict regulations against the operation of foreign companies in the local market. John Magufuli of Tanzania made strides in ensuring the legal operation of foreign mining companies in the country to benefit the local industry. This involves the government's 16% ownership holding a claim of the mines and royalties tax on gold and other minerals despite opposition from the mining industry board (Reuters, 2017). In a statement, the late president said, "We must benefit from our God-given minerals, and that is why we must safeguard our natural resource wealth to ensure we do not end up with empty mining pits" (ibid). Tanzania's economic growth during Magufuli's tenure marked the success story of the Legal instruments and economic policies his government promulgated.

If the case may be that the key to oppression is a black man within creating doorways for neo-colonialism, it's difficult to oppose such exploitative nature. Mugabe called in Chinese into Zimbabwe; the challenge is changing policy with the deals already ratified benefiting the oppressor. Zimbabwe, in this case, is under military guard with the Chinese exploiting its resources, while the masses and trade unions have less power to demonstrate against their operation. What triggered the demonstration in South Africa in July 2021 riots is the state capture inquiry, although they are a lot of contention. Yet, post-independence Zimbabwe's neo-colonialism is a different story case in all, which involves a transition from white settlers' economic and political colonization to economic colonization until 2000. The post-2000 FTLRP marked a new form of post-neo-colonialism Chinese neo-colonialism, which found the ratified Look East Policy of 2003 China Zimbabwe relations.

CONCLUSION

The exploitative nature political dynamics in Zimbabwe has been examined from the colonial to post-colonial period white settlers and the Chinese involvement in post-2000 FTLRP. The article summed this notion of oppression and exploitation politics by comparing the British white settler-colonists and the Chinese business operation. They are differences noted in the form of exploitation between the two players, as indicated in the economic and political nature of Zimbabwe's colonial and post-colonial period. Kwame Nkrumah's prophecy and observation of neo-colonialism helped to unveil the nature of post-independence politics in Africa, particularly Zimbabwe. On the other hand, the dependency theory supported the proponents by Nkrumah of neo-colonialism and capitalist nature involving oppression and exploitation. In comparing the African states, Magufuli, late former president of Tanzania, offered a form of resistance to neo-colonialism by promulgating laws supporting local or internal state benefit and development from mining taxing and considerable local government shares in the mining sector. The African continent is still under the manacles of economic exploitation and oppression (neo-colonialism) by the colonialist or new colonial master. Will Africa be independent of colonialism, or is the continent heading towards complete economic colonization in the 21st century, which has found nations racing for another scramble for Africa from the Berlin Conference partition of the African continent.

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