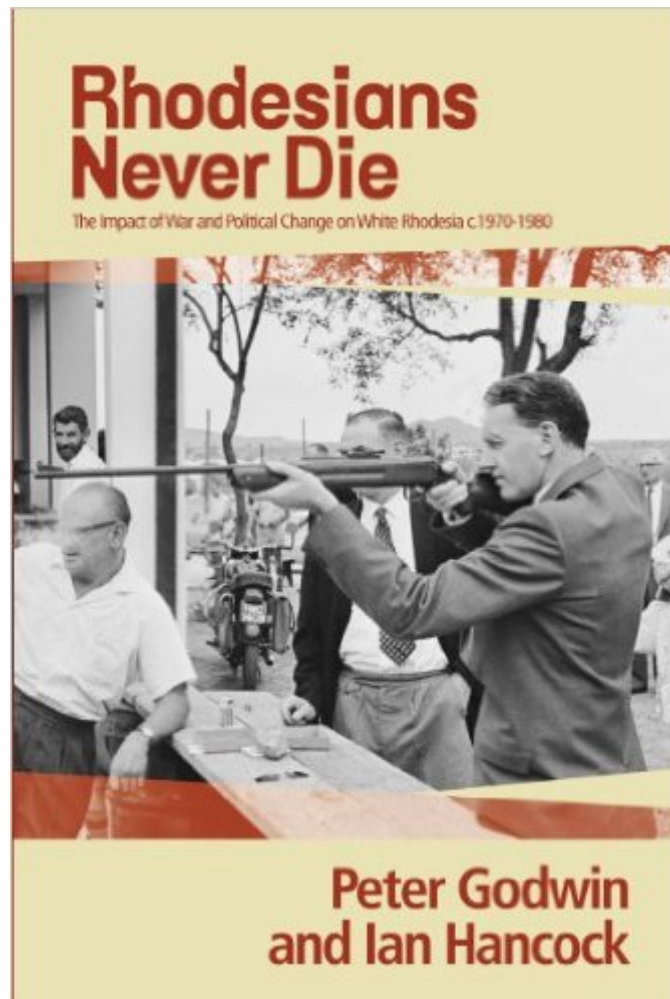


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Rhodesians Never Die: The Impact Of War And Political Change On White Rhodesia,c.1970-1980



Synopsis

This book tells the story of how white Rhodesians, three-quarters of whom were ill-prepared for revolutionary change, reacted to the "terrorist" war and the onset of black rule in the 1970s. It shows how internal divisions â “ both old and new â “ undermined the supposed unity of White Rhodesia, how most Rhodesians begrudgingly accepted the inevitability of black majority rule without adjusting to its implications, and how the self-appointed defenders of Western civilization sometimes adopted uncivilized methods of protecting the "Rhodesian way of life." This is a lively and accessible account, based on careful archival research and numerous personal interviews. It sets out to tell the story from the inside and to incorporate the diverse dimensions of the Rhodesian experience. The authors suggest that the Rhodesians were more differentiated than has often been assumed and that perhaps their greatest fault was an almost infinite capacity for self-delusion.

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Customer Reviews

"Rhodesians Never Die" is a comprehensive history of the European population that ruled pre-independence Zimbabwe. This book takes a cynical view of Rhodesia's struggle to maintain minority rule amid increasing outside and internal pressures. Godwin and Hancock put together an

amazing amount of information in this work that includes even the smallest detail. "Rhodesians Never Die" chronicles every event, argument, article and demographic affecting Rhodesia for more than a decade. The only drawback to this exhaustive work is its critical view of Ian Smith and Rhodesia's so called 'way of life'. Reading this book I got the impression that the authors arrived with preconceived conclusions about Rhodesia that weren't supported by their arguments. This could be due in part to the fact that this book does not relate Rhodesians to international influences or to the black population. I would liked to have seen a more classical argument and counter-argument to Rhodesia's problems. Nonetheless, those who read this book will be greatly surprised to see how moderately the authors portray Rhodesia's Prime Minister. Even though 'Old Smithy' is not shown favorably, he wasn't the extremist as he is so often labelled. That role was played by other segments of Rhodesia's political spectrum. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has read Peter Godwin's "Mukiwa" or would like to learn more about the politics of southern Africa. This book was well worth the wait.

The writing is pretty flat so it is tough to see how someone without genuine interest in Zimbabwe would care about this book. However, for those of us who are interested, this work has tons of information about the Rhodesian mentality -- cultural, social, political, etc. It also contains a lot about the rise (and fall) of the Rhodesian Front and current President Robert Mugabe. This is one of the better books on southern Africa's history.

Perhaps a bit opinionated at times, this book is still a readable, well-researched history of a society that is now long gone, but certainly not forgotten. As a historian I appreciate what Godwin and Hancock achieved in this book.

Book is very informative, but it could of had more individual accounts of what life was like during those tumultuous years in Rhodesia, but overall very well written.

This is a reprint and a very nice replica of the original. Beautifully printed, bound and made in America.

Good history of the war and the self destructive path that white Rhodesia chose for themselves. Would the end result have been different to the Zimbabwe of today? Yes, I think so, but the whites would still have been the big losers.

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