



**The Zimbabwean Entrapment: An Analysis of the Nexus between Domestic and Foreign Policies in a “Collapsing” Militant State, 1990s-2006.**

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**Introduction: A Historical Overview of Zimbabwe’s Foreign Policy**

Soon after independence in 1980 Harare quickly became Southern Africa’s diplomatic hub and a key player in the Frontline States` efforts to dismantle apartheid and colonialism in Southern Africa. Zimbabwe adopted a policy of non-alignment in international affairs and its foreign policy trajectory was governed by sanctity of the right to life, self-determination, defense of national sovereignty, anti-imperialism, equality of sovereign states, and non-inteference in the internal affairs of other states<sup>1</sup>. Zimbabwe adhered to the positions of the Southern African Development Community<sup>2</sup>, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and the Commonwealth. In 1983/4 and 1991/2 Zimbabwe assumed one of the non-permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council. Assumption of these positions gave it significant skills in international affairs.

The 1986 NAM summit meeting was held in Harare and Prime Minister Mugabe became chair of the organization. As chair of the Front Line states Zimbabwe strongly argued against apartheid and frequently called for the imposition of economic sanctions against Pretoria. Zimbabwe helped launch the African Fund whose main aim was to assist the liberation movements in Namibia and South Africa, and Southern African states threatened by Pretoria’s policy of destabilization.<sup>3</sup> Through its military intervention in Mozambique, Zimbabwe provided the FRELIMO government decisive support against RENAMO forces that had originally been nurtured by Rhodesian forces<sup>4</sup> and later adopted as surrogates by apartheid South Africa. Ultimately, President Mugabe, as the honest broker, of the Rome Accords helped to end the seventeen-year Mozambican civil war. In the 1990s, Zimbabwe’s security forces helped in