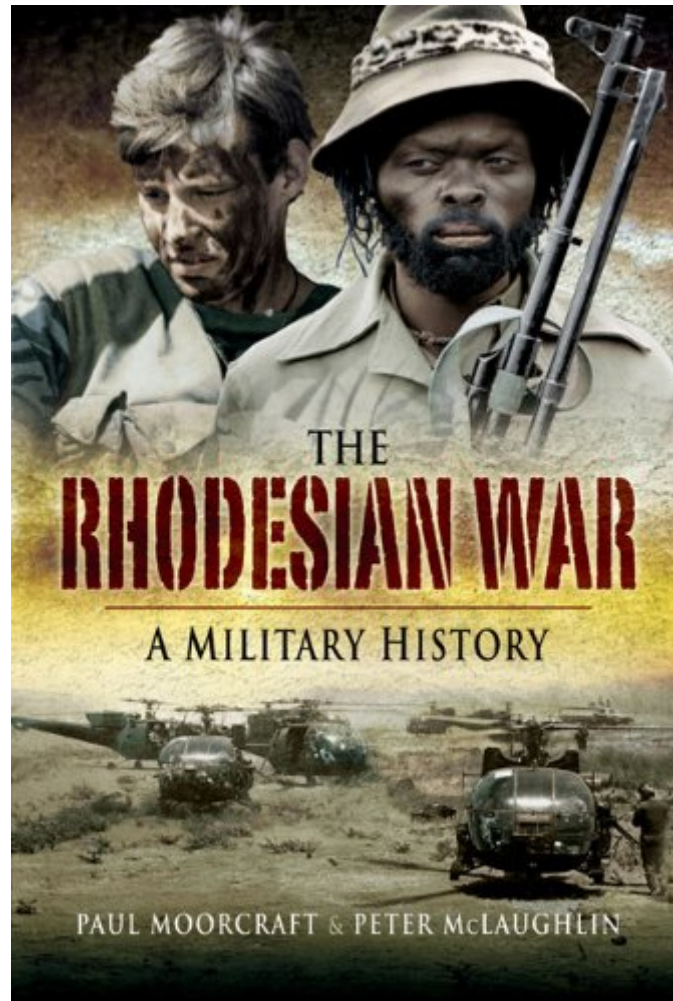




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Rhodesian War



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Synopsis

This book depicts the military history of Southern Rhodesia from the first resistance to colonial rule, through the period of U.D.I. (Unilateral Declaration of Independence) by the Smith government to the Lancaster House agreement that transferred power. There are vivid accounts of the operations against the "guerillas" by the security forces and the intensity of the fighting will surprise readers. Atrocities were undoubtedly committed by both sides but equally the protagonists were playing for very high stakes. This is more than just a book on military operations. It provides expert analysis of the historical situation and examines events up to the present day, including Mugabe's operations against rival tribes and white farmers. For a thorough work on its subject this book cannot be bettered. Essential reading for those wishing to learn more about a counter-insurgency campaign. The ingenuity of the Rhodesian military fighting against overwhelming odds and restricted by sanctions is impressive but the outcome culminating in the Lancaster House Agreement was inevitable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a young man, back in the 1970s, I became very interested in the history and current affairs of all things southern African. I felt, as I still do, that I became somewhat of an "expert" about Rhodesia,

South Africa, and SWA (Namibia). I read as many of the books as I could that were available in my university library as well as books that I purchased myself. For full disclosure regarding this review, I feel compelled to state that I was sympathetic to the political aims of both South Africa and Rhodesia of the time period being discussed. I remember this book being initially published in the early 80s under the title of Chimurenga, a reference to the African uprisings in Rhodesia during the 1890s. That had me wondering if the authors' point of view was sympathetic to the terrorist organizations that had fought the Rhodesian Army in the 1970s. If so, I had no interest in reading a book that clearly expressed such a bias. Although my interest over the decades waned, I never completely lost my curiosity for southern African history and affairs. With a plethora of new books, many of which were personal accounts, of the wars and events in southern African being published over the past ten years, my interest renewed. The book, Chimurenga was republished as the Rhodesian War, and viewing the background of the two authors, I took a chance and purchased it, with the hope that it would be a neutral, objective account of the military component of the Rhodesian War. Because of its military and technical content, I assumed it would be a good book to read before I started on many of the personal war accounts of Rhodesian soldiers. It was a mistake. The name of the book may have changed, but the original bias, that I suspected, in my opinion, did not.

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