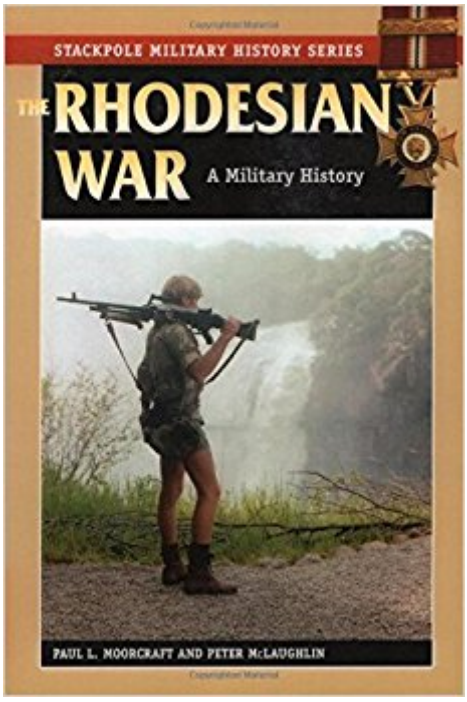
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The Rhodesian War: A Military History (Stackpole Military History Series)



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Synopsis

The vicious conflict (1964-79) that brought Robert Mugabe to power in Zimbabwe Expert coverage of the war, its historical context, and its aftermath Descriptions of guerrilla warfare, counterinsurgency operations, and actions by units like Grey's Scouts Amid the colonial upheaval of the 1960s, Britain urged its colony in Southern Rhodesia (modern-day Zimbabwe) to grant its black residents a greater role in governing the territory. The white-minority government refused and soon declared its independence, a move bitterly opposed by the black majority. The result was the Rhodesian Bush War, which pitted the government against black nationalist groups, one of which was led by Robert Mugabe. Marked by unspeakable atrocities, the war ended in favor of the nationalists.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Paul L. Moorcraft is director of the Centre for Foreign Policy Analysis in London. A noted war reporter whose work has appeared in Time and on the BBC, he is also author of Guns and Poses (978-0-9537977-3-8). He lives in England. Peter McLaughlin resided in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe from 1956 to 1983 and works in education. He lives in England.

Excellent if a little dry overview of the war. Very scholarly. Opens with a couple of chapters of timeline: tracking the political situation and the military campaigns from start to finish. then it dives fully into analysis of various skirmishes and battles; tracking, raids and equipment and tactics used.

Lots of diagrams and a great collection of rare photographs. A must read for those who want an understanding of the causes and the progress of the Bush War.I would not call it biased. Yes the 'terrorists' point of view gets mentioned and that's because it is also a history book, and there are two sides to every conflict - in this case maybe several more. But it does not paint the whites as 'evil' and it shows atrocities on both sides. Most of all it pulls no punches when discussing Mugabe's terrible reign since the end of the war.

Biased or unbiased, this book is a great source for gaining understanding of this little known war. I have read a few memoirs and such (FireForce by Chris Cocks is the great book that got my interested in the subject) but there aren't many military history type books I could find expect for this one. And so it is that I have read this book and it did not disappoint.In the introductions/preface, the author(s) forewarn the reader that some words, phrases, etc might be viewed as politically incorrect or even overtly racist by today's standard, but they have not revised the book to reflect this in order to maintain a more accurate picture of the time and situation. The author(s) also admit that some accurate information was hard to come by and many of their sources wish to remain anonymous. Given all the challenges associated with writing the book, I feel the authors did a great job and provided much valuable information.The book is organized into three sections; 'The Beginnings', 'The Combatants', and 'The Climax.' It also has a separate, albeit short 4th sections titled 'The Longer Perspective.' I greatly enjoyed this setup as we gain a historical and political background on the conflict, then details on the opening clashes, then a highly enjoyable detailing of the combatants including recruitment, training, weapons, etc. The climax section obviously covers the high point/end of the war as well as the aftermath.All things considered, I greatly enjoyed this read and feel more confident as to my knowledge on the subject. However I do concede that after reading this one will not be an 'expert.' Highly recommended nevertheless.

This book provides a clear, concise overview of the Rhodesian war - just what I was looking for. I would highly recommend this as a case study in Unconventional Warfare and Counter-Insurgency. It is, however, written in an academic fashion and does not lend well to a casual read. For those interested in the Rhodesian War, this book is a good place to start.

Very interesting, concise and clear. After reading you understand why Rhodesians won the military war and why lost the political war.

Great piece, photos brought back some memories of friends no longer with us. Better understanding from a grunts view than other books on the subject.

For me, this book is too technical a read. I find it difficult to read more than a page or two at any one sitting as it takes a bit to get through and actually retain. That said, it contains excellent information on just about every aspect of the war, and, it seems to me, would be helpful as a textbook.

An interesting chronological account of the Rhodesian (now Zimbabwe) civil war or insurgency. The clear message is that conflicts cannot be solved militarily but need a political outcome as well. With no clear view of what the future held, the racist white government of Ian Smith would inevitably fail. Although the Rhodesian forces never lost a set piece battle or engagement due to their superior training and tactics, they eventually failed as their opponents had a clear strategy and vision for the future.

Excellent book covering a topic no longer well known.

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