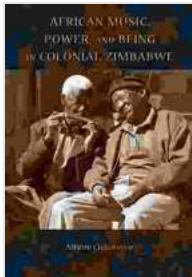


# African Music Power and Being in Colonial Zimbabwe: Exploring the Expressive Culture



## African Music, Power, and Being in Colonial Zimbabwe (African Expressive Cultures) by William Kinderman

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 4016 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 364 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



Music has always played a vital role in African cultures, serving as a medium for storytelling, spiritual connection, and social commentary. During the colonial period in Zimbabwe, African music became a potent force for cultural expression and resistance against oppression.

### **Mbira: A Voice of Tradition and Resistance**

One of the most iconic Zimbabwean musical instruments is the mbira, a thumb piano with metal keys attached to a wooden board. Mbira music has been integral to the spiritual and cultural life of the Shona people for centuries. During the colonial period, the mbira became a symbol of Zimbabwean identity and resistance.

Mbira players such as Dumisani Maraire and Stella Chiweshe used their music to convey messages of protest and defiance against colonial rule.

Their songs often invoked traditional Shona beliefs and customs, reminding people of their cultural heritage and fostering a sense of unity.



### **Chimurenga Music: A Call for Revolution**

Another significant musical genre that emerged during the colonial period was chimurenga music. Chimurenga, meaning "struggle" in Shona, was a genre of protest songs that inspired and mobilized people in the fight for independence.

Thomas Mapfumo, known as the "Lion of Zimbabwe," was one of the most influential chimurenga musicians. His songs, such as "Pfumvu Paruzeva" and "Chimurenga Chapera," became anthems of the independence movement. Mapfumo's music provided a voice for the oppressed,

articulating their aspirations and their determination to overthrow colonial rule.



Thomas Mapfumo, the "Lion of Zimbabwe," used his music to inspire the independence movement.

### **Beyond Protest: Music as a Cultural Expression**

While much of Zimbabwean music during the colonial period was focused on resistance and protest, it also served as a means for cultural preservation and celebration. Traditional dances, such as the mbende and jerusarema, continued to be performed and passed down from generation to generation.

Music also played a significant role in religious practices and ceremonies. Christian hymns, influenced by African rhythms and melodies, became an important part of the religious experience for many Zimbabweans. Similarly,

traditional songs and rituals associated with ancestor worship and other spiritual beliefs continued to be practiced.



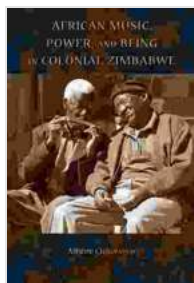
### **Post-Independence and the Legacy of Music**

After Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980, music continued to play a crucial role in shaping the nation's identity and culture. Chimurenga music evolved into a more celebratory and optimistic genre, reflecting the spirit of a newly independent nation.

Today, Zimbabwean music remains a vibrant and diverse expression of the country's rich cultural heritage. The legacy of music during the colonial period continues to inspire and influence musicians and artists throughout the country.

African music played a transformative role during the colonial period in Zimbabwe. It was a powerful tool for cultural expression, resistance, and preservation. Through instruments like the mbira and genres like chimurenga, Zimbabwean musicians articulated their experiences, aspirations, and determination for self-determination.

The legacy of African music in Zimbabwe continues to shape the nation's cultural landscape, inspiring and empowering generations of musicians and artists to use their voices to express their unique perspectives and experiences.

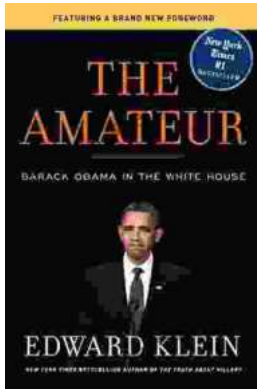


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