The Shona and their Neighbours

David Beach



Contents

	List of plates	ix
	List of maps	x
	List of place names	хi
	Foreword by David W. Phillipson	xiii
	Preface	xvii
	Introduction	1
1	The Shona World and its Origins	15
	Structures and Environments	16
	Languages and their Frontiers	23
	Dialects and Names	28
	Theories of Origins	32
2	Society and Economy	43
	An Outline of a Shona Village 1880s-1890s	43
	The People of the Village	50
	Health and Demography	53
	Village Farming	55
	Local Politics	59
	Village Industry	61
	Comparisons over Space and Time	63
3	The Early States of the Shona c.1000-1700	68
	Defining the Imprecise	68
	The Origins of a Third-World Economy	71
	Different Trails to Great Zimbabwe	74

viii Contents

Great Zimbabwe	82
Torwa and Venda The Origins of the Mutapa State and the Eastern	93 97
Shona The Mutapa State in Close-up	102
The Coming of the Portuguese	102
War and Politics in the East	110
4 Two Centuries of Change c.1700–1890	112
. 1 0 0011101100 01 01101100 111.00 10.0	
Economic Decline and Change	113
Decline and Change in the Mutapa State	115
The Portuguese 'Conquest'	117
The Changamire State	119
Local Shona Politics	122
The Nyanga Culture	126
The Mfecane Problem	129
The Ndebele State	133
The Gaza State	137
The Independent Shona in the Nineteenth Century	139
5 Beliefs and Political Thought	142
The Thought of the Prehistoric Era	142
Theory and Practice: The Internal and the External	144
Forces of the External	147
Forces of the Internal	150
Political Thought: Theory	153
Political Thought: Practice	155
Foreign Thought	160
6 Conquest, Change and Challenge 1890-1990	164
The Road to Conquest	165
Conquest and Resistance	166
Colonial Rule	171
Nationalism, War and Transition	180
A Century of Change	183
Chronology of Events	196
Notes	
Glossary	
Bibliography	
Index	