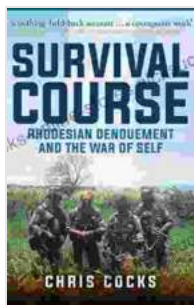


Rhodesian Denouement and The War of Self



Survival Course: Rhodesian Denouement and the War of Self by Chris Cocks

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The Rhodesian Denouement, culminating in the War of Self, was a tumultuous period of political upheaval and armed conflict that transformed the destiny of Rhodesia (present-day Zimbabwe). This article delves into the complex historical context, key events, and profound impact of this transformative conflict.

Historical Context

Rhodesia, a British colony established in 1890, adopted a unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) in 1965 under the leadership of Ian Smith. This declaration defied international condemnation and marked the beginning of the Rhodesian Bush War.

The UDI was driven by the white minority's fear of impending black majority rule and their desire to maintain control of the country's resources and political system. African nationalist movements, led by Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, fought against the white minority government and demanded an end to racial discrimination and the establishment of a majority-ruled Zimbabwe.

The War of Self

The Rhodesian Bush War, also known as the War of Self, raged from 1964 to 1979. It was a brutal conflict characterized by guerrilla warfare and widespread human rights abuses by both sides.

The African nationalist forces, primarily ZIPRA (Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army) led by Nkomo and ZANLA (Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army) led by Mugabe, conducted hit-and-run attacks on government targets and infrastructure. The Rhodesian Security Forces, including the Rhodesian Army, Air Force, and Police, retaliated with heavy-handed tactics, including detentions without trial and the creation of protected villages to isolate the civilian population from the guerrillas.

International Intervention

The Rhodesian conflict drew considerable international attention and condemnation. The United Nations imposed sanctions on Rhodesia in an attempt to pressure the white minority government into concessions. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) provided support to the African nationalist movements.

In 1976, after British Prime Minister Harold Wilson's efforts at mediation failed, the United States, through Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, became involved in the peace process. Kissinger convened the Geneva

Conference, which ultimately collapsed due to the intransigence of the Rhodesian government.

Lancaster House Agreement

In September 1979, after prolonged negotiations at Lancaster House in London, the Lancaster House Agreement was signed by the Rhodesian government, the African nationalist movements, and the British government.

The agreement provided for a ceasefire, a transition to black majority rule, and a new constitution that would guarantee the rights of all Rhodesians. Robert Mugabe emerged as the leader of the newly independent Zimbabwe.

Aftermath

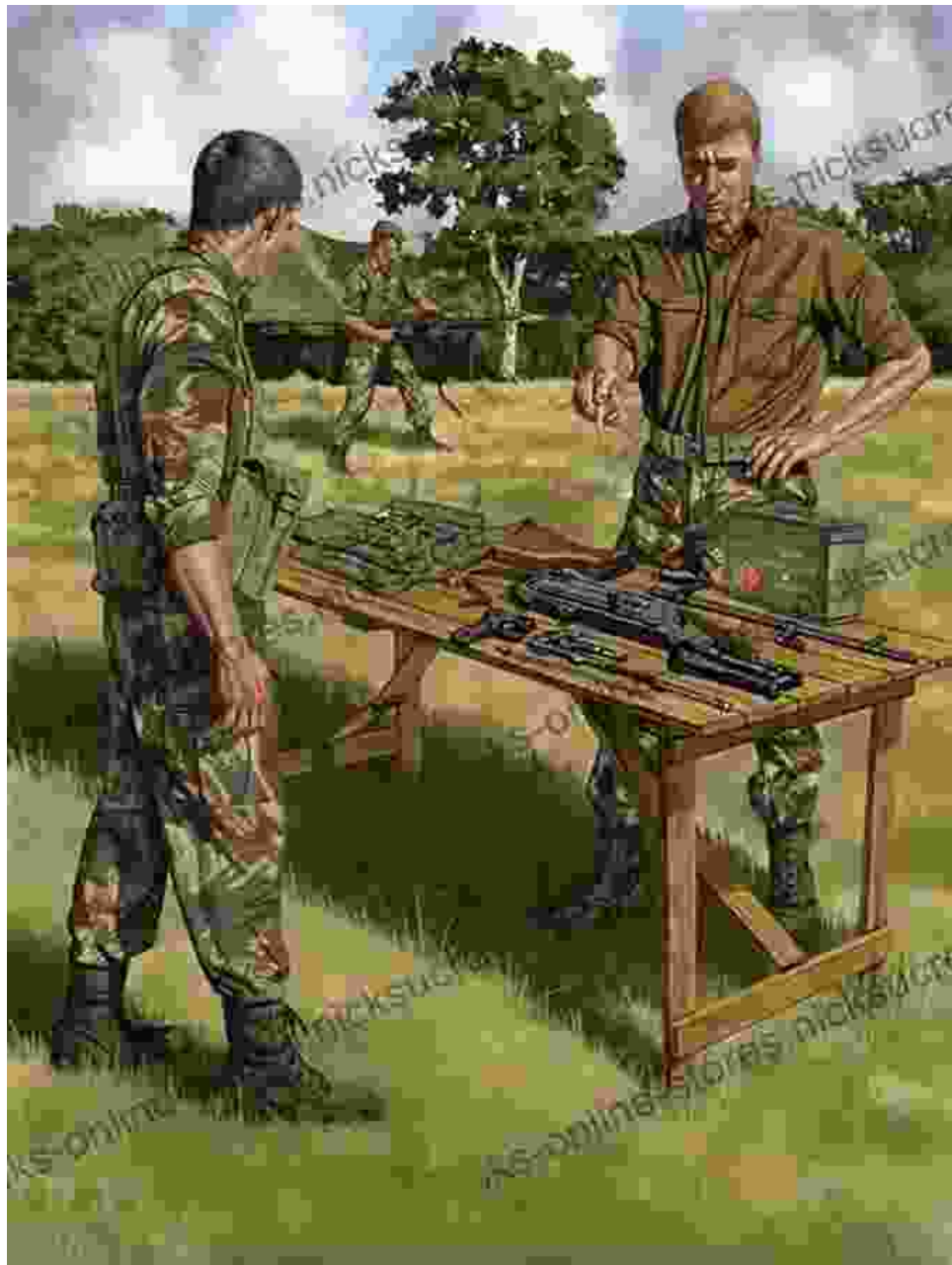
The Rhodesian Denouement and the War of Self had a profound impact on the country and the region:

- **End of White Minority Rule:** The conflict ended over a century of white minority rule and established a black majority government in Zimbabwe.
- **Independence and Nation-Building:** Zimbabwe achieved independence in 1980, and the country embarked on a challenging journey of nation-building and reconciliation.
- **Economic and Social Challenges:** The war left Zimbabwe with significant economic and social challenges, including poverty, unemployment, and political instability.

- **Human Rights and Legacy:** The conflict remains a sensitive topic in Zimbabwe, with ongoing debates about human rights violations and the legacy of the war.

The Rhodesian Denouement and the War of Self was a watershed moment in the history of Zimbabwe. It marked the end of colonial rule, the triumph of African nationalism, and the beginning of a new era of independence. The conflict left a lasting legacy of political, economic, and social challenges that continue to resonate in contemporary Zimbabwe.

Understanding the complexities of this transformative period is crucial for appreciating the post-independence trajectory of Zimbabwe and the ongoing quest for a just and equitable society.





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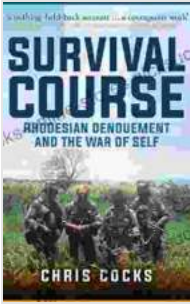
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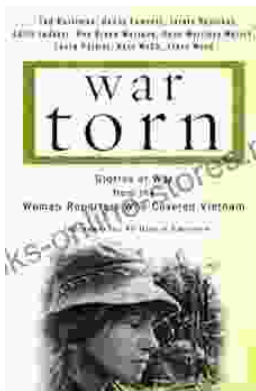




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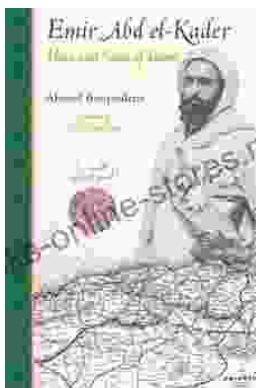
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