

# Robert Gabriel Mugabe

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Born: 21 February 1924

## ZIMBABWE

President



## Training/education

**1964-74:** Studies law in prison.

**1951-57:** Degrees in education from University of South Africa and economics from London University, both by correspondence.

**1951:** Degree in English and history from Fort Hare University (South Africa).

**Until 1951:** Kutama Mission School, Salisbury.

## Professional experience

**May-July 2005:** Major operation to “clean up” townships (considered opposition strongholds), leaving 700,000 people homeless, according to UN.

**January 2005:** Strengthens press law, introducing two-year prison sentences for journalists working without accreditation and 20 years for “printing false news.”

**September 2003:** Bans country’s most popular newspaper, the *Daily News*.

**March 2002:** Pushes through press law providing for heavy prison terms and strict monitoring of journalists.

**February 2002:** Threatens to punish homosexuals and advises British prime minister Tony Blair to admit he has homosexuals in his government.

**1999-2000:** Orders white-owned farmland seized by militias of allegedly former soldiers led by Chenjerai “Hitler” Hunzvi.

**31 December 1987:** Elected president.

**1983:** Crushes Ndebele rebellion in Matabeleland province.

**1982:** Renames all towns to mark second anniversary of independence.

**18 April 1980:** Become prime minister on independence.

**1974:** Takes over Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army to wage guerrilla war against white-minority government of prime minister Ian Smith.

**1963:** Leaves National Democratic Party to found Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and becomes its secretary-general.

**1958-60:** Teacher in Accra (Ghana).

## Hobbies/interests

Self-discipline (wakes at 4 a.m., does 90 mins. of exercises and only eats one meal a day).