

Crime Against Humanity

ZANU

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Man's memory may be short, even the memories of those that had the misfortune only two decades ago of being directly subjected to the practical and systematic implementation of the doctrines of racial superiority of the Nazi regime in Germany and all over Europe. The present victims of apartheid, of racial discrimination and of the remnants of colonialism, the subject matter of this seminar, cannot fail to read the signs and draw parallels between that doctrine in Nazi Germany that brought catastrophe on the world and its present manifestations in Southern Africa. While the

world, particularly the Western world, watches with studied complacency and pious condemnation, apartheid, that twin sister of Nazism, has reared its ugly head and, with similarly calculated defiance of humanity, is spreading its tentacles over the whole of Southern Africa.

Apartheid, racial discrimination and colonialism constitute a problem affecting the whole of Southern Africa. They are component parts of an inhuman system that not only merits the moral condemnation of the whole civilized world but should be fought and destroyed by and through the unqualified and active participation of every country signatory to the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights if the world is to be spared the horrid spectacle of another Nazi-type holocaust in this part of the world.

In examining this problem we would like to confine our remarks in this paper particularly to Southern Rhodesia, which in fact is an integral part of the same problem and illustrates in remarkable detail the vicious application of this system all over the area of Southern Africa. While the rest of the world has condemned and tried to ostracise the Ian Smith regime diplomatically, economically and politically, South Africa and Portugal have flown in the face of world opinion and flouted international decisions by giving succour and help to bolster this regime and frustrate United Nations action against it. Nor was this flagrant defiance a matter of accident. The cornerstone of Rhodesian apartheid and racial discrimination is the Land Apportionment Act enacted in 1930–31. A comparative historical analysis will illustrate the point we wish to make:

- (1) The Rhodesian settlers came from South Africa. Up to 1923, Rhodesia was governed by the British South Africa Company and Royal Charter.
- (2) When in 1923 they got internal self-government, their first act was to introduce Land Apportionment.
- (3) South Africa had introduced the Land Acts in 1912.

In 1948 South Africa intensified apartheid by introducing the Group Areas Acts and Rhodesia today is introducing similar measures for the total implementation of apartheid in respect to all races in the country.

The Group Areas Act in South Africa has relegated to an inferior position the African majority of the land. This same philosophy, that the African is an inferior race, that forever he must be isolated and never allowed to develop beyond limits defined by the ruling minority 'superior' race, has taken root in Southern Rhodesia. To allay the outraged conscience of the world, the apartheid fascist Nationalist Government of South Africa has developed the so-called Bantu homelands (Bantustan) system; similarly, the rebel Rhodesia Front Government has started implementing the so-called 'Community Development' system whose tenets derive much inspiration from the Bantustan regime of South Africa. Under these regimes, as is now well known internationally, the African majority has no rights in the areas designated as white preserves, which in both countries are the richest, most fertile parts of the land; he must content himself with scratching a bare subsistence from the most barren and infertile areas of the land. Both operate under the guise of a doctrine purporting to preserve the so-called *separate cultural identity* of

each race; meanwhile he (the African) supplies the labour and manpower on which white industries, mines and farms run and he must look to himself and to the proceeds of his scratchings on the bare land to supply his own education and funds for all the other facilities he may need.

It is significant that, while the white minority Government of Vorster appeals to all whites to produce a baby for South Africa and the Ian Smith regime of Rhodesia appeals for more white immigration to Rhodesia, both talk of an African population explosion and have introduced under the guise of birth control the Nazi sterilization campaign aimed at the reduction of the African population by scientific diminution. The world will never know, any more than in Nazi Germany's time, the extent of this crime against humanity because the present perpetrators thereof wrap these measures in scientific terms. But let not the world be deceived twice. We have in this area as vicious, inhuman and calculated regimes as that which practised the mass killings of the Jews and 'in the name of science' practised human sterilization as one of the final solutions to the so-called Jewish problem.