

No White Liberals

ZANU

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In politics a liberal can be defined as a broad-minded politician who is opposed to privileges and who favours democratic reforms. For this reason the liberal can be regarded as being comparatively closer to the masses than the conservative who stands for class privileges.

There is not a single politician of this description in the settler community of Zimbabwe. The white community consists of ultra-conservative elements who, to a man, have thrown in their lot with the band of white fascists calling themselves the Rhodesian Front. Every white settler in Zimbabwe is entitled to some of the rarest privileges in the world. None of them finds anything wrong with this sort of racist monopoly of privileges. Everyone of them exercises his colonial right to humiliate the African for no other reason than that he is black. This should be noted because there are a good number of settlers who pose as liberals in the outside world and who in misleading many people about the political situation in Zimbabwe. There are two distinct groups of settlers who pose as liberals in Zimbabwe: missionaries with apparently no axe to grind regarding political issues facing the country and politicians who pretend to be opposed to Smith's fascism. Both of these groups in fact support fascism spear-headed by the Rhodesian Front to the hilt. Both groups are scared of a Zimbabwe without land and African labour for nothing. What is worse, both are used by the colonial enemy for hoodwinking the African masses and the outside world.

By virtue of their role as 'innocent' spreaders of the gospel, missionaries work among Africans whom they try to win both for God and for the Rhodesian Front.

They also serve as informers for the fascist rebel government and are directly responsible for some of the arbitrary imprisonment and detention of innocent Africans. Because of their political sins they live in mortal fear of

African nationalists and try to make Africans regard their political leaders as uncivilised monsters. Some of them have even tried to set themselves up as substitutes for African nationalist leaders.

The group of liberal impostors who go in for open politics are no less dangerous to the cause of justice and democracy in Zimbabwe. These are the Todds, the Barons, the Welenskys, the Gibbises, the Whiteheads, the Malverns etc. Like the missionary, all of this group are one with faith in their demand for minority rule until they are dead. They differ with Smiths, the Lardner Burkes and Harpers in that whereas the Smith clique say so openly, this wily group would rather keep their fascist demands to themselves until such time as they think they are out of woods. Accordingly they are cautious in the choice of their words in support of fascism. For example rather than say openly that there would be no majority rule until they are dead (i.e. forever), they prefer to say that the reins of government should remain in civilised (i.e. white) hands for a long time to come.

They try to hide the same evil intentions not only with high-sounding words, but with a veneer of liberalism. For example when in power they backed their talk of 'partnership' with limited desegregation of public facilities solely in order to get independence from Britain in exchange for promises of extending more liberal reforms to Africans. Lest they should be misunderstood by their fascist followers their one-time god-father Welensky told white settlers that the partnership they meant was nothing to be frightened of because it would be the same as between the horse and the rider, with the white settler as the rider and the African as a horse. Though they have been ousted from power they still think that their methods can produce better results than the Smith clique's antics. And not without reason. It is an open secret that if the settlers stopped backing the Smith clique and started backing those impostors Wilson would call off his largely abortive selective mandatory sanctions and grant formal independence to the settlers through the front door. And we would have been sold down Limpopo River much more openly than is the case at present. It is not without significance that Britain has not intervened militarily to restore legality in Zimbabwe because Gibbs threatened to resign if she did. And for his sham anti-Smith noises Whitehead is now running the Commonwealth Affairs Office of the British government. We would not be surprised if the Wilson government took Leo Baron on as its legal adviser on Rhodesian affairs. But this so-called liberal told African detainees at Gonakudzingwa before he left that they had better apply to Smith for pardon and go into private life rather than rot in detention because Smith would rule in 'Rhodesia' for the next twenty years. And several pseudo-nationalists have followed his advice.

From the foregoing we see that the sham liberalism of settler politicians in Zimbabwe has benefited fascism in one vital respect. It has made Britain regard the political deadlock in Zimbabwe as composed of a conflict between the Smith clique and the sham liberals to the exclusion of the four million owners of Zimbabwe. Wilson's sanctions are aimed at making the settlers choose endless minority rule under sham liberals rather than make them

reconcile themselves to majority rule.