

**Victor Muchineripi Gwande. 2022. *Manufacturing Colonial Zimbabwe 1890-1979: Interest Group Politics, Protectionism and the State*. Suffolk: James Currey. 234 pp.**

Zimbabwe's deindustrialization following economic liberalization during the 1990s has become a symbol of the failure of the post-colonial state. Business historians and political commentators point to derelict factories and a muted Confederation of Zimbabwean Industries (CZI) as indictment against the methods of the long ruling Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (Zanu PF) government. But this was not always the case. In 1980, Zimbabwe 'inherited' an economy built around settler white agriculture, a sophisticated secondary manufacturing sector, and vociferous white business associations. Victor Gwande traces the relationship between organized industry and the state in the development of secondary industry from the beginning of the colonial period to the end of white minority rule in 1979. A historical study of Zimbabwe's manufacturing sector has received attention from economic historians such as Ian Phimister, Alois Mlambo, and E. S. Pangeti, amongst many others, but Gwande's focus on the contribution of group interest politics to the industrialization of Southern Rhodesia is refreshingly new. His book joins a list of recent publications that focus on the role of white organized business in shaping the colonial economy of Zimbabwe such as Sibanengi Ncube's *Politics, Profits and Protection: Zimbabwe's Tobacco Industry Since 1947* (2022).

Gwande writes a flowing book—it comes with a colourful cover—that is easy to read. The Zimbabwe history aficionado will appreciate the familiar chronology of the book whose core chapters, excluding the introduction and conclusion, trace the complicated relationship between organized industry and the state during the 1890s to the interwar period, the Second World War, and the federal period to the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI). The book's easy time flow is interwoven into a strong thematic focus on "tensions in settler colonialism" (p. 30). Supported by painstaking archival evidence, in chapters one through four Gwande traces attempts by industrialists "through their representative organisations: Salisbury and Bulawayo Manufacturers' Association (c.1920), Salisbury and Bulawayo Chambers of Industries (c.1930s), Association of Chambers of Industries of Rhodesia (ACIR: 1941–1949), the Federation of Rhodesian Industries (1949–1957), and the Association of Rhodesia and Nyasaland Industries (1957–1964)" to endear themselves with the state and influence industrial policy in their favour (p. 197).

As Gwande argues, however, the colonial state rebuffed these persistent overtures from organized business preferring a policy of non-interference in industrial development. Left to its own devices, the growth of manufacturing was incidental during the 1940s and 1950s benefiting from the economies of scale occasioned by the outbreak of the Second World War and the establishment of the Central African Federation (CAF), amongst other factors. In the same vein, Gwande contends, manufacturing also bore the brunt of politically induced economic shocks following the rise in African nationalism, the dissolution of the CAF, the Rhodesian Front's 1963 electoral victory, and the 1965 UDI declaration. Chapter five notes that industrialists, through the reconstituted Association of Rhodesian Industries, found the listening ear of the government and played a major role in the UDI sanctions busting measures as "the principal agents in the administration of import control and currency allocation" (p. 198). This convenient alliance between the state and industry resulted in the 'incidental' growth of the manufacturing

sector whose overall share of the economy increased in relation to agriculture and mining (p. 198). With great dexterity, the author uses the introductory and concluding chapters to connect the story of Southern Rhodesia's industrialization to the broader literature and the current state of Zimbabwe's "withering industry, 2000 to date" (p. 210).

*Manufacturing Colonial Zimbabwe 1890-1979* draws on a rich corpus of archival material drawn from the National Archives of Zimbabwe corroborated by a tapestry of documents from the National Archives of South Africa, newspapers, Hansards, and odd official documents. The book treads carefully over the limitations that come with writing using the colonial archive, a caveat the author rightly acknowledges. The book, however, could also have been enriched by oral narratives from the surviving industrialists of some of the lobby groups that are the subject of this story. Overall, this book is an important addition to the business and economic history of Zimbabwe.

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