

THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PARA-MILITARY IN CIVIL MILITARY
RELATIONS IN ZIMBABWE 1980-1987

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to explore civil military relations, ethnocentric accentuation and the difficulties faced by Zimbabwe in the formative years of independence. The objectives that guided the study were to discuss the link between civil-military relations and ethnicity, and to evaluate the role of youth during the post-conflict recovery and reconstruction period. The researchers used interviews and documentary analysis to gather data. The results showed that the youth can play either a destructive or constructive role in peace building. The post-conflict recovery period is fraught with many dangers which can either stabilise or destabilise the post independence civil- politico- military architecture and peace building. The recommendation is that post-conflict recovery and reconstruction should be done in the context of stable civil-military relations. The researchers concluded that the youths played a prominent role in the construction and deconstruction of the post independence peace process in Zimbabwe.

Keywords: Post-Colonial Regimes, Arms Conflict, Military, Zimbabwe.