**ZIMBABWE AND THE ZAMBEZI RIVER**

Boone Epstein - Water Science and Policy - 2009

**The Middle Zambezi**
- An alluvial stream above the falls, the river becomes a bedrock stream immediately below.
- The stream becomes alluvial once more in the middle Zambezi, where consistent flooding has made rich soil and permanent lagoons.

**History**
- Around 1000AD the agricultural kingdom of Mapungubwe establishes its capital, the Great Zimbabwe, the Mapungubwe use the river for agriculture as well as a trade route to the Indian Ocean.
- The Mapungubwe and their descendents war with the colonial forces of Portugal and later Britain over the land along the Zambezi.
- 1888, British colony of Southern Rhodesia founded by Cecil Rhodes.
- 1965, the Rhodesian government declares independence from Britain (their system of government is formally racist).
- 1980, the Zimbabwe African National Union overthrows the Rhodesian government to establish the nation of Zimbabwe, with ZANU leader Robert Mugabe as head of state.
- Robert Mugabe immediately redistributes agricultural land, favoring ZANU leaders and personal friends.
- As crops fail, workers pour into cities, where there are few jobs for them.
- The ZANU government does not work to provide water to the nations cities, so they rely on drinking out of lagoons and small lakes, wastewater is dumped, untreated, into these same lakes.
- In the early 2000s the cholera virus becomes an epidemic, by 2008 more than 100,000 people were confirmed dead, and since there have been over 100,000 infections.

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6. Of the Kariba Dam, James Burke.
8. Of the Kariba Dam, James Burke.