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Sekibakiba Peter Lekgoathi; Tshepo Moloï and Alda Romão Saúte Saíde (Editors), *Guerrilla in Southern Africa: Broadcasts, Technology, Propaganda Wars, and the Armed Struggle*. Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, 2020. 280 pages, ISBN # 978-1-5381-4844-0.

Reviewed by: Donald Peter Chimankire, a member of the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Zimbabwe.

The book gives a detailed account of the crucial role played by the Radio in the liberation struggle against colonialism in Southern Africa, in particular after the turn to the armed struggle. It is a carefully researched and impressively wide-ranging collection of interviews with former radio presenters and former guerrilla fighters. A collection of empirical data is presented from the available data generated during the liberation struggle. With careful attention to details and nuances that determine literacy power, the book explores the liberation struggle of the whole of Southern Africa, taking into account specific conditions in each country.

The massive stock of data and information unearthed by the editors and contributors on the crucial role radio played is organized in the book with remarkable lucidity. It makes it easy to follow the arguments on the immense role radio played from countries that were offering bases to the freedom fighters. The organizing format of each individual chapter has been designed with a professional eye to the country specifications of its unique colonial history. However, the book emphasizes through all the chapters that radio was an important instrument used by all colonial powers in Southern Africa, not only to win the hearts and minds of the exploited and suffering populations, but also to score ideological points. The book fills an important gap in the literature about the war radio broadcasts in the history of nationalism in southern Africa that remains untold and unknown.

The radio brought a new and crucial dimension to the struggle of airwaves, to compliment the armed and diplomatic contest already happening at various regional, continental and United Nations meetings against colonial regimes. The book points out to an unfortunate lacuna: the support that independent African countries and other international solidarity groups and

governments gave to the southern African liberation movements. Very few historical works have uncovered the multi-layered histories of these radios and analyzed the dynamics of the relationships fostered at the points of operation in exile. However, not all is lost, current African leadership is very much interested in the history of the African past, especially, in the liberation struggle.

The government of Zimbabwe, for example, is in the process of constructing the Museum of African Liberation following its groundbreaking ceremony by President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe. The Museum of African Liberation project is being spearheaded by pan-African think tank Institute of African Knowledge (INSTAK). INSTAK has been endorsed by several African states as it seeks to rekindle the spirit of Pan-Africanism 'Through Collaborative Efforts to Promote, Protect and Preserve the Legacy of the Revolution.' Museum of African Liberation project is in line with the African Union's 2021 theme of 'Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want'. African states have realized the need to ensure the success of this African heritage project by assisting with historic documents, liberation war artifacts and oral history as the documentation of African liberation struggles begins. Ghana has promised to send all artifacts of the late great Kwame Nkrumah to the museum in Harare.

The construction of the Museum of African Liberation is something which should have been done decades if not centuries ago as African history must be written accurately. It was indeed the responsibility of Africans to write their own history. Even to this day, much of Africa's history has been written by scholars who come from outside Africa, and not from the continent. Considering, the important contribution of this book under review should be underlined.

The construction of the museum is a great achievement; and since Zimbabwe's President laid the foundations for it, a lot has happened; it is evidence that Africans are on track to putting what has happened in every corner of Africa together. The history of the struggle for liberation with the radio's pivotal contribution needs to be preserved in heritage sites such as the museum. Hence the need for every African to play a part in its construction and stocking of relevant materials.

As countries, as individuals, Africa must contribute towards the success of this great museum. It will be a one stop center for every person that wants to know about the African history from all parts of the continent. The museum, whose birth was witnessed by over 50 ambassadors from the continent, is meant to document the series of wars fought in Africa in the liberation

movements' quest for self-governance. The museum's site was donated by the government as an initial step to the fulfillment of its promise made to INSTAK. In response to this development, President Mnangagwa said "Zimbabwe is honored by the African Union (AU) to host this museum and play a coordinating role in the construction of a unique repository of our African liberation heritage."

This milestone is the culmination of the most heroic acts by our founding fathers and mothers. The museum of this historical importance is an important infrastructural project which will go a long way towards immortalizing and preserving the acts of patriotism and sacrifice that were made by our founding fathers and liberation veterans across Africa.

Finally, the contributors of this book have written a useful documentation which is an important contribution in the field of the role of the radio in the liberation struggle in southern Africa. The book provides a valuable comparative history of the liberation movement in southern Africa through the radio. It engenders productive debate and future scholarly enquiry.

All in all, this is a well-argued text; one that is well-worth reading. It is indeed an original study regarding the radio's role during the guerrilla war of liberation in southern Africa. I strongly recommend this book to all students, scholars, policy makers; and it should be made available in the libraries of universities and colleges as well as in African parliaments. The book should be translated into Portuguese – and perhaps French - so that the Portuguese speaking communities, who are major stakeholders, may benefit from its rich contents.

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