

VANITY FAIR

PETER GODWIN'S article on the situation in Zimbabwe is the first in the mainstream media to make three essential points: President Robert Mugabe started the violence from the very beginning; when independent, the country had the highest standard of living in Sub-Saharan Africa; and the West has indulged Mugabe far too long.

Dare it be said: under [white supremacist] Ian Smith (Rhodesia's prime minister who declared the country's independence from Britain in 1965), the country enjoyed not only higher living standards but also a developing democracy. President Mugabe and the West's indulgence of him have now equally shattered both.

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